

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Tuesday, March 31, 2026 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, Andrew Goyke, James Gregoire, Charlie Ortman, Nancy Sztynдор

ABSENT: Peter Levi (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, Fire Chief Stuart Matthias, Finance Director Julie Vaillancourt, Treasurer Jacey Dean, Events Director Jennifer Fanucci, and other interested citizens.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion by Goyke, seconded by Sztynдор to approve the agenda, passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **March 10, 2026 City Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

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

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PERIOD

There were no Citizens who requested to address the Council. Mac Kenzie noted an email received which was distributed to all Councilors.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. **Announcements**

Mac Kenzie received positive comments of the recent utility facility tour. Staff were allowed to tour the newly renovated library on March 18, 2026 before it was opened to the public. The emergency

shelter on the west end of town is a low-income housing development funded by a grant through Ashland County. The Administrator and Mayor met with the Ashland School District last week for continued discussions of a memorandum of understanding. The Mayor also met with the Police and Fire Commission to discuss potential changes at the fire department. The next City Council meeting on April 21, 2026 is a reorganizational meeting. Mac Kenzie asked that appointments to the various boards and committees will be made at that time.

B. Appointments

A motion by Seefeldt, seconded by Sztynodor to approve reappointing Jeffrey Muse to the Historical Preservation Commission, passed unanimously by voice vote. The term will expire in 2029.

6. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Kucera noted that members of America in Bloom plan to be in Ashland for an assessment in July. The City hired Andrew Kundel as the new JFK Memorial Airport Manager beginning April 13, 2026. Kucera expressed his appreciation to Bill Moore, former manager, for filling in when the airport needed him. Staff toured the Northland College property recently and reported the campus is being very well maintained. He was also part of a preliminary call with the owner of the C. Reiss coal dock.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Miscellaneous Minutes

A motion by Ortman, seconded by Seefeldt to approve, passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consider a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$2,820,000 Taxable General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026A (Finance) Roll

The item was introduced by Josh Low of Ehlers with a presentation and answered questions from Council. A motion by Ortman, seconded by Goyke to approve the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #17872**

B. Consider to Approve a Resolution Providing for the Sale of Approximately \$3,030,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026B (Finance) Roll

Vaillancourt introduced the item and answered questions from Council. A motion by Ortman, seconded by Sztynodor to approve passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #17871**

C. Accept Bid from JGJ Dirt, LLC and Enter into a Contract for the 2026 Vision Sanitary Sewer Relocation Project (Public Works) Roll

A motion by Ortman, seconded by Seefeldt to approve awarding the bid of \$151,846.61 to JGJ Dirt, LLC, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

D. Accept an Agreement for Professional Services between the City of Ashland and Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. for Construction Administration and Engineering for the 2026

Vision Development Sanitary Sewer Relocation Construction Services Project (*Public Works*) Roll

A motion by Ortman, seconded by Sztynodor to approve the agreement with Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. for \$52,210.00, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

E. **Accept Bid from Jake's Excavating & Landscaping, LLC and Award a Contract for the 2026 13th Avenue East Reconstruction Project** (*Public Works*) Roll

A motion by Ortman, seconded by Goyke to approve the bid from Jake's Excavating & Landscaping, LLC for \$1,482,313.20, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

F. **Accept an Agreement for Professional Services from Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc for 2026 13th Avenue East CDBG Street & Utility Improvements Project Construction Services** (*Public Works*) Roll

A motion by Ortman, seconded by Goyke to approve the agreement with Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. for \$56,750.00, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

G. **Accept a Proposal for Professional Services from Energenecs, Inc. for the Ashland Water Pump VFD System Integration Project of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Upgrades at the Drinking Water Treatment Plant** (*Public Works*) Roll

A motion by Goyke, seconded by Ortman to approve the revised proposal from Energenecs, Inc. for \$56,370.00, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

H. **Accept a Proposal from Long Island Engineering, LLC for Professional Construction Administration Services for the 2026 Kreher Park Boat Launch Project** (*Public Works*) Roll

A motion by Ortman, seconded by Brede to approve the proposal from Long Island Engineering, LLC for \$40,500.00, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Approval to Purchase a Prefabricated Restroom Building from Urben Blu for the 2026 Miskwaa Park Project, and Allow the City of Ashland Public Works Department to Perform Public Construction without Advertising for Competitive Bids as Allowed in Chapter 194.05(4), Ashland City Ordinances** (*Public Works*) Roll

A motion by Ortman, seconded by Seefeldt to approve the purchase for \$425,000.00, passed unanimously by roll call vote.

B. **Ordinance to Amend Chapter 806 (201-1834) An Ordinance to Approve a PUD-GDP, to Amend the Specific Implementation Plan for a Multi-Family Residential Land Use at 400 Beaser Avenue (Parcel # 201-00356-0000), Zoned Mixed Residential/Commercial (MRC) with Gateway Overlay (GTWY-O) and Planned Unit Development Overlay (PUD). Applicant: Vision, Inc., to Allow for a Maximum Height of the Principal Building of up to Fifty-Eight (58) Feet** (*Planning and Development*) Roll.

A motion by Ortman, seconded by Sztynodor to approve the ordinance, passed unanimously by roll call vote. **File #2026-2032**

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

Mac Kenzie determined to begin discussion while in open session, and move to closed session should Council request to. There was no motion to move into closed session.

- A. **Closed Session Pursuant WI Stat. 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.** *(Mayor, Ashland Fire Department) Reduction in staffing due to reduction of services.*

- B. **Closed Session Pursuant WI Stat. 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.** *(Mayor) Ashland Fire Department deliberation and bargaining reasons regarding transport services.*

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Oliphant,
City Clerk