

City of Ashland – Public Works Committee Meeting **Minutes**

A meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on **Thursday, February 12, 2026** at **5:00 PM** in the City Hall Council Chambers (601 Main St W).

1. Roll Call

The February 12, 2026 meeting of the Public Works Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call was taken:

Present: Anne Chartier, Andy Goyke, Phil Sorensen, Ed Calhan, Robert Klamerus

Also Present: Public Works Director John Butler, Public Works Admin Manager David Garrington

2. Approval of Minutes

Sorensen moved to amend the minutes from the February 12, 2026 meeting to include Sorensen inquiring about a discussion about selling water to Enbridge at the March 12, 2026 meeting, and to amend the agenda for the March meeting to include discussion on the topic. Seconded by Chartier. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion about selling water to Enbridge will become item 5c. on the March agenda and will be discussed first.

3. Citizen Participation Period

4. Unfinished Business

5. New Business

- a. Discussion on Costs of Maintaining Ore Dock
It was determined that it costs \$15,000 per year to maintain the Ore Dock, including trash collection, patching holes, mowing, general maintenance covering wear and tear, which includes labor and equipment use. The Trust agreed to cover costs annually through a perpetual care fund in order to preserve the Ore Dock.
- b. Discussion on Parks Operation and Maintenance Needs

The Committee discussed the issues facing the Parks Department when it comes to covering ongoing maintenance needs.

- c. Discussion on Selling Bulk Water to Enbridge for Line 5 Reroute Project
 - *Amendment made during Approval of Minutes to include this topic on the March agenda. Item was discussed first.

Chartier read the letter provided by the League of Women Voters regarding selling, use and disposal of water to Enbridge for the Line 5 reroute project. As manager of Water Utility, Butler understands the concerns of the League but feels it's not the City's business to discriminate against anyone who would purchase bulk water. Sale of water is a benefit to the City in terms of revenue. Enbridge will also pay the City to take back unused clean water. It was suggested to sell water at a higher rate to companies like Enbridge. However, bulk water is sold at a lower rate per PSC compared to residential or commercial use. Ultimately the Department feels like the job to regulate the project and the potential hazards to the environment and Lake Superior watershed falls outside of the City.

6. Items of Interest for Future Meetings

Costs associated with mowing City green space

Development of a comprehensive sidewalk plan

7. Set Next Meeting Date

- a. Thursday March 12, 2026

8. Adjournment

Chartier motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Goyke. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.