



MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Ashland City Hall Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, November 18, 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**

Roll call was taken, a Moment of Silence was held, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: Kevin Seefeldt, Shawn Brede, Peter Levi, Andrew Goyke, James Gregoire, Charlie Ortman, and Nancy Szyndor.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Matthew MacKenzie, City Administrator Brant Kucera, City Clerk Denise Oliphant, City Attorney Max Lindsey, Public Works Director John Butler, Planning Director Steven Wiley, Library Director Sarah Adams, Fire Chief Stuart Matthias, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, Treasurer Jacey Dean, Parks Director Catlyn Nowicki, and other concerned citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **October 28, 2025 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes** *(Clerk)*

A motion by Szyndor, seconded by Levi to approve, passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PERIOD

There were no Citizens who requested to address the Council.

5. PRESENTATION BY ROB PRATER, ASHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Prater offered a presentation and answered questions from Council.

6. ASHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION

Matthias presented an award to Firefighter Sam Roman as Firefighter of the Year.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Announcements

The Mayor recognized Veterans Day during the week prior, and the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Road construction throughout town was near completion. The tree lighting ceremony at Pearson Plaza was on December 6, 2025 after the parade. The odd-numbered Councilor seats and Mayor race will be on the Spring 2026 Election ballot. He attended a ribbon cutting at the Hatch Clayworks, 209 Main Street East.

8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Kucera noted he attended the closing of the sale of 421 Main Street West, formerly the Cash Store, to be opened in 2026 as Taddy's Place. The budgeting season is nearing its end with today's meeting, and he extended his appreciation for being part of the community.

Ortman noted that Ashland County has completed its Farmland Preservation Plan.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve to Reallocate Wisconsin Funding Assistance Program (FAP) Funds for Paramedic Training Tuition Reimbursement for Ashland Fire Department Staff *(Fire/EMS)*

B. Approve the 2026 City Council Meeting Calendar *(Clerk)*

C. Miscellaneous Minutes

A motion by Seefeldt, seconded by Ortman to approve the Consent Agenda which included an amended agreement for reimbursement of paramedic training tuition, the 2026 City Council meeting calendar, and miscellaneous committee meeting minutes. This motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

10. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2026 CITY OF ASHLAND BUDGET

A. Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 City of Ashland Budget *(Administration)* Roll

A motion by Goyke, seconded by Sztynodor to enter into Public Hearing, passed unanimously by roll call vote. Mac Kenzie confirmed that a Class I notice was posted in the City's official newspaper, posted at the Vaughn Public Library, Ashland County Court House, and at City Hall, as required by WI State Statutes.

There were no citizens wishing to speak during the public hearing. Therefore, Ortman moved, seconded by Goyke to close the public hearing. This motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Consider a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a \$262,000 One-Year Taxable General Obligation Promissory Note, Series 2025B, to Fund 2026 General Fund Operations** (*Administrator*) Roll
Josh Low, Municipal Advisor for Ehlers Public Finance Advisors, offered a presentation and answered questions from Council. A motion by Ortman, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #17856**
- B. **Consider a Resolution to Adopt the 2026 Non-Represented Employees Salary / Hourly Wage Schedule** (*Administration*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the resolution, passed 6-1 by roll call vote; Gregoire opposed. **File #17857**
- C. **Consider a Resolution by the Common Council for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin, to Adopt the 2026 General Fund, Debt Service Funds, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Internal Service Funds Budgets** (*Administration*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the resolution, passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #17858**
- D. **Consider a Resolution Adopted by the Common Council for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin, to Establish the 2025 Tax Levy (Payable in 2026) for the City's General Fund, Debt Service Funds, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Internal Service Funds** (*Administrator*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Sztynodor to approve the resolution, passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #17859**
- E. **Consider to Approve the Proposed 2026 Budgets for JFK Memorial Airport and Ashland Marina** (*Administration*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Goyke to approve the budgets, passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- F. **Consider to Approve the Proposed 2026 Water and Wastewater Utility Budgets** (*Administration*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Sztynodor to approve the budgets, passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- G. **Consider an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 165 (2021-1952) Comprehensive Fee Schedule, Ashland City Ordinances** (*Clerk*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Sztynodor to approve the ordinance, passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #2025-2027**
- H. **Consider Approval of the 2025 Property Insurance Renewal, and the 2025 General Liability, Linebacker, Law Enforcement Liability, Data Compromise, Cybersecurity, Government Crime / Fidelity ISO, Business Auto, Workers' Compensation, and Commercial Umbrella Insurance Carrier Renewal** (*Clerk*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Sztynodor to approve both renewals, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- I. **Consider a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Up to \$85,672 Water System Revenue Bonds, Series 2025C, and Providing for Other Details and Covenants with Respect Thereto, and Approval of Related Financial Assistance Agreement** (*Public Works, Finance*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Goyke to approve the resolution, passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #17860**
- J. **Consider a Wisconsin Department of Transportation State/Municipal Financial Agreement — Revision #1 for USH 2 Stuntz Avenue to 36th Avenue East for the US 2 East Reconstruction Project** (*Public Works*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Brede to approve the agreement, passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- K. **Consider a Resolution to Submit an Application for a Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Idle Sites Grant of up to \$250,000 to Support Construction of Infrastructure for Redevelopment of the Former Roffers Construction Site, Parcel No. 201-00356-0000** (*Planning and Development*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Sztynodor to approve the resolution, passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #17861**
- L. **Consider a City of Ashland Resolution to Adopt a Citizen Participation Plan as Required for the Submission of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update** (*Planning and Development*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the resolution, passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #17862**

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Consider a City of Ashland Resolution Authorizing to Submit a Community Development Block - Planning Grant (CDBG-PLNG) Application for the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update** (*Planning and Development*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the resolution, passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #17863**
- B. **Consider a City of Ashland Resolution Providing a Guarantee of Match Funds for the 2025 Community Development Block Grant Planning (CDBG PLNG) Application Related to the City of Ashland's Participation in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program** (*Planning and Development*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Sztynodor to approve the resolution, passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #17864**
- C. **Consider to Submit an Application to Fieldprint to Implement Digital Fingerprinting through the Clerk's Office** (*Clerk*) Voice
A motion by Goyke, seconded by Sztynodor to approve passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- D. **Consider Contracts for the Purchase of Furniture and Shelving Furnishings for the Vaughn Library Renovation Project** (*Library*) Roll
A motion by Ortman, seconded by Sztynodor to approve passed unanimously by roll call vote. The accepted bids include:

EBI Complete Office of Wisconsin, Inc	\$103,843.61
Samuels Group	11,002.79



Duet Resource Group	16,398.36
Duet Resource Group	10,459.40
M & M Office Interiors	40,755.84
Library Furniture International	99,896.78
Library Furniture International	<u>94,304.47</u>
TOTAL	\$376,661.25

13. CLOSED SESSION - Council may reconvene in Open Session to take action on any item discussed during Closed Session.

A motion by Goyke and seconded by Levi to enter into Closed Session and allow Fire Chief Matthias to remain in Chambers for Closed Session, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- A. **Pursuant WI Statute 19.85(1)(e): Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.** (*Paramedic Intercept Agreement with Red Cliff Ambulance*) (*Ashland Fire Department*) Roll

- B. **Return to Open Session**
Ortman moved, seconded by Goyke to return to Open Session. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- C. **Report of Action Taken during Closed Session**
Mac Kenzie reported that no action was taken during Closed Session.

A motion by Goyke to support the Fire Chief and allow the City to terminate the current paramedic intercept agreement with Red Cliff, seconded by Gregoire, passed unanimously by voice vote.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk