

MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 27, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, May 27, 2025 Ashland City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Matt MacKenzie at 6:00 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Shawn Brede, Peter Levi, James Gregoire, Charlie Ortman, Nancy Sztynдор

ABSENT: Kevin Seefeldt, Andy Goyke (Both Excused)

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, Fire Chief Stuart Matthias, Airport Manager Derek Hall, and other interested citizens.

The Mayor noted a quorum of the Common Council was present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion by Gregoire and seconded by Sztynдор to approve was passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. **May 13, 2025 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

A motion by Gregoire and seconded by Sztynдор to approve was passed 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:

Zygmund Jablonski, 916 6th Street West, commented on the recent Mandamus trial hearing decision regarding open records.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Announcements**

Mac Kenzie recognized the celebrations held on Memorial Day, meant to reflect on those who gave for this country. Northland College held its final graduation. TID No. 11 received final approval. As a reminder to staff and Councilors, Task Force committees will begin meeting beginning at 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesdays of Council meetings.

B. **Appointments**

A motion by Sztynдор, seconded by Levi to approve the Mayor's appointments, carried unanimously by voice vote. Stephen Schraufnagel was reappointed to the Historical Preservation Commission through May 2028, and Mike Amman was reappointed to the Parks and Recreation Committee through April 2028.

6. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Kucera noted that an offer was made to a new Parks and Recreation Director. Staff began working on the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Lastly, he commented on the decision of the recent Mandamus trial hearing, and his confidence in his staff.

7. PRESENTATION BY DAN GRADY, ASHLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Dan Grady, Ashland County Administrator, spoke to the functions of the County departments and answered questions from Council.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Miscellaneous Minutes**

B. **Planning and Development Permit and Property Maintenance Reports**

A motion by Gregoire and seconded by Sztynдор to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Approve an Agreement for Construction and Naming Rights for Amenities at the City of Ashland Railyard Park for the Splashpad Project** (*Public Works*) Roll

A motion by Gregoire and seconded by Sztynдор to approve the agreement, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS



A. **Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Resolution Petitioning the Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid** (Roll)

A motion by Ortman and seconded by Gregoire to enter into Public Hearing was approved unanimously by roll call vote. It was confirmed that this public hearing was noticed in the local newspaper on May 5, 2025, and posted at three public places. There was no one present to speak, Ortman moved, seconded by Levi to close the public hearing. This motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. **Approve a Resolution Petitioning the Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid for JFK Memorial Airport** (*Airport*) Roll

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

File #17835

C. **Consider a Resolution by the Common Council for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin Adopting the Ashland County Hazard Mitigation Plan** (*Fire Chief*) Roll

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

File #17836

D. **Approve Change Order No. 2 to Dreamland Contracting, LLC for the 2025 Kreher Park Campground Upgrades Project-Bathhouse Replacement** (*Public Works*) Roll

A motion by Gregoire and seconded by Levi to approve the change request, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

11. CLOSED SESSION - Council may return to open session to take action on any matter discussed during closed session.

A motion by Gregoire and seconded by Sztynodor to enter into Closed Session, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

A. **PURSUANT WI STATUTE 19.85(1)(c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data on any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercise of responsibility."** *City Attorney Contract (City Administrator)* Roll

B. **Pursuant to WI Stat. 19.85(1)(e): "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session."** (*Administration - Potential Real Estate Transaction*) Roll

C. **Pursuant to WI Stat. 19.85(1)(g): "Conferring with legal counsel who either orally or in writing will advise governmental body of strategy to be adopted with the respect to current or likely litigation."** (*Jablonski V. City of Ashland 2023-CV000008*)

D. **Return to Open Session** (*Voice*)

Ortman moved, seconded by Gregoire to return to Open Session. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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E. Report of Action Taken during Closed Session

There was no action taken during Closed Session.

Ortman moved, Gregoire seconded to accept the contract between the City of Ashland and Anich, Wickman and Lindsey SC. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

No action was taken on Closed Session Items 11B and 11C in open session.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk