

MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, August 26, 2025 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, Shawn Brede, Peter Levi, Andrew Goyke, James Gregoire, Charlie Ortman, Nancy Sztynдор

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, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, Treasurer Jacey Dean, Parks and Recreation Director Catlyn Nowicki, Utility Supervisor Brian Ledin, Officer Ryan Bybee, and other interested citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mac Kenzie asked to remove the items under New Business due to a public notice issue. A motion by Ortman, seconded by Goyke to approve the agenda as amended, carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **August 12, 2025 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Mac Kenzie asked to amend the Council meeting minutes under the Administrator's Report to show that Butler attended the Beautification Council event, not Mac Kenzie. A motion by Ortman, seconded by Goyke to approve the amended minutes, 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:

Diane Koosed, 1102 Stuntz Avenue, spoke with concern regarding employer preparedness for the potential presence of ICE in the City.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Announcements**

Mac Kenzie shared an invitation to an Emergency House Parties event sponsored by the UW Extension office, to take place on September 29 and 30, 2025. There was a sprinkler/flooding event at the Hotel Chequamegon on Sunday, August 24, 2025 that the Ashland Fire Department responded to. The hotel has since reopened.

6. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Kucera noted the budgeting season is soon beginning. Administration is working with both the Fire Department and Police Department unions, renegotiating their contracts. He offered to share a book, "Your City is Sick" for anyone interested.

7. PRESENTATION BY CARVER HARRIES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASHLAND AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Carver Harries, Executive Director of Ashland Area Development Corporation offered a presentation regarding how they support both profit and nonprofit businesses in the area.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

A. **Approval of the Restructuring of the Public Works/Utility Administrative Manager Position** (*Public Works*)

B. **Approve to Accept Bayfield County EMS Grant** (*Fire & EMS Department*)

Goyke moved, seconded by Ortman to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Approve a Resolution to Amend the 2024 General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Internal Service Funds Budgets Per Wis. State Statute 65.90(5)(a)** (*Finance*) Roll

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

File #17845

B. **Approve a Resolution to Repeal Resolution No. 17112 Repeal and Recreate a Resolution to Establish a Housing Committee as Approved on July 29, 2014, in Order to Dissolve the Housing Committee** (*Mayor*) Roll

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

File #17846

- C. **Approve a Change Order from Fish Creek Restoration, LLC for Bay City Creek Assessment & Concept Design** (*Public Works*) Roll

A motion by Seefeldt, seconded by Ortman to approve the Change Order for the amount of \$70,000, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Public Hearing Regarding an Application to Vacate an Undeveloped Right-of-Way Located along Water Street on Part of Lot 14, Block 35 of Ellis Division, recorded in Volume 2 of Plats on page 80, in the City of Ashland, Ashland County, Wisconsin. Applicants Debra Joanis and Robert Polencheck.** (*Planning and Development*) Roll
Removed from agenda
- B. **Consider a Resolution to Vacate Undeveloped Right-of-Way Located within Lot 14, Block 35 of Ellis Division, Recorded in Volume 2 of Plats on Page 80, in the City of Ashland, Ashland County, Wisconsin. Applicants Debra Joanis and Robert Polencheck.** (*Planning and Development*) Roll
Removed from Agenda
- C. **Consider a Resolution to Approve a Request to Transfer City-Owned Property (Part of Parcels No. 201-01049-0000, 201-01047-0000, and Part of the Water Street Right-of-Way), Inclusive, and Adjoining Wisconsin Central Railroad Right-of-Way Located in Block 35 of Ellis Division, Recorded in Volume 2 of Plats on Page 80, in the City of Ashland, Ashland County, Wisconsin, Zoned Waterfront Public/Institutional (W-PI) with Waterfront Overlay (W-O). Applicants Debra Joanis and Robert Polencheck.** (*Planning and Development*) Roll
Removed from Agenda.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk