

MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, September 24, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. Roll Call

The Tuesday, September 24, 2024 City of Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order by Council President Charlie Ortman at 6:30 PM.

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

ABSENT: Sarah Jackson, Jim Gregoire, both excused.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matt Mac Kenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, Police Chief Bill Hagstrom, Public Works Director John Butler, Planning Director Steven Wiley, Community Events Director Jen Fanucci, Utility Supervisor Brian Ledin, Parks Director Sara Hudson, Library Director Sarah Adams, Treasurer Jacey Dean, and interested citizens.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Council President's Report

Ortman offered no report.

4. Administrator's Report

Kucera announced that the City was recently awarded a \$250,000 grant for the Baron site project. He went on to clarify some points about the project in light of conversations among the community. Staff will continue to work on their individual department budgets over the next week.

5. Committee Updates

Ore Dock Trust - no report

DPEAC - no report

Harbor Commission - no report

Historic Preservation - Sztynдор reported the committee discussed a home on Chapple Avenue and the library.

Library Board - no report

Parks & Rec - no report

Plan Commission - no report

Public Works Committee - Goyke reported discussion regarding the status of the lift stations and a new revenue source brought up by Supervisor Ledin.

Sustainability Committee - Ortman reported the group creating a mission statement.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Presentation by Community Event Director Jennifer Fanucci**

Fanucci reviewed the upcoming Harvest Fest planned for October 19, 2024 at Hodgkins Park, and ideas for future events over the next year.

B. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Entering into a Commercial Lease Agreement at 618 Beaser Avenue as a Temporary Location of the Vaughn Library during Renovations (*Library*)**

Adams introduced the item and answered questions from Council. A motion by Seefeldt, seconded by Sztynodor to forward the item to Council for formal approval, was approved unanimously by voice vote.

C. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Submitting an Application to the Urban Forestry Grant Programs, and to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the Continuation of the City of Ashland Emerald Ash Borer Readiness Plan for Tree Removal and Replanting (*Parks*)**

Hudson introduced the item to Council and answered questions. A motion by Seefeldt, seconded by Goyke to approve to submit the application, was approved unanimously by voice vote.

D. **Update Regarding the Proposed Splashpad Project (*Mayor*)**

Mac Kenzie offered an update and answered questions from Council. No formal action was taken at this time.

E. ****Disucssion and Possible Action Regarding Animal Control for the City of Ashland (*Mayor*)**

Mac Kenzie introduced the item and answered questions from Council. A motion by Sztynodor and seconded by Seefeldt to authorize Hagstrom to research a long term solution that is within his budget regarding animal control, was approved unanimously by voice vote.

7. **Items for Future Discussion**

Seefeldt requested discussion regarding a potential rooming/boarding house.

8. **CLOSED SESSION**

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*) (*Police Department*)**

A motion by Goyke, seconded by Sztynodor to move into closed session and allow Chief Hagstrom to remain during closed session, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

B. **Return to Open Session**

Seefeldt moved, seconded by Goyke to return to Open Session. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

Mac Kenzie reported no action was taken during closed session.

A motion by Goyke, seconded by Sztynodor to support Hagstrom's determination and deny the grievance, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

9. **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk