

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

A meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on **Thursday, January 8, 2026** at **5:00 PM** in the City Hall Council Chambers (601 Main St W).

1. Roll Call

The January 8, 2026 meeting of the Public Works Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call was taken:

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

Also Present - Public Works Director John Butler, Utility Manager Brian Ledin, Public Works Administrative Manager David Garrington, Civil Engineer - Utilities Madison Krzciok, various community members

2. Approval of Minutes

Sorensen motioned to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2025 meeting with an amendment to Item 4A to include the clarification that if the City decided to move away from maintaining Highways 2 & 13 during the winter months, the County would take over winter maintenance. Goyke seconded the motion to approve the amendment. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

3. Citizen Participation Period

Zygmund Jablonski updated the committee on issues stemming from the Water Meter Replacement Project. It was found that Hydro Corp. allowed non-licensed plumbers to replace water meters without proper oversight from a licensed plumber. The plumber from Hydro Corp. was fined \$10,000.

He also spoke about his problem with City crews pushing snow to north side of Main st and his worry that fire hydrants are being blocked.

John Butler spoke on behalf of Anne Chartier about selling bulk water to Enbridge. Director's opinion is to sell water just as we would to any other contractor.

4. Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Future of Fluoride in City Drinking Water

The dept. followed up with Ashland County HHS Administrator about support for the addition of fluoride to municipal drinking water and provided data about the benefits of fluoride to support the argument. cost of fluoride is ~\$590/month or \$7,080/year

Benefits to the general public - 40%-60% reduction of tooth decay in children living in communities with optimal fluoridation over last 75 years, benefits vulnerable community who cannot afford dental care, fluoride helps Water dept. identify source of leak if standing water on the ground is found.

Klamerus motioned to approve keeping fluoride in drinking water, Calhan seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

5. New Business

- a. Discussion and Possible Action on Funding for Private Lead Service Lateral (LSL) Program

Madison presented info on Lead Service Line (LSL) inventory and how the City approaches getting the lead out of the public water system. Residents can access an interactive map on the City website to display all lead service lines in the City.

Historically the City was able to access funds through the DNR Safe Drinking Water Loan Program to pay 100% of replacement for private side LSL. These replacements were coordinated with street reconstruction projects on streets that were heavy on lead lines. Street funding for reconstruction projects cannot keep up with demand for LSL replacement. Funding is also changing through the DNR; the City will also no longer be able to obtain funds to pay for 100% or private side LSL replacement.

EPA is requiring all lead to be removed from system by 2037. City could meet 2037 goal by replacing ~50 LSLs per year but will need to identify other funding sources than Safe Drinking Water Program, such as absorbing cost into general fund or special assessing.

Goyke moved to direct Public Works to create strategy to replace LSL, with all necessary financial details, to remove lead lines by 203, seconded by Calhan. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

6. Items of Interest for Future Meetings

Jonathan Kingfisher wanted to speak during the Citizen Participation period but, due to technical difficulties, was unable to until the end of the meeting. He wanted to express he is absolutely against the City selling water to Enbridge for their pipeline reroute project.

- a. Discussion and Possible Recommendation on Private Storm Water Connection to the Public Storm Water System (Tabled from October 2025 Meeting)
- b. City Ord. 705.19 Mandatory Connection (Tabled from July 2025 Meeting)

- c. Increasing Revenue, Cost Reduction, for Waste Water Utility (Proposed at December 2025 Meeting)

7. Set Next Meeting Date

- a. Thursday February 12, 2026

8. Adjournment

Klamerus motioned to adjourn, seconded by Sorensen. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.