

MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, June 11, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

The Tuesday, June 11, 2024 City of Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order by Council President Charlie Ortman at 6:35 p.m.

1. **Roll Call**

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

EXCUSED: Andy Goyke

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matthew Mac Kenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, Public Works Director John Butler, Planning Director Steven Wiley, Police Chief Bill Hagstrom, Fire Chief Stuart Matthias, Marina Manager Scott Stegmann, Utility Supervisor Brian Ledin, and other interested citizens.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

3. **Council President's Report**

Ortman recommended a conversation in the future regarding air B&Bs and how they negatively affect local housing.

4. **Administrator's Report**

Kucera noted there were 33 citizens who volunteered during the recent Earth Day Clean Up Challenge, including the Cub Scouts and some City staff. He also offered his appreciation to Bill Bailey of Xcel Energy for contacting the State regarding the EV charging stations in Ashland and Bayfield counties.

5. **Committee Updates**

Library Board - Jackson: The engineers will be doing a walk through the library next week in anticipation of the renovations.

Plan Commission - Tochtermann: Discussed the CUP that was approved at the last Council meeting.

Sustainability Committee - Ortman: The group plan to talk about the following in the near future: ecomunicipality, dark sky initiative, 25x25 plan, Source Water Protection plan, solar power at the Wastewater Treatment plant, rain barrels, storm water runoff and rain gardens.

No other committees offered reports.

6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Discussion and Possible Action to Allow the Fire Department to Apply for a Forest Fire Protection Grant** *(Fire Chief)*

Chief Matthias introduced the item and answered questions from Council. A motion by Jackson, seconded by Seefeldt to approve to submit the application was approved unanimously by voice vote.

B. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Water Intake Project** *(Councilor Ortman)*

Butler introduced the item and answered questions from Council. No action was requested at this time.

C. **Discussion and Possible Action with Recommendation to Amend Chapter 922 Regarding Act 73 Class C Alcohol Beverage Licensure Changes** *(Clerk)*

Oliphant introduced the item and answered questions from Council. Council agreed to having a proposed ordinance amendment return for review at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

D. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Proposed Amendments to the Harbor Commission** *(Mayor)*

Mac Kenzie explained the need review the City's Ordinance to better spell out what the Harbor Commission is expected to oversee regarding the Marina and waterfront properties. This will come back to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

7. **Items for Future Discussion**

Jackson - Requested to discuss the issues made known at the Artesian well.

Mac Kenzie - Requested to discuss the increased enforcement of property maintenance during the summer.

Mac Kenzie - Vehicles which are purposely loud in the City.

Ortman - Discuss the shortage of housing for the low income population.

Mac Kenzie - The potential for requiring permits for empty housing.

Mac Kenzie - Requiring retail establishments on the lower floors of buildings on Main Street.

8. **Adjournment**

Gregoire moved, seconded by Seefeldt, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk