

MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

The Tuesday, January 28, 2025 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, Andrew Goyke, James Gregoire, Charlie Ortman

ABSENT: Nancy Sztynodor (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matthew Mac Kenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, City Attorney Tyler Wickman, Public Works Director John Butler, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, Airport Manager Derek Hall, and other interested citizens.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Council President's Report

Ortman commented that he intends to address citizen comments at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Jackson also commented that the library is working to move into their temporary location and volunteers are welcome.

4. Administrator's Report

Kucera reported that tax payments are underway without issues. He began strategic planning discussions to be scheduled for Spring 2025. The Homeless Encampment Clean-Up Policy is completed and will present to Council at the next meeting.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentation and Discussion Regarding the 2023 Financial Audit Reports Prepared by Baker Tilly US, LLP

Vaillancourt offered a presentation and insight to the 2023 audit results and recommendations for Council.

B. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Resolution Petitioning the Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid for JFK Memorial Airport (*Airport*)

Hall discussed the item and answered questions from Council. A motion from Seefeldt and seconded by Goyke to forward the item to Council for public hearing if required by State Statute, passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of New Snow Plow Truck (*Public Works*)

Butler introduced the item and answered questions from Council. A motion by Goyke, seconded by Seefeldt to forward the item to Council for formal approval, passed unanimously by voice vote.

D. **Discussion and Possible Action on Changes to Special Assessment Policy for 2025 Capital Projects (*Public Works*)**

Butler discussed with Council the Special Assessment Policy and future proposed changes. As no formal action was taken, Council determined to bring this item back to the next Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

6. **Items for Future Discussion**

Goyke asked if there were community revitalization grants available for the St. Claire Street and Water Street neighborhoods. The item would be referred to the Planning Department to research. Goyke asked to discuss the 6th Avenue Beach below the USH2 tunnel to brighten it up. This will be researched and discussed by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Mac Kenzie would like future discussion regarding a potential permit for vacant homes in the City. Ortman would like to address the citizen comment regarding Ellis Park.

Kucera agreed to review the Homeless Encampment policy at the next meeting.

7. **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk