

MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

The Tuesday, March 11, 2025 City of Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order by Council President Charlie Ortman at 7:15 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Kevin Seefeldt, Sarah Jackson, Andrew Goyke, Jim Gregoire, Charlie Ortman, Nancy Sztynodor

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matt Mac Kenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, Planning Director Steven Wiley, Public Works Director John Butler, and other interested citizens.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

A motion by Gregoire and seconded by Goyke to approve, passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ortman expressed his appreciation to Councilors for remaining professional during discussions.

4. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Kucera noted that Senator Tammy Baldwin posted a request for appropriations from municipalities to potentially include in Fiscal Year 2026, and asked Councilors to help compile a list to possibly submit.

5. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

DPEAC - Sztynodor: Discussed request for additional parking signage at a residence; parking space near Beaser Avenue and Main Street.

HARBOR COMMISSION - Gregoire: Have not met since last report.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION - Sztynodor: Annual report submitted to the State; discussed preservation planning.

HOUSING COMMITTEE - Seefeldt: *This is a non-City committee.* Researching resources for Brick customers.

LIBRARY BOARD - Jackson: Settled in at temporary location; starting testing for asbestos and lead at VPL building.

PARKS & REC COMMITTEE - Seefeldt: Considering inviting a paddleboard/boat vendor at 6th Avenue Beach for increased presence and use; increased information signage along walking trail; Splashpad updates; Kreher campground bathroom upgrade, ADA sites, and bluff use; upcoming discussion of CORP

PLAN COMMISSION: Wiley reported potential ordinance changes regarding metal siding residential structures; rooming housing conversation results

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - GOYKE: Discussed disconnection policy, special assessments, fire and stand by fees

SUSTAINABILITY - Ortman: Reviewing mission statement; Great Lakes Friendly Restaurant certification; reviewing membership

6. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

A. **Proposed Revisions to Municipal Code Section 840 Regulating Short-Term Rentals (*Planning*)**

Wiley introduced the item and answered questions from Council. Jackson moved, Seefeldt seconded a motion to forward to Council for formal approval. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

B. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the US Forest Service to Participate with the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management area (NCWMA) (*Parks*)**

Seefeldt moved, Goyke seconded a motion to forward the item to Council for formal approval. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

C. **State Municipal Agreement (SMA) for the US 2 East Reconstruction Project (*Public Works*)**

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

D. **2025 Sanitary Sewer Lift Stations Project Upgrades (*Public Works*)**

Butler updated Council regarding the project upgrades and answered questions from Council. No action was requested at this time.

7. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

Council requested a draft of the Special Assessments Policy come back for review. Kucera stated he would gather recommendations for 2026 appropriations from staff.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion from Goyke, seconded by Gregoire to adjourn, passed unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk