



Take notice that the City of Ashland Committee of the Whole will meet immediately following the adjournment of the City Council Meeting in the City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Main Street W. Ashland, WI, to consider and act upon the following agenda.

To attend the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/500263957>

Or dial in using your phone. United States (Toll Free): 1-877-309-2073 Access Code: 500-263-957

Please contact the Clerk's office if you require accommodations to attend the meeting.

**Tuesday, February 11, 2025 Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting
Agenda**

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Council President's Report**
4. **Administrator's Report**
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. **Discussion and Possible Action to Allow the Fire Department to Apply for Duluth Superior Foundations Grants to Fund Paramedic Education Tuitions (*Fire Department*)**
 - B. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Appointing a Representative of the City of Ashland for Ashland County Comprehensive Plan Discussions (*Mayor*)**
 - C. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Requiring Permitting for Vacant Housing within the City (*Mayor*)**
 - D. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Structure and Organization of the Communication and Finance Task Forces (*Mayor*)**
6. **Items for Future Discussion**
7. **Adjournment**

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Ref: 2025-037

**COMMITTEE AGENDA:
5.A. (2/11/2025)**

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action to Allow the Fire Department to Apply for Duluth Superior Foundations Grants to Fund Paramedic Education Tuitions (*Fire Department*)

RECOMMENDATION: Approval to submit application

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Fire Department

CLEARANCES: Council President

EXHIBITS:

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PLAN: NA

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Fire Chief is requesting approval to apply for grants from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. If awarded any grant money, the money would be used to offset the cost of tuition for paramedic school for three EMTs that have enrolled in paramedic classes. To date, all previous scholarships and grants that have been previously utilized are no longer available or the EMTs do not qualify. Tuition and fees for each student are \$6,816.00. Any grant money that is received will be split evenly with each enrolled student. No matching funds are required.

Ref: 2025-038

**COMMITTEE AGENDA:
5.B. (2/11/2025)**

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Appointing a Representative of
the City of Ashland for Ashland County Comprehensive Plan
Discussions (*Mayor*)

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Mayor

CLEARANCES:

EXHIBITS:

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PLAN: GOOD GOVERNANCE: Communication with
neighboring governments

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Mayor is requesting approval to appoint Council President Charlie Ortman to represent the City and attend the Ashland County Comprehensive Plan discussions.

Ref: 2025-039

**COMMITTEE AGENDA:
5.C. (2/11/2025)**

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Requiring Permitting for Vacant Housing within the City (*Mayor*)

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion and Possible Action

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Mayor

CLEARANCES: Council President

EXHIBITS:

**COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC HOUSING
PLAN:**

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Mayor is requesting Council's consideration to require a permit for habitable homes that are allowed to be vacant. A fee could be assessed for any housing unit that is empty for an extended period of time and would help cover costs of extra enforcement efforts. Funds could possibly serve as an incentive to have these housing opportunities put back on the market.

Squatters are using some of these empty dwellings, causing a strain on our policing and fire safety efforts. Additionally, we suffer from a shortage of housing stocks, and it would be helpful if they could be occupied by legitimate tenants.

Ref: 2025-040

**COMMITTEE AGENDA:
5.D. (2/11/2025)**

**SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Structure and Organization
of the Communication and Finance Task Forces (*Mayor*)**

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion and Possible Action

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: Mayor

CLEARANCES:

EXHIBITS:

COMPLIANCE WITH STRATEGIC PLAN: GOOD GOVERNANCE

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

At their January 28, 2025 meeting, Council approved the formation and membership of the task forces. This compilation is attached.

Council is being asked for their weigh-in on developing each group's structure and duties. Items to consider:

- Date, time, length and occurrence of meetings
- Structure of authority - Chair, Vice
- Purpose, outcomes and goals
- Level of authority for directing action
- Decision making process