

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

A meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on **Thursday, April 16, 2026** at **5:00 PM** in the City Hall Council Chambers (601 Main St W).

1. Roll Call

The April 16, 2026 Public Works Committee meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. Roll call was taken.

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

Also Present: Public Works Director John Butler, Utility Admin Megan Erickson, Operations Manager - Parks/Facs/Administrative

2. Approval of Minutes

Goyke motions to approve minutes from March meeting. Calhan seconds the motion. Sorensen and Chartier abstain from voting. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.

3. Citizen Participation Period

A number of citizens spoke about the Enbridge Line 5 reroute from its current route through the Bad River Watershed.

4. Unfinished Business

5. New Business

- a. Discussion and Possible Recommendation on Changes to Chapter 705 Water Utility Rules, Rates and Regulations, Ashland City Ordinances
Committee discussed penalty assessed to homeowners who currently have a private well in use, do not have a well operating permit, not getting their well water tested and refuse to connect to City water servicing their property. The current fee is equal to the average residential user cost per month plus 12% admin fee. Fee is attached to the utility bill and rolls onto property taxes if fees aren't paid homeowner. The Committee agrees residential unit equivalent should be tripled from what they are now.

Section proposed to be added to set standards for what owning private hydrants entails, setting standards to follow to keep the hydrant in working order, same standards as Water Utility follows (flushing, inspection, leak detection & repair). Goyke requested a change to 705.21 (e)(4) (change to within 24 hours).

Item is tabled for a future meeting while the Department cleans up the proposed changes.

- b. Discussion and Possible Recommendation on Changes to Chapter 711 Ordinance for a POTW and Collection System, Ashland City Ordinances

- c. Update of Public Works Operations
The committee was updated on personnel changes within the department. Members gave their opinion whether or not the committee should continue without a Public Works Director.

6. Items of Interest for Future Meetings

7. Set Next Meeting Date

- a. Thursday May 14, 2026

8. Adjournment

Sorensen moves to adjourn. Calhan seconds the motion. Motion carries unanimously by voice vote.