

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Held Electronically; View on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (Charter Communications) or live stream via [rytv.sou.edu](http://rytv.sou.edu) select RVTV Prime.

**Written and oral testimony will be accepted for public input.**

For oral testimony, fill out a Speaker Request Form at [ashland.or.us/speakerrequest](http://ashland.or.us/speakerrequest) and return to the City Recorder. The deadline for submitting written testimony or speaker request forms will be on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and must comply with Council Rules to be accepted.

For written testimony, email [public-testimony@ashland.or.us](mailto:public-testimony@ashland.or.us) using the subject line: Ashland

**6:00 PM REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING\***

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Tonya Graham called the Business Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilor Jensen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Councilors' Graham, Hyatt, Seffinger, Moran, DuQuenne and Jensen were present. Mayor Akins was absent.

**IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Land Acknowledgement\*\*

Hyatt read the Land Acknowledgment into the record.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Study Session of March 14, 2022
2. Business Meeting of March 15, 2022

**Jensen/Hyatt moved to approve the minutes. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

Minutes of Boards, Commissions and Committees\*\*\*

**VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS**

1. Travel Ashland City Grant Report  
Katherine Cato presented Council with a PowerPoint.

Items discussed were:

- Travel Ashland's Role and Work

- Metrics and Data
- Industry partnerships and new brand
- Evolving Visitor Base
- The Biggest Shift in Ashland
- Visitor Study
- Validated change and strengths
- New Brand Platform
- Lifestyle Personas
- Interest Groups
- Icons
- Recalibration

Council thanked Travel Ashland for the presentation.

Council discussed how to track what is being done. Cota spoke that they will track information and bring all back to Council.

### **Public Forum:**

Sandra Slattery – Ashland – Ashland Chamber of Commerce Executive Director - Spoke in appreciation of the business participation and leadership with Travel Ashland.

Pete Wallstrom – Ashland - Chair of Travel Ashland spoke regarding tourism. He spoke regarding to the importance of supporting small business owners.

Graham Sheldon – Ashland - Spoke that help from Travel Ashland is imperative and encouraged support from the City and Council.

Bob Hackett - Executive Director of Travel Southern Oregon. He spoke in support of Travel Ashland.

## **VII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Miriam Reed – Ashland - Spoke regarding social equity. She spoke regarding the SOU wireless tower. She spoke to the dangers of electricity.

Linda Peterson Adams – Ashland – Spoke regarding what citizens can do to mitigate and adapt to climate chaos (*see attached*).

Andrew Zucker - Ashland - Zucker introduced his violin teacher Faina Podolnaya. Ms. Podolnaya spoke regarding her fundraiser with the city of Ashland and about her history in the Ukraine and the Soviet Union. She spoke regarding their accomplishments. She spoke regarding raising money to help the children in the Ukraine and the refugees. She asked for Council for support. She spoke that support can be done at the website: [gofundme.com/helpthechildrenofukraine](https://www.gofundme.com/helpthechildrenofukraine) (*see attached*).

She thanked the City and Council.

### **VIII. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Joe Lessard introduced Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta. Cotta spoke that she is excited to be here and join the team of Ashland.

Lessard announced a few updates:

- Positions of Human Resources Director and Finance Director is being worked on being posted.
- Finalizing the questions for the Community Survey.
- The kiosk at the Police Department will be open 24 hours for citizens to pay their utility bills.
- Look Ahead.
  - Council gave consensus to have three Special Meetings regarding the Budget.

### **IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Authorization to Apply for Vehicle Barrier Grant Authorization to Apply for Vehicle Barrier Grant
2. Oregon Department of Transportation Nighttime Work Request-Bridge Improvement Project
3. Liquor License approval for Trapdoor Bar and Grill

Mr. Lessard pulled Item #3 and gave a brief Staff Report stating that this item will be postponed until the next Council Business Meeting Agenda.

DuQuenne pulled Item #1 for discussion.

**Moran/Hyatt moved to approve Item #2 Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Jensen, DuQuenne, Seffinger, Moran and Hyatt: YES. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

DuQuenne questioned the grant funding of the barriers. Police Chief O'Meara explained that Ashland, Central Point, Grants Pass and Medford are each obligating \$10,000 towards the purchase of \$300,000 in vehicle barrier equipment that all 4 communities would be able to share.

Council discussed how this would work for restaurant owners.

**Jensen/Seffinger moved to authorize the City's participation in the grant and approve a \$10,000 expenditure in matching funds from The Police and/or Public Works Departments if the grant is awarded. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Jensen, DuQuenne, Hyatt, Graham, Moran and Seffinger: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

**X. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**XII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**XIII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS**

1. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 3207 Relating to Membership on the Climate Policy Commission and Amending AMC 2.27.010

City Attorney Katrina Brown gave a brief Staff Report.

**Jensen/Hyatt moved to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 3207 for enactment. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Moran, Hyatt, DuQuenne, Jensen and Graham: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

**XIV. OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS/REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS**

Council discussed getting back to in person meetings.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING**

**Hyatt/Moran moved to adjourn the Business Meeting. Discussion: None. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**The Business Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**City Recorder Melissa Huhtala**

**Attest:**

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**Mayor Akins**

\*Items on the Agenda not considered due to time constraints are automatically continued to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting [AMC 2.04.030.(D)(3)]

**\*\*LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge and honor the aboriginal people on whose ancestral homelands we work—the Ikirakutsum Band of the Shasta Nation, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today. We honor the first stewards in the Rogue Valley and the lands we love and depend on: Tribes with ancestral lands in and surrounding the geography of the Ashland Watershed include the original past, present and future indigenous inhabitants of the Shasta, Takelma, and Athabaskan people. We also recognize and acknowledge the Shasta village of K'wakhakha—“Where the Crow lights”—that is now the Ashland City Plaza.

\*\*\*Agendas and minutes for City of Ashland’s Boards and Commissions meetings may be found at the City’s website, <https://www.ashland.or.us/Agendas.asp> . Use the View By box to select the Board or Commission information you are seeking.

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Manager's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number 1-800-735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).*

4/5/22

City Manager Lessard, DCM Cotta, Councilors, overworked and highly valued Staff, I want to begin my testimony and political philosophy discussion tonight by asking you to read the latest Conservation Corner in this month's Sneak Preview. For those of you who don't know, the Conservation and Climate Outreach Commission posts these articles monthly, one of many action items that their Commission accomplishes through the year. This month's article is by Anya Moore, one of the most recent members appointed to the Commission and its Ashland High School student representative. Moore states, quite eloquently, and I quote "Ashland needs to model what it means to put the lives of younger generations and of our planet above profit and short term "solutions". Every City Council decision, every City Commission decision, every Ashland School District decision, and every private home and business decision needs to take sustainability into account."

We all need to listen to Moore's words, but that isn't enough. We need to act on them as if our lives and the lives of our posterity depends on it. Because they do. Thank you, Anya. I will do my best.

**And now, back to making the vegan sausage for The Common Good.**

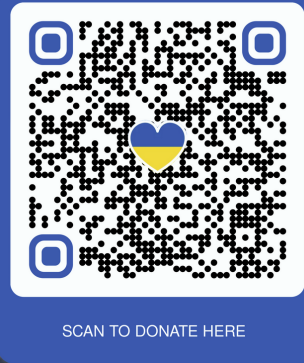
Estimates vary as to the percentage of GHG emissions from Ashland's transportation sector from 25 to 30 percent of total Ashland emissions. The Climate and Energy Action Plan's goals for reducing GHG emissions will not be met without reducing vehicle miles traveled by increasing the number of miles Ashland Citizens and our visitors walk, bike, roll and take transit for their daily travel in and around our delightful town where people **can live their daydreams**. Switching from gas powered to electric autos, buses and trucks will do a lot to help us mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce GHGs. Most of us can't afford to buy a Tesla, but there are simple changes that individuals can make with the support of City policy decisions to not only lessen GHG emissions but also help with traffic congestion and the overall livability, walkability and bikeability of Ashland. A report from the Transportation, **Climate Policy** and Conservation and Climate Outreach Commissions on the Benefits of Speed Reduction\* to make it safer to walk, bike or roll combine to decrease miles traveled by car thereby increasing the use of active transportation and cutting emissions all at once. Improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure calms streets and makes it safer for everyone to travel through and around our town. Through the updated State Transportation Planning Rule, our own update to the Transportation System Plan (public engagement coming soon, I promise) must incorporate changes to accommodate safe streets for everyone, making our town cleaner, greener and a destination for the changing demographic of visitors knocking at our door. \* <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kmwcUB4CzoAceW4UMZZFu2JzkBVTYPEJ/view?usp=sharing>



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