

MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

The Tuesday, May 14, 2024 City of Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order by Council President Charlie Ortman at 6:40 p.m.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Kevin Seefeldt, Sarah Jackson, Ana Tochtermann, Jim Gregoire, Charlie Ortman, Nancy Sztynodor.

EXCUSED: Andrew Goyke

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matt Mac Kenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, Public Works Director John Butler, Utility Supervisor Brian Ledin, Fire Chief Stuart Matthias, Library Director Sarah Adams, and other interested citizens.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion by Seefeldt and seconded by Sztynodor to approve the agenda passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Council President's Report

Ortman asked that Council discuss in the future ways the City can prevent litigation in the future.

4. Administrator's Report

Kucera explained that due to the adoption of Act 121 in March, the State determined to remove the ability for municipalities to own EV charging units.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion and Presentation Regarding New Lake Superior Intake Project and Water Rate Increases
(Public Works)

Butler introduced Ted Bluver and Katie Richardson of Greeley & Hanson, to present and answer questions from Council regarding the potential new water intake pipe project. Butler also discussed with Council the potential utility increases as imposed by the PSC.

Mac Kenzie asked that Council authorize the Mayor and Administrator to object the sharp increases by those in Madison.

B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Offering an Architectural Contract for Vaughn Library Renovation
(Vaughn Library)

Adams explained the architectural contract and timeline for the library renovation. Seefeldt moved, seconded by Tochtermann, to move the item forward to the next Council meeting for formal approval. This motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

C. Discussion and Presentation on 2024 Roadway Chip Sealing Project *(Public Works)*

Butler offered a presentation to Council, stating that no action was necessary at this time.

D. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Property Assessments for Sewer Laterals for 2024 Ore Dock Access Road** *(Public Works)*

Butler offered a presentation and answered questions from Council. Jackson moved, seconded by Gregoire to forward this item to the May 28, 2024 Council meeting for formal approval. The motion carried 4-2 by voice vote; opposed were Seefeldt and Sztynдор.

E. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Three Grants: DNR Urban Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Funding, DNR Recreational Boating Facilities - Kreher Park Boat Launch and DNR Boating Infrastructure Grant - Kreher Park Boat Launch** *(Parks)*

Kucera introduced this item in Hudson's absence. The grants to be applied for would benefit the Emerald Ash Borer project and the Kreher boat launch area. A motion by Seefeldt and seconded by Sztynдор to apply for the grants was approved unanimously by voice vote.

6. **Closed Session** *(Roll)*

A motion by Gregoire and seconded by Tochterman to move into Closed Session, and allow Chief Matthias to attend, was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

A. **Pursuant to WI Stat. 19.85(1)(c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility."** *(Grievance) (Fire Department)*

B. **Return to Open Session** *(Voice)*

Gregoire moved, seconded by Sztynдор to return to Open Session. This motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

C. **Report of Action Taken during Closed Session**

Mac Kenzie reported that a determination was made by Council regarding the grievance and a letter will be produced by Administration as required.

7. **Items for Future Discussion**

Ortman: Evaluate previous litigation for projects and discuss how to avoid litigation in the future.

Ortman: Authorize the Mayor/Administrator to object to the PSC's imposing a rate increase.

Mac Kenzie: Offered a tour of the City facilities to anyone interested.

8. **Adjournment**

A motion by Tochterman and seconded by Gregoire to adjourn, was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk

