

MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 24, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, September 24, 2024 Ashland City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Matt Mac Kenzie at 6:00 p.m.

A. **Roll Call, Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance**

PRESENT: Kevin Seefeldt, Ana Tochterman, Andrew Goyke, Charlie Ortman, Nancy Sztynдор

ABSENT: Sarah Jackson (Excused), Jim Gregoire (excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matthew MacKenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, City Attorney Tyler Wickman, Public Works Director John Butler, Police Chief Willis Hagstrom, Planning Director Steven Wiley, Library Director Sarah Adams, Parks Director Sara Hudson, Treasurer Jacey Dean, Utility Supervisor Brian Ledin, and interested citizens.

The Mayor noted that a quorum of the Council was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion by Goyke and seconded by Seefeldt to approve the agenda as presented, carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **September 10, 2024 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

A motion by Seefeldt and seconded by Goyke to approve the minutes, carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. PRESENTATION BY ROB PRATER, SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ASHLAND SUPERINTENDANT

School District of Ashland Superintendant Rob Prater spoke to Council regarding upcoming events and the referendum on the November General Election ballot.

5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PERIOD

Dan Bennett, 307 11th Avenue West, spoke to the rising taxes in the City due to the number of projects.

June Buvlnka, resident of East end of town, asked Councilors for their attention to the dangerous pedestrian crossing near Wal-Mart on Highway US 2.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Announcements**

Mac Kenzie noted an increased number of calls from residents recently regarding not being able to drop off refuse at the Republic Services transfer station. Turns out their weight equipment depends on WIFI which was down for an extended period of time. In addition to this, the Mayor noted that the City does not negotiate commercial rates although he was aware that Republic's rates would be increasing in 2025 across the board. Harvest Fest is being planned for mid-October. The City received funding from the Waterways Committee for the future Kreher boat landing reconstruction project. Numerous road construction projects throughout the City were either near completion or completed.

B. **Appointments**

A motion by Seefeldt and seconded by Tochtermann was made to approve to reappoint Anna Chartier to the Public Works Committee for an additional five years, and appoint Nikki Stizmann to the Beautification Council for the remainder of a vacated term to expire in February 2025. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Miscellaneous Minutes**

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Goyke to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Approve a Resolution to Allow the City of Ashland to Participate in the State of Wisconsin Local Government Investment Pool (Finance) Roll**

A motion by Seefeldt and seconded by Tochtermann to approve the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.

File #17791

B. **Approve an Option and Lease Agreement between the City of Ashland and the Towers of Wisconsin BTS, LLC to Lease City-Owned Parcel No. 201-05120-0210 for the Placement of Communications Facilities and Associated Access (Planning) Roll**

A motion by Goyke and seconded by Sztynodor to approve passed unanimously by roll call vote.



- C. **Approve the Agreement for Professional Services between the City of Ashland and Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc. for the 2025/2026 Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Improvements Project** (*Public Works*) Roll
A motion by Ortman and seconded by Seefeldt to approve the professional services agreement for \$94,000, passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- D. **Approve a Professional Services Agreement between the City of Ashland and Short, Elliott, Hendrickson, Inc. for Grant Administration and Engineering Design Services for the 2026 CDBG Street & Utility Improvements Project** (*Public Works*) Roll
A motion by Ortman and seconded by Sztynodor to approve the professional services agreement for \$178,200, passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- E. **Approve to Accept Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WI DOT) State Municipal Agreement for the 11th Avenue East Resurfacing Project** (*Public Works*) Roll
A motion by Ortman and seconded by Goyke to approve passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- F. **Approve to Accept Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WI DOT) State Municipal Agreement for the 11th Street West Resurfacing Project** (*Public Works*) Roll
A motion by Ortman and seconded by Sztynodor to approve passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- G. **Approve to Submit an Application to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to Assist Funding for Public Works Equipment Purchases as Part of the 2025 Public Works Budget** (*Public Works*) Roll
A motion by Ortman and seconded by Seefeldt to approve passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- H. **Approve a Resolution to Accept an Ashland Urban Area Map to Establish the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Urban Area Boundary** (*Public Works*) Roll
A motion by Ortman and seconded by Goyke to approve the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.
File #17796

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Up to \$9,166,606 Water System Revenue Bonds, Series 2024B, and Providing for Other Details and Covenants with Respect Thereto, and Approval of Related \$9,166,606 State of Wisconsin Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Financial Assistance Agreement** (*Public Works, Finance*) Roll
A motion by Ortman and seconded by Seefeldt to approve the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.
File #17795
- B. **Consider a Resolution to Combine Wards and Establish the Polling Place for the November 5, 2024 General Election** (*Clerk*) Roll
A motion by Ortman and seconded by Sztynodor to approve the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.
File #17794
- C. **Creation of Finance Task Force and Communication Task Force** (*Mayor*)
A motion by Ortman and seconded by Seefeldt to allow the Mayor to proceed with the development of a Finance Task Force and a Communications Task Force, passed unanimously by voice vote.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Goyke and seconded by Ortman to adjourn was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk