

MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 12, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, November 12, 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, Sarah Jackson, Ana Tochtermann (6:06 p.m.), Andrew Goyke, James Gregoire, Charlie Ortman, Nancy Szyndor

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matthew MacKenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, City Attorney Tyler Wickman, Public Works Director John Butler, Planning Director Steven Wiley, Police Chief Willis Hagstrom, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, Treasurer Jacey Dean, and other interested citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion by Goyke and seconded by Seefeldt to approve was passed 6-0 by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **October 29, 2024 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

A motion by Seefeldt and seconded by Ortman to approve was passed 6-0 by voice vote.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PERIOD

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

Jay Emmert, property owner of 714 St. Claire, spoke of the vandalism and theft at his boathouse property, and those who had taken shelter illegally there.

Meghan Perrine, 701 Water Street, commented on the drifters in her community and that she no longer felt safe in her neighborhood.

Joel Langholz, 1114 6th Avenue West, commented on the difference between those who are homeless and those who steal and vandalize properties, and that the issue Ashland is facing is a community issue that needs a concerted effort.

Tricia Bowers, Main Street business owner, noted the amount of theft in the downtown stores and safety concerns for employees, and feels downtown shops are losing business.

Don Jaskowiak, 121 N Willis, said that he would like to feel safe in his neighborhood again and feels the citizens are being penalized.

Susan Lee, Ashland business owner, read a letter of concern from another business owner about her concerns about losing business because of the presence of transients in and around her store.

Mary McPhetridge, Ashland Area Chambers Director, proposed organizing a community discussion to find a solution.

Nancy Emmert, 714 St. Claire property owner, asked for the reason the vandals were not arrested for the damages and theft at her property.

Erin Cutler, 816 Water Street, thanked the city for taking down some encampments around town, spoke about the trash in the community, and the need for people to keep their homes and possessions locked.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Announcements**

Mac Kenzie provided a summary of the Election turnout and thanked all volunteers and staff for their time and dedication for a good and clean election. He reminded those Councilors affected, that seats for Districts 2, 4, and 6 are due for re-election in April 2025. The date to begin filing paperwork is December 1, 2024.

B. **Administrator's Report**

Kucera offered a solution to assist funding for special assessments. The topic will be discussed further at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Approve an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 165 Comprehensive Fee Schedule, Ashland City Ordinances (Clerk) Roll**

A motion by Ortman and seconded by Goyke to approve the ordinance was passed unanimously by roll call vote.

File #2024-2004

B. **Approve to Accept a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) Stewardship Grant of \$249,000, and to Enter into a WI DNR Outdoor Recreation Aids Grant Contract for Redevelopment of the Former Baron Radiator Site (Planning) Roll**

A motion by Ortman and seconded by Tochtermann to approve to accept the grant for \$249,000 was passed unanimously by roll call vote.

C. **Authorize City Administrator to Approve a Professional Engineering Service Proposal for the Kreher Boat Launch Project (Public Works) Roll**

A motion by Tochtermann and seconded by Seefeldt to approve to authorize up to \$100,000 for an engineering professional services contract, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

D. **Approve an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 194 (1848) Procurement of Goods and Services and Approval of Change Orders for Public Construction Projects, Ashland City Ordinances, to Allow for Greater Efficiency Obtaining Signatures on Contracts (Public Works) Roll**

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

File #2024-2005

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Public Hearing on the Proposed 2025 City of Ashland Budget** (*Administration*) Roll

A motion by Goyke and seconded by Seefeldt to move into Public Hearing passed unanimously by roll call vote.

As there were no citizens wishing to speak, Ortman moved, seconded by Seefeldt to close the Public Hearing session. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. **Consider to Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a \$262,000 One Year Taxable General Obligation Promissory Note, Series 2024E, to Fund 2025 General Fund Operations** (*Administrator*) Roll

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

File #17802

C. **Consider to Approve a Resolution to Adopt the 2025 Non-Represented Employees Salary / Hourly Wage Schedule** (*Administration*) Roll

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

File #17803

D. **Consider to Approve a Resolution by the Common Council for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin, to Adopt the 2025 General Fund, Debt Service funds, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Internal Service Funds Budgets** (*Administration*) Roll

A motion by Ortman and seconded by Goyke to approve the resolution passed 6-1 by roll call vote; Gregoire opposed.

File #17804

E. **Consider to Approve a Resolution Adopted by the Common Council for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin, to Establish the 2024 Tax Levy (Payable in 2025) for the City's General Fund, Debt Service Funds, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Internal Service Funds** (*Administrator*) Roll

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

File #17805

F. **Consider to Approve the Proposed 2025 Budgets for JFK Memorial Airport and Ashland Marina** (*Administration*) Roll

A motion by Ortman and seconded by Gregoire to approve the proposed budgets passed unanimously by roll call vote.

G. **Consider to Approve the Proposed 2025 Water and Wastewater Utility Budgets** (*Administration*) Roll

A motion by Ortman and seconded by Goyke to approve the proposed budgets passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- H. **Consider to Approve the 2025 Property Insurance Renewal, and the 2025 General Liability, Linebacker, Law Enforcement Liability, Data Compromise, Cyber Security, Government Crime / Fidelity ISO, Business Auto, Workers' Copensation, and Commercial Umbrella Insurance Carrier Renewal** *(Clerk)* Roll

A motion by Ortman and seconded by Gregoire to approve passed unanimously by roll call vote.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk