



MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, October 14, 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, Charlie Ortman, Nancy Sztynдор

ABSENT: Jim Gregoire (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, and other interested citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion by Goyke, seconded by Sztynдор to approve the agenda as presented, carried unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **September 30, 2025 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

B. **September 25, 2025 Committee of the Whole Budget Work Session Minutes**

A motion by Ortman and seconded by Levi to approve the minutes, carried 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:

Beth Gehred, Ashland resident, invited the community to the upcoming "No Kings" rally, and requested law enforcement support in the event of ICE presence in the City.

Mary Bryant, Ashland resident, encouraged all to vote "no" to the 287(g) Program, and feels ICE is

not giving due process as allowed in the Constitution.

Kathy Allen, 810 Mac Arthur Avenue, does not want to see ICE presence in her neighborhood.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Announcements**

The Mayor was happy to announce that construction work in the City was nearing completion. Mac Kenzie attended a community meet and greet in Mellen last week, intended for new and current residents to gather. The second annual Harvest Festival will be held at Hodgkins Park on Saturday, October 18, 2025. He also noted that despite rumors, the City of Ashland is not purchasing the Northland College property.

B. **Appointments**

A motion by Seefeldt, seconded by Szyndor to approve the reappointments of Mary Asbach and Michele Jardine to the Library Board, passed unanimously by voice vote. Their terms will expire in October of 2028.

6. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The City hosted a Brownfield presentation by the Wisconsin DNR last week. He spoke of the former Baron and Roffer sites during this event.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Approve a Resolution to Exempt the City of Ashland from the Ashland County Library Levy (Administration) Roll**

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

File #17850

B. **Approve a Resolution to Repeal Resolution No. 16563 To Create an Eco-Municipality Advisory Committee, Dated July 8, 2008 (Mayor) Roll**

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

File #17853

C. **Approve an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 25 (1624) Salaries of the Mayor and the Common Council to Amend Pay for City Councilors to a Monthly Rate (Mayor) Roll**

A motion by Ortman, seconded by Brede to approve the ordinance with an amendment to remove Section C of the proposed ordinance. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

File #2025-2025

D. **Approve Facade Grant and Down-Payment Assistance Awards (Administrator) Roll**

A motion by Ortman, seconded by Seefeldt to approve all of the grant awards, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

8. 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

A motion by Seefeldt, seconded by Ortman to enter into Public Hearing, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

A Class III notice was posted in the City's official newspaper on September 18, September 25, and October 2, 2025, posted at the Vaughn Public Library, Ashland County Court House, and at City Hall, as well as mailed to affected homeowners.

Wiley noted that he received one question via email which was satisfactorily responded to. As there were no citizens present wishing to speak, Sztynдор moved, seconded by Seefeldt to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- 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

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

File #17847

- 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

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

File #17848

9. CLOSED SESSION

- A. ***** Pursuant to WI Stat. 19.85(1)(g): "Conferring with legal counsel who, either orally or in writing, will advise governmental body on strategy to be adopted with respect to current or likely litigation."** *Ashland Water Intake Project*

A motion by Goyke, seconded by Sztynдор to enter into Closed Session, and allow John Butler to stay during the discussion, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- B. **Return to Open Session**

A motion by Ortman, seconded by Sztynдор to return to Open Session, passed unanimously by voice vote.

- C. **Report of Action Taken during Closed Session**

Mac Kenzie reported that no action by Council was taken during Closed Session.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk