

MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, October 8, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, October 8, 2024 Ashland City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Matt Mac Kenzie at 6:03 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Kevin Seefeldt, Sarah Jackson, Ana Tochtermann, Andrew Goyke, James Gregoire, Charlie Ortman, Nancy Sztynior

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matthew MacKenzie, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, City Attorney Tyler Wickman, Public Works Director John Butler, Planning Director Steven Wiley, Parks Director Sara Hudson, Police Chief Willis Hagstrom, Library Director Sarah Adams, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, Treasurer Jacey Dean, and interested citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mac Kenzie requested the closed session item be removed from the agenda. A motion by Ortman and seconded by Seefeldt to approve the amended agenda and remove the closed session item, was approved unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **September 24 2024 City Council and Committee of the Whole**

A motion by Goyke and seconded by Ortman to approve the minutes as presented was approved unanimously by voice vote.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PERIOD

The Clerk read the Rules for Citizen Participation, and the following offered their comments to the Council:

Erin Cutler, 816 Water Street, spoke of numerous vagrants occupying public property within numerous encampments in the City.

Alan Kolwitz, Iron River business owner, commented on City Ordinances that prohibit metal-sided buildings such as carports on personal property.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Announcements**

The Mayor announced he is hosting a volunteer picnic on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Railyard Park Concession building. The next budget work session will be held at the Library's 2nd floor meeting room on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 beginning at 6:00 p.m. City Hall will be having extended hours for registration for voting on Saturday, October 12, 2024 and on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, and for in-person absentee voting beginning on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. The City parks will be closing for the season beginning on October 13, 2024 by removing picnic tables, benches and locking public restrooms. The structure has been demolished at the former Baron Radiator site. There was a fire on the 200 block of Main Street West last week but the building was saved. The City had a cyber attack on its IT system over the past weekend. Governor Evers was in town to award a grant for the library's renovation project. The topic of a pedestrian crossing near the Walmart entrance is still on the City's strategic plan for discussion. October 15, 2024 is White Cane Day and Mac Kenzie plans to make a proclamation of this on that day.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Approve Entering into a Commercial Lease Agreement at 618 Beaser Avenue, Ashland as a Temporary Location of the Vaughn Library during Renovations** *(Library)*

Mac Kenzie noted an amendment has been made and agreed upon by both the Library and the Beaser property owner.

B. **Miscellaneous Minutes**

A motion by Jackson and seconded by Tochtermann to accept the Consent Agenda including the agreement amendment, was approved unanimously by voice vote.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Approve to Accept a Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Recreational Boating Facilities Grant Program for the City of Ashland Kreher Park Launch Development** *(Parks)*

A motion by Ortman and seconded by Seefeldt to accept the grant was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

B. **Approve to Accept a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) Forest Fire Protection Grant** *(Fire Department) Voice*

A motion by Ortman and seconded by Seefeldt to accept the grant was approved unanimously by voice vote.

C. ***** Approve a Resolution for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Grant for the Continuation of the City of Ashland Emerald Ash Borer Readiness Plan for Tree Removal and Replanting** *(Parks) Roll*

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Consider a Resolution Providing for the Sale of Approximately \$4,340,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes to Fund Library Projects** (*Administration*) Roll

Sean Lentz, Senior Municipal Advisor of Ehlers reviewed the item and answered questions from Council. Ortman moved, seconded by Jackson to approve the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Oliphant, City Clerk