

MEETING MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

The Tuesday, August 26, 2025 City of Ashland Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order by Council President Charlie Ortman at 6:40 p.m.

1. Roll Call

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, Public Works Director John Butler, Utility Supervisor Brian Ledin, Planning Director Steven Wiley, and other interested citizens.

2. Approval of Agenda

Ortman requested to remove Items 5B and 5C from the agenda. A motion by Goyke, seconded by Gregoire to approve the amended agenda, passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. Council President's Report

Ortman noted a potential future discussion regarding ICE presence in the community.

4. Committee Updates

DPEAC - Sztynдор: met to discuss the removal of signage near the corner of Beaser Avenue and Main Street West.

HARBOR COMMISSION - Gregoire: discussed fuel system updates.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION - Sztynдор: no report

LIBRARY BOARD - Levi: renovation update, sampled chairs, and visits have increased over the past month.

PARKS & RECREATION - Seefeldt - no report

PUBLIC WORKS - Goyke: discussed the snow removal policy and fluoride

SUSTAINABILITY - Ortman: concerned about the EV chargers, discussed 25x25 Plan and ordinance revisions regarding membership.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. 2025 Sewer Rate Study Phase 1 (*Public Works*)

Ehlers Representatives Peter Curtin and Brian Roemer offered a presentation regarding the Sewer Rate Study, Phase I, and answered questions from Council. After discussion, a motion by Seefeldt, seconded by Sztynдор to move forward with Version II, conduct a rate distribution allocation study, and include this item in the 2026 Budget, passed 6-1 by voice vote; Gregoire opposed. Council also determined to hold a public hearing at the next Council meeting.

B. Continued Review of Vacant Housing Ordinance Draft (*Administrator*)

Removed from Agenda.

C. **Continued Discussion Regarding the Potential Development of a Municipal Court System (Administrator)**

Removed from agenda.

D. **Master Plan for Northland College (Administration)**

The item was introduced by Mac Kenzie. After questions and discussion, Goyke moved, seconded by Seefeldt, to pursue a WEDC grant to assist the City in developing a Master Plan for Northland College. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. **Items for Future Discussion**

Levi asked to discuss the role the Ashland Police Department would play regarding the potential ICE presence in the City.

Goyke asked for the cost difference between monthly versus bimonthly billing, and to include any hardship policy or plans that the City holds.

Brede requested a discussion to clarify the boundaries of the Marina regarding that peninsula, and which City department is responsible for that property, especially to the east side of the peninsula. He is also concerned of the security of this area.

Gregoire asked the Parks Director to research if parking and boat ramp fees could be included with the new reservation software.

7. **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk