

MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. **Roll Call**

Roll call was taken.

PRESENT: Kevin Seefeldt, Sarah Jackson, Ana Tochterman, Andy Goyke, Jim Gregoire, Charlie Ortman, Dick Pufall

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matt Mackenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, Public Works Director John Butler, Planning Director Steven Wiley, Police Chief Bill Hagstrom, Parks and Recreation Director Sara Hudson.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda as presented by Seefeldt, second by Jackson. Passes 7-0 by voice vote.

3. **Council President's Report**

Council President Ortman expressed his hope that the housing projects underway and in talks are able to come to fruition.

4. **Administrator's Report**

City Administrator reported that Book Across the Bay was a success, and even though it was a down year for attendance, the city's revenue resulted in a break-even for the investments the city put in. Kucera also reported that Gov. Evers signed relief for winter-reliant businesses effected by the low amount of snow and warm temperatures this winter.

5. **Committee Updates**

Main Street Board - Reported that the Chamber is taking over as the over-sight for the Main Street Board. A council member will retain membership on the board and voting power.

Library Board - Jackson Reported that the Library Board is working on information regarding the referendum, also reported that 60,000 people visited the library in 2023.

Parks and Rec - The Committee is working on the Parks Master Plan, working with the community garden on native plant swap, and the warming house at the East End Skating Rink is going to require a significant investment and fundraising is underway (already raised \$50,000), Sara Hudson is working on an afterschool program and is in need of volunteers.

Public Works - Talking about Special Assessments and the bike plan.

Sustainability - Working on a Sustainability Grant, working on PR regarding the new water intake pipe, working on eliminating invasives in seed mixes (modeled after Milwaukee's policy)

6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. **Discussion and Possible Action to Allow the Ashland Fire Department to Apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant** *(Fire Chief)*

Motion to approve by Seefeldt, Seconded by Jackson. Passes 7-0 by voice vote.

- B. **Presentation and Discussion Regarding Upcoming Special Assessment Process for Capital Projects** *(Public Works)*

No action taken.

- C. **Update on Police Department Solar Array** *(Planning)*

No action taken.

- D. **Review and Discussion of the Progress of the City Administrator's Goals and Evaluation** *(Mayor)*

No action taken.

- E. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Solid Waste Rates** *(Administration)*

Motion to Approve Rates as Presented by Goyke, Seconded by Seefeldt. Passes 7-0 by voice vote.

- F. **Review, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Process of Bringing an Item to the Committee of the Whole Agenda** *(Mayor)*

No action taken.

- G. **Recurring Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Homelessness and Current Ordinances Regarding Use of Public Spaces in the City of Ashland** *(Ortman)*

No action taken.

7. **Items for Future Discussion**

Future discussion on homeless issues/solutions, invite Ray Kallio (Property Maintenance) to discuss his work, share new district maps from state redistricting.

8. **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn by Goyke, Seconded by Seefeldt. Passes 7-0 by voice vote.

Submitted by Kevin Haas, Deputy Clerk