

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Held Electronically; View on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (Charter Communications) or live stream via rvtv.sou.edu select RVTV Prime.

Written and oral testimony will be accepted for public input. For written testimony, email public-testimony@ashland.or.us using the subject line: May 4 Business Meeting Testimony.

For oral testimony, fill out a Speaker Request Form at ashland.or.us/speakerrequest and return it to the City Recorder. The deadline for submitting written testimony or speaker request forms will be on Monday, May 3 at 10 a.m. and must comply with Council Rules to be accepted.

Note: Items on the Agenda not considered due to time constraints are automatically continued to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting [AMC 2.04.030.E.]

5:00 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council will hold an Executive Session to consult with your attorney regarding your legal rights and duties in regard to current litigation or litigation that is more likely than not to be filed, pursuant ORS 192.660(2)(h). Executive Sessions are closed to the public.

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

The Executive Session was adjourned at 5:58 PM.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Akins called the Meeting to order at 6:00 PM

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Councilors' Hyatt, DuQuenne, Jensen, Moran, Graham and Seffinger were present.

IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Study Session of April 19, 2021
2. Business Meeting of April 20, 2021

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

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

1. Proclamation for National Historic Preservation Month
Mayor Akins read the proclamation into the record (*see attached*).

2. Annual Presentation by the Historic Commission
Historic Commission Chair Dale Shostrom presented Council with the Annual Presentation.

3. Climate and Energy Action Plan Progress Update.

Interim City Manager Adam Hanks introduced Climate Energy Analyst Stu Green. Green presented Council with the Climate and Energy Action Plan Progress Report (*see attached*).

Green explained USDA Funding.

VII. MINUTES OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

[Airport](#)

[Budget](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Historic](#)

[Housing and Human Svcs.](#)

[Parks & Recreation](#)

[Forest Lands](#)

[Climate Policy](#)

[Cost Review](#)

[Planning](#)

[Public Arts](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Tree](#)

[Wildfire Mitigation](#)

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Business from the audience not included on the agenda. The Mayor will set time limits to enable all people wishing to speak to complete their testimony. [15 minutes maximum]

See note above for how to submit testimony for Public Forum.

IX. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Interim City Manager Adam Hanks gave the City Manager Report (*see attached*).

X. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Akins removed Item #5 to New Business.

1. Annual Commission Reappointments
2. Appointment of Evguenia "Jane" Andrianova to the Municipal Audit Commission
3. Amendment No. 1 to Riparian Land Lease Agreement– Water Quality Temperature Trading Program Partnership
4. Approval of a Personal Services Contract for Phase 1 of the Parallel Taxiway Rehabilitation Project
5. Approval of a Personal Services Contract for Wastewater Treatment Plan Outfall Relocation Final Engineering and Bidding Services

This Item was moved to new Business.

6. Renewal of Microsoft Office365 Subscription

Hyatt/Graham moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Persons wishing to speak are to submit a “speaker request form” prior to the commencement of the public hearing. Public hearings conclude at 8:00 p.m. and are

continued to a future date to be set by the Council, unless the Council, by a two-thirds vote of those present, extends the hearing(s) until up to 9:30 p.m. at which time the Council shall set a date for continuance and shall proceed with the balance of the agenda.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Approval of Agreements with HdL Companies for Food & Beverage Tax Administration and State of Oregon Department of Revenue for Transient Lodging Tax Administration

Hanks gave a brief Staff report.

DuQuenne questioned if outsourcing why hire more people. Hanks explained we have not hired more people. He spoke that staffing level in Utility Billing receivables has been decreased during COVID and has remained decreased.

Moran spoke regarding the FTE budget and wanted to verify that the City is not looking to increase FTE from 14-16 people in Finance. Finance Director Melanie Purcell explained that there are vacancies and what is being proposed is to eliminate $\frac{3}{4}$ of a position.

Hyatt/Jensen moved to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the State of Oregon Department of Revenue for Transient Lodging Tax administration services for \$175 per vendor per year. Discussion: Hyatt thanked Staff and the Ad-Hoc Committee. **Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Akins moved Item XIV. Item 1 up. Before Item XII. Item 2.

2. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 3197; Creating the Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission; Adding New AMC Chapter 2.20

City Attorney David Lohman gave a brief Staff report.

Public Input:

Xuba – Spoke in support of Racial and Social Equity Commission. He spoke that him and some others received more signatures of support. He thanked Council for the consideration.

Royce Snyder – Spoke in favor of the Racial and Social Equity Commission. He spoke that it is amazing to see the progress of this Resolution. He spoke that Ashland is paving the way of social equity. He spoke that the history of Ashland has been problematic and happy to see things moving forward with this Commission and encouraged Council to vote in support.

Jamie Powell & Tonia – Spoke in favor of Commission. Spoke regarding the culture we are currently in and the traumas that our cultures hold through our bodies. Speaking on behalf the Commission and white bodied leadership to engage in a study on what to do as a Community to move forward.

Emily Simon – Spoke in support of the Social Justice Commission. She spoke regarding the proposed Resolution. She spoke there has not been an update since January and suggested that on May the 12th Chief O'Meara will be distributing his Use of Force to Council and asked that Council ask for an update on legal cases since January. She urged Council to pass this

Ordinance.

Council discussed quorum requirements for the Commission

DuQuenne spoke to one change in the Ordinance to say “LGBTQ+” not “GBLTQ+”

DuQuenne/Seffinger moved approval of Second Reading of draft Ordinance No. 3197 with the change of GBLTQ+ to LGBTQ+. Discussion: DuQuenne spoke that she is grateful for all of the support of the Community. She spoke she is grateful to keep this moving. Seffinger spoke in agreement with DuQuenne. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Jensen, Graham, Seffinger, DuQuenne and Moran: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Social Equity and Racial Justice Resolution Discussion and Approval of Flying Juneteenth Flags on June 19, 2021

Graham gave a Staff report.

DuQuenne spoke to locations of where the flags will be and how the City of Ashland can participate in celebration at Pear Blossom Park on June 19th.

Graham went over a PowerPoint Presentation of the updates (*see attached*).

Jensen/DuQuenne to approve the Juneteenth flag be flown on the Plaza near City Hall and Council Chambers/Ashland Police Department on Saturday June 19, 2021. And addition approve a banner to be flown over downtown and approve a booth at the celebration in Medford. Discussion: Jensen spoke that this is all great and comprehensive work and is inclusive and will resonate well in our community. DuQuenne spoke that she is proud of all and want us all to collectively move forward for the people of Ashland. Roll Call Vote: Jensen, Hyatt, DuQuenne, Graham, Seffinger and Moran. Motion passed unanimously.

City Attorney David Lohman clarified quorum rule is set forth in the Ordinance is that there needs to be a majority of approved members with a minimum of 5. If there were 11 it would take 6 to make a quorum if there were less there would need to be 5.

4. First Reading Ordinance No. 3196; an Ordinance relating to Chronic Nuisance Properties; Amending AMC 9.18.020

Hanks gave a brief Staff report and introduced Assistant City Attorney Katrina Brown.

Brown gave a Staff report and explained this Ordinance is outdated and needed some updates.

Mayor Akins concerned that this might disproportionately affect marginalized people that can't afford to make repair issues. Brown spoke that it should not. Lohman explained that this was prompted by a couple of cases from affordable Housing.

Jensen asked for clarification regarding the 30 to 60-day piece of the Ordinance. Brown explained it is to extend it to 60-day window. She spoke that it is difficult process; it needs to be investigated by the police and have to be substantiated. She spoke that 30 days has been an issue currently. Hanks gave examples of how 60 days would be more practical. He spoke that it would be compliance not citations so this gives the ability to keep in the Chronic Nuisance

category.

Graham/Jensen moved to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 3196 and advance it to Second Reading for enactment. Discussion: Jensen spoke that this is a carefully thought out fix. He spoke that it is well done. **Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

XIII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Approval of a Personal Services Contract for Wastewater Treatment Plan Outfall Relocation Final Engineering and Bidding Services

Hanks gave a brief Staff report and introduced Public Works Director Scott Fleury and Public Works Sr. Project Manager Kaylea Kathol.

Fleury gave a brief Staff report. He spoke that we are currently in the final stages in the applicant review. A meeting with DEQ is scheduled on Thursday to discuss the final permit. Once Public Comment is closed and reviewed then the permit will be issued. He spoke regarding defined timelines. He spoke that once a permit is issued it lasts for 5 years.

Kathol spoke reminding Council the reasons for the relocation. She spoke that it will allow us to comply with State Water Quality.

Council discussed the Hardesty Property.

DuQuenne questioned if we have been out of compliance since 2010. Fleury explained that we have been operating under a memorandum of agreement with DEQ under the previous permit the new permit will update the new requirements. Hanks spoke that we have been in compliance. DuQuenne spoke that she would like to see a presentation with Rogue Valley Sanitation to get more options. Hanks explained that this is a discussion that can be brought forward to Council with RV Sanitation have but to delay on this now could create compliance issues.

Council discussed the timeframe.

Moran spoke that he does not support spending this money and finding the most efficient way to spend taxpayer's money. He spoke he won't support this. He spoke that he would support RV Sanitation to come and tell Council what can be done.

Graham/Hyatt moved approval of a personal services contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. for final engineering and bidding services in the amount of \$362,409.

Discussion: Graham spoke that it is unfortunate reality that we have to spend vital and necessary money for our community to make sure our utility systems we operate are operated well and follow regulations. She spoke that this is necessary to take care of our ecological systems and the health of the people. Taking this action today does not interfere with the other question on whether or not we should be running the wastewater treatment facility. She spoke that the reality is you don't turn those systems across into a different management structure in a couple of months and in the meantime we have to maintain that NPEDS Permit. She spoke that we do not want to get in a situation where we are fighting with the DEQ and getting fined. She spoke that this is the obvious next step.

Hyatt spoke to the critical nature of this permit for our Community. She spoke to the importance

of making sure we are thoroughly investigating all questions on the table but not delaying and incurring any other costs. She spoke that it is necessary to provide service to the Community in a safe and compliant way. Hyatt thanked Staff for their work.

Jensen agreed with the above statements. He spoke that this an issue of fiduciary responsibility not courage.

Seffinger spoke that it doesn't look like we know that other options will be more affordable for other citizens.

Roll Call Vote: Jensen, Hyatt, Graham and Seffinger: YES. Councilor Moran and DuQuenne: NO. Motion passed 4-2.

2. Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Talent for Police Services

I move to authorize the City Manager Pro Tem to enter into an IGA between Ashland and Talent for police services as described in this council communication and in the attached IGA.

Hanks gave a brief Staff report.

Police Chief Tighe O'Meara introduced City of Talent Police Chief Jennifer Snook and City of Talent City Interim City Manager Jamie McLeod- Skinner.

Chief O'Meara gave a Staff report and explained the past and current relationship the City of Ashland has had with the City of Talent. He spoke that the proposal is the City of Talent would pay the City of Ashland \$375,000/year. And the City of Ashland would provide 12 hours of service in every 24-hour period.

McLeod-Skinner spoke that this would be a benefit for both City's. She spoke that there is a lot of mutual focus on how to approach serving our Community's.

Chief Snook spoke in appreciation to take the time to consider this IGA. She spoke that she has worked for City of Talent for 21 years and has really enjoyed working with the City of Ashland and feels it would be a great benefit for the Community to have 24 hour services. McLeod-Skinner spoke to the importance of the 24 hour services especially during construction.

Moran asked if the officers would be entry level officers. Chief O'Meara answered that 1 would be entry level and 1 no.

Jensen/Hyatt moved to authorize the City Manager Pro Tem to enter into an IGA between Ashland and Talent for police services as described in this council communication and in the attached IGA. Discussion: Jensen spoke in agreement with Moran regarding regionalization. He spoke that he likes the idea of Ashland assisting communities that were hit by the fire. He spoke that this is the right thing to do. Hyatt spoke that last fall we all learned how interconnected we are. She spoke to the importance of pulling together and supporting each other. Graham spoke in excitement of this proposal. She spoke that we do best by working together. DuQuenne is happy to work together and is in support of the motion. Mayor Akins thanks the City of Talent and is looking forward to working with the City of Talent. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Moran, Seffinger, DuQuenne and Jensen: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

XIV. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

1. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 3197; Creating the Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission; Adding New AMC Chapter 2.20

This Item was moved up to XII (see above).

XV. OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS/REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

Jensen place an item on the June 1st Agenda.

Jensen/Seffinger moved to place on the June 1st Agenda and item titled consideration of a draft Resolution establishing a specific agreed upon vetting process for all future city Commissions. Discussion: The process has been murky and problematic for quite some time. We need active and connective city commissions; which includes the vetting process. This needs to be agreed upon and put in our Council Rules. He spoke that he will be working with Commission Chairs and Councilors to come up with a vetting process and bring forward to Council. This will not affect the newly formed Commission. Seffinger spoke that she has brought up this topic for many years. She spoke that this will be beneficial for the Council and the Mayor. Moran questioned if it is the Mayors right approval to appoint who he or she feels. Lohman explained the Council has the ability to say yay or nay. Mayor Akins spoke that it was discussed in October to keep the same. Which is that the City of Ashland takes applications, the applications are reviewed and the nominations are brought forward to Council for approval. Jensen spoke to clarify his motion stating he will bring forth a specific vetting process. Mayor Akins questioned why Jensen is bringing this forward. Jensen spoke the process has been murky for some time. Seffinger spoke that her concern with the current process is the candidates have gone to a meeting and met with a chair and the Council Liaison which is not always being done and it would help to make it smoother. Moran questioned the timeframe and suggested to discuss this in July. Hanks spoke that this is can be added if that is what Council wants. DuQuenne spoke that she would support moving this to July. Jensen explained that this would be a short item.
Roll Call Vote: Seffinger, Hyatt, Graham and Jensen: YES. Moran and DuQuenne: NO. Motion passed 4-2.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

The Council Business Meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

City Recorder Melissa Huhtala

Attest:

Mayor Akins

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).

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride and maintaining community character while enhancing livability.

Whereas, the historic houses and buildings of Ashland help make our City unique and provide links with aspirations and attainment of the City's pioneers and their descendants.

Whereas, these fine examples of Nineteenth and Twentieth century buildings contribute to an appreciation of our heritage.

Whereas, historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban and rural, and for Americans of all ages, all walks of life and all ethnic backgrounds.

Whereas, it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people.

Whereas, National Historic Preservation Month is in May. Ashland has selected May 16th – 22nd, as Historic Preservation Week. Ashland's celebrations are co-sponsored by the City of Ashland's Historic Commission and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council and Mayor, on behalf of the citizens of Ashland, do proclaim May 2021 as

National Historic Preservation Month

and call upon the people of the City of Ashland to join their fellow citizens across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance.

Dated this ___ day of _____, 2021

Julie Akins, Mayor

Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder

City of Ashland Climate and Energy Action Plan



Progress Report for Ashland City Council

2021.05.04



Why does the CEAP exist?

To support Ashland's 2050 Climate Vision

...to be a resilient community that has zero net greenhouse gas emissions, embraces equity, protects healthy ecosystems, and creates opportunities for future generations.

CEAP Progress Report 2021 review

- History and Goals
- Key Issues
- Progress and Plans
- Operational Opportunities
- Data

How was Ashland's climate plan created?

- The CEAP is an ongoing, multi-year process
- 2015 - Citizen planning committee (1.0)
- 2016 - Plan development
- **2017 - Plan adoption, Climate Recovery Ordinance**
- 2018 - Citizen implementation committee (2.0), Staffing
- 2019 - Conservation and Climate Outreach Commission / Climate Policy Commission
- (2021 - Implementation update)

Climate Recovery Ordinance - AMC 9.40

9.40.020 Climate Goals for **Community**

9.40.030 Climate Goals for **City Operations**

9.40.040 Required CEAP **Contents and Updates**

ORDINANCE NO. 3145

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING GREENHOUSE GAS
AND FOSSIL FUEL REDUCTION GOALS AND TARGETS
FOR COMMUNITY AND CITY OPERATIONS**

Article 2, Section 1 of the Ashland City Charter provides:

...have all powers which the constitutions, statutes, and
...expressly or impliedly grant or allow
...operated each of those
...dition thereto,

How do we do this? **Overarching Strategies**

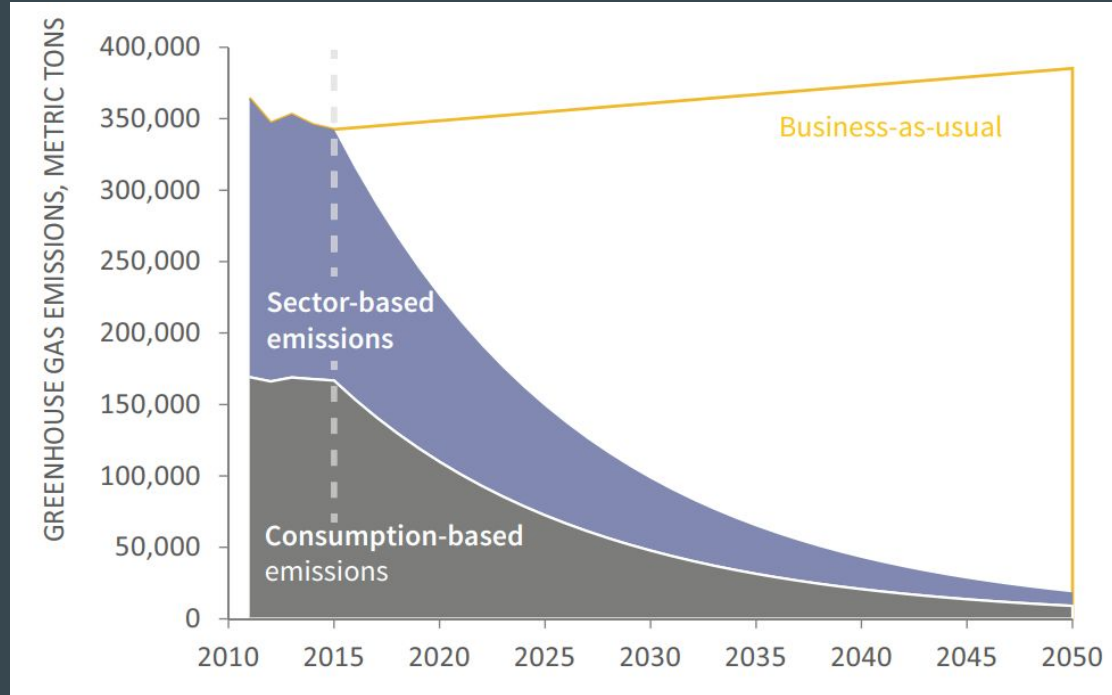
- Transition to clean energy.
- Maximize conservation of water and energy.
- Support climate-friendly land use and management.
- Reduce consumption of carbon-intensive goods and services.
- Inform and work with residents, organizations, and governments.
- Lead by example.

Goal 1: Dramatically Reduce Our Climate Pollution

Ashland community

-8%

Average reduction,
every year until 2050



Goal 1: Dramatically Reduce Our Climate Pollution

Municipal Operations

Carbon Neutral

by 2030

Fossil reductions

50%

by 2030

100%

by 2050

Goal 2: Prepare Our Community for Climate Impacts

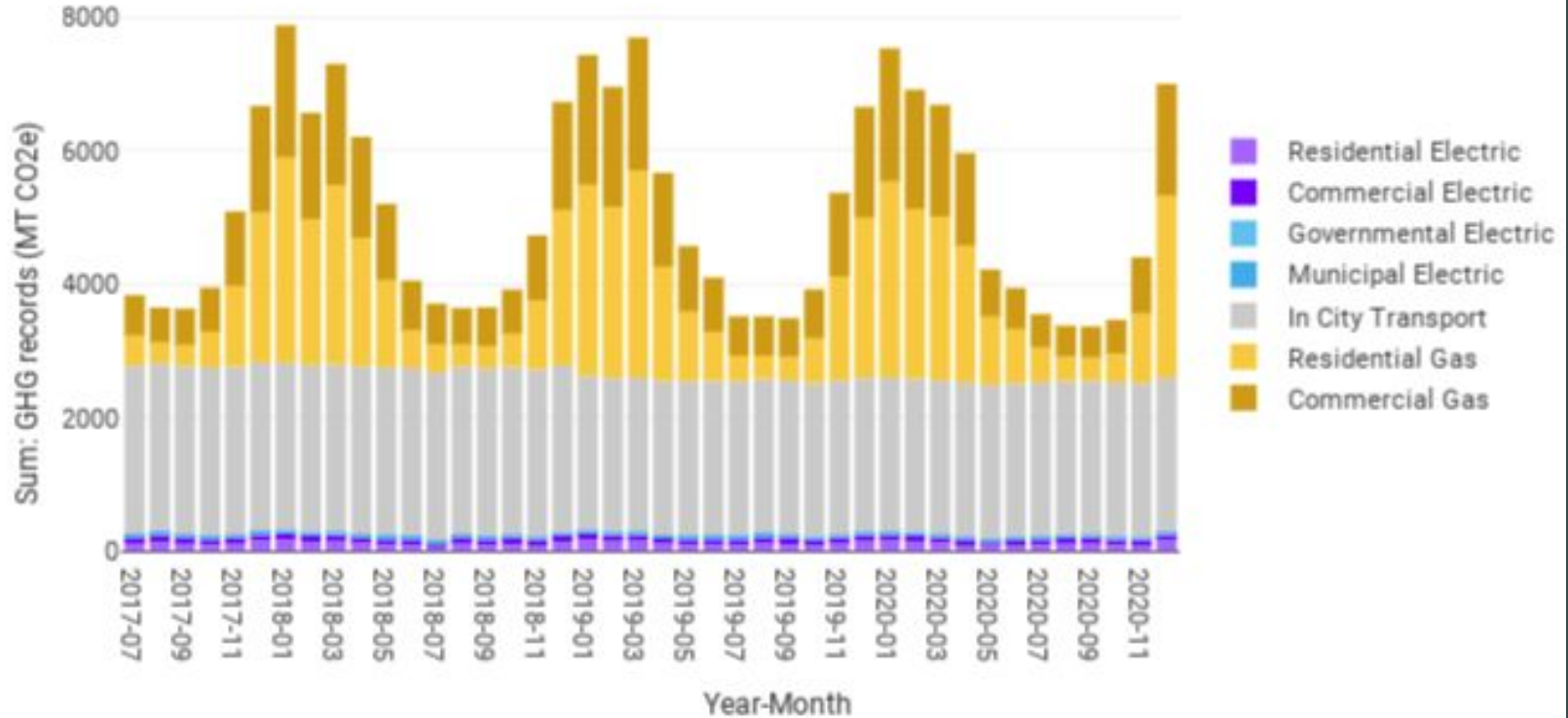


CEAP Key Issues

- Goal 1: **community emissions are holding steady**
- Goal 2: **more planning needed for resilience**
- **Fossil fuel infrastructure** continues to expand
- Limited funding and staff capacity
- Rising community expectations
- City has limited authority
- Slow moving emergency

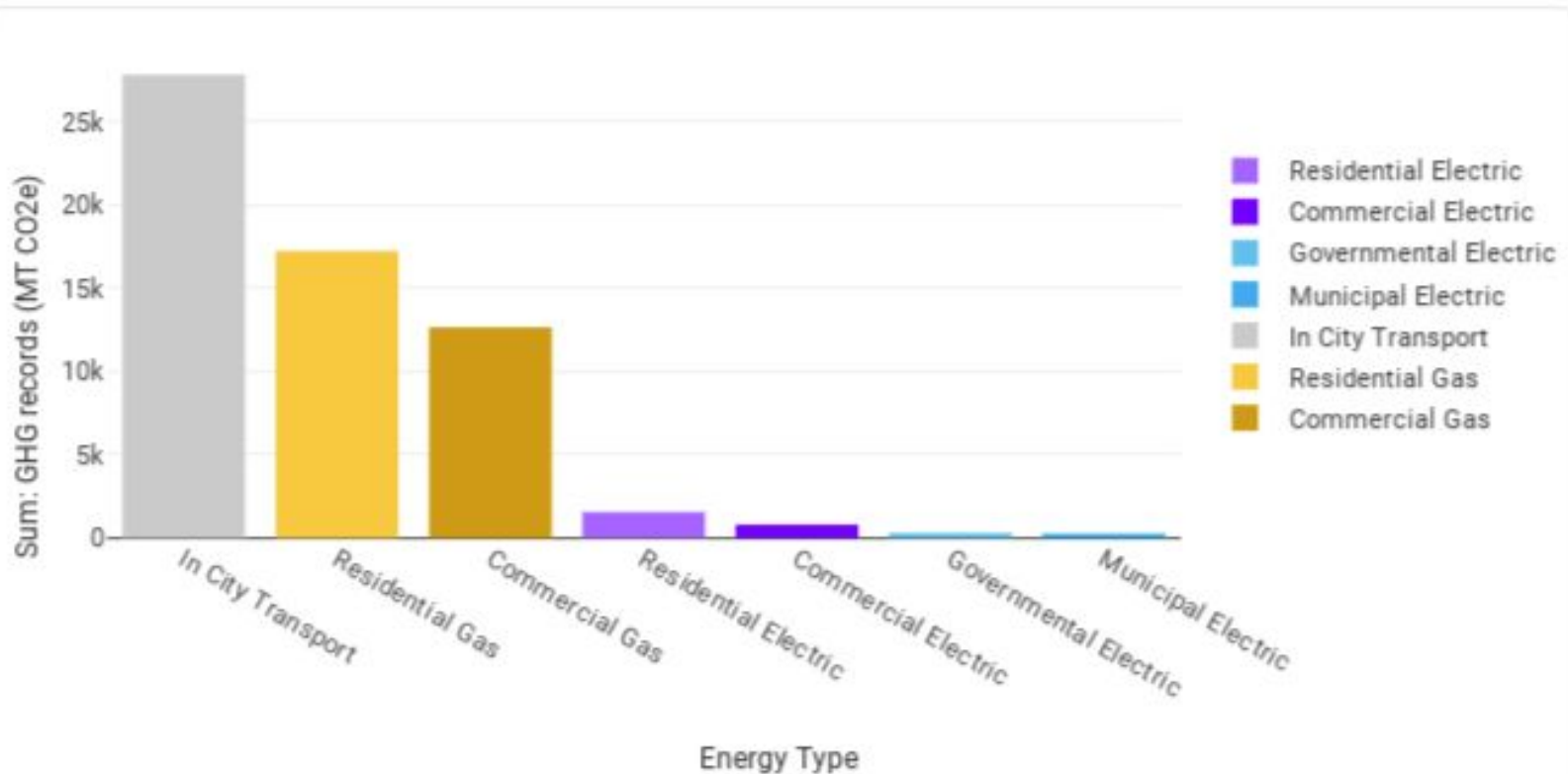
Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions

Approximate MT CO₂e by Energy Source from 2017-2020 ▾

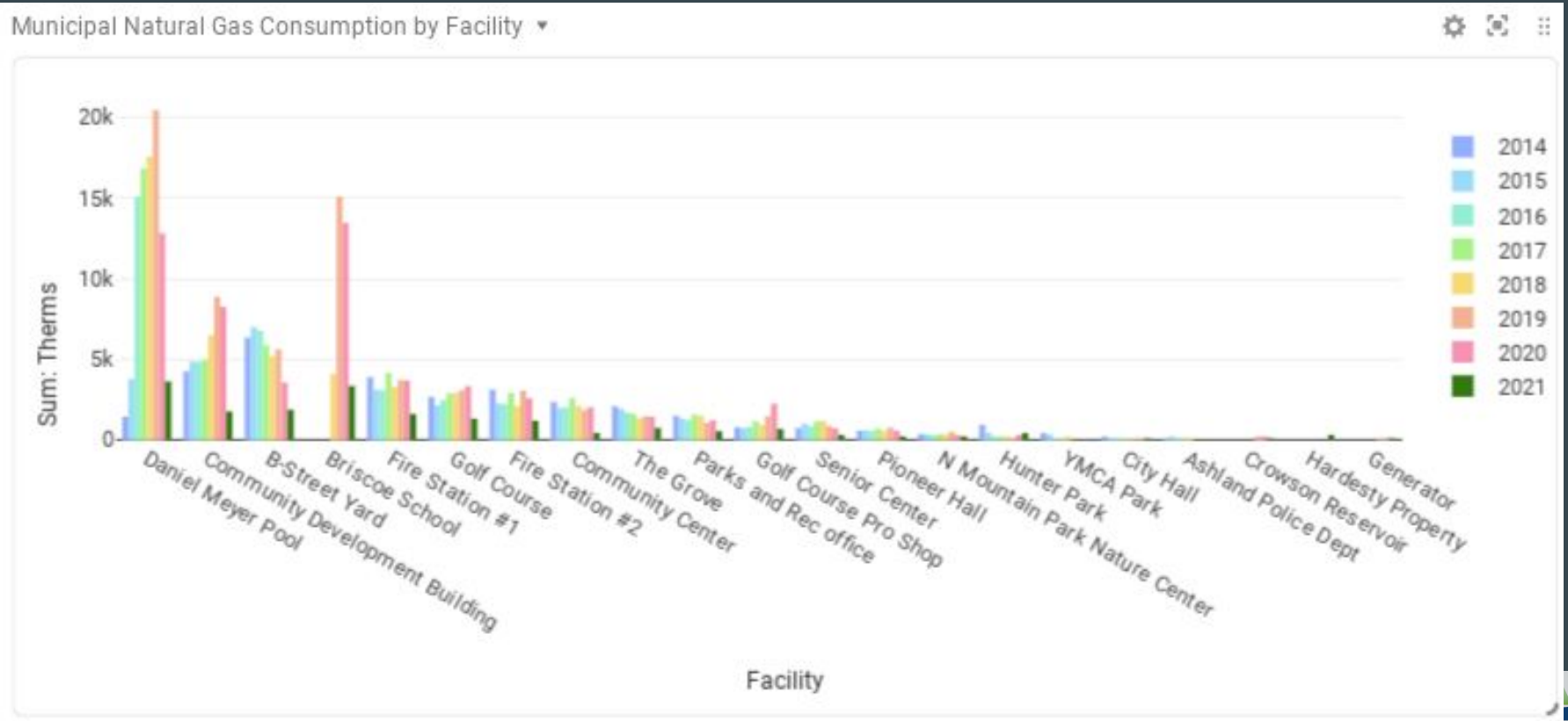


Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions

2020 Ashland Emissions of CO₂e by Source ▾

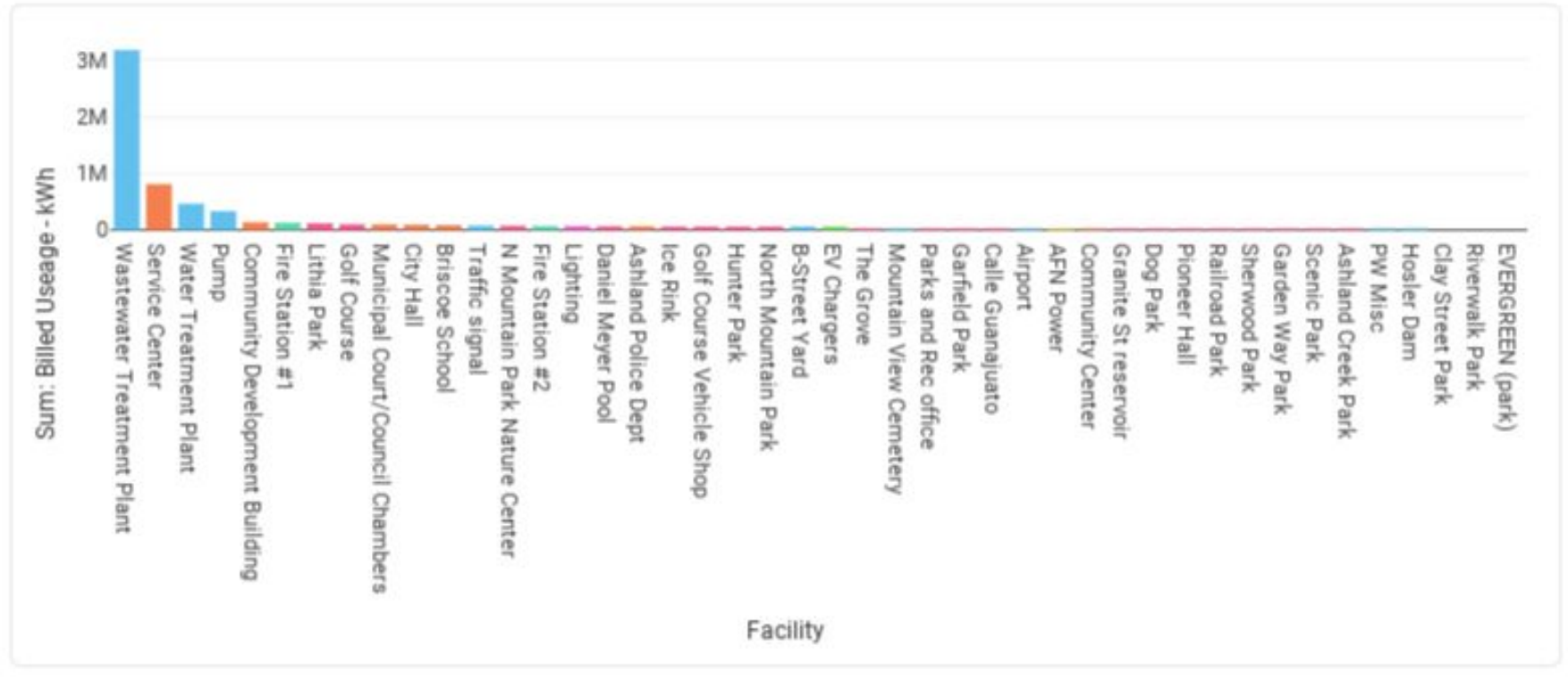


Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions - Municipal Gas



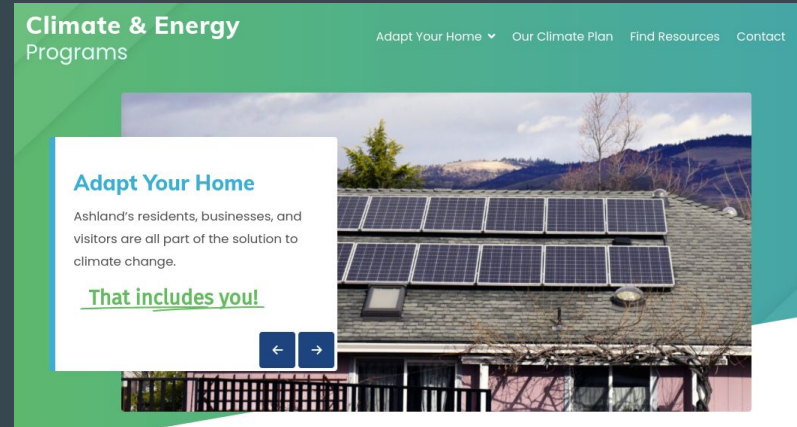
Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions - Municipal Electricity

Municipal Electric Use by Facility ▼



CEAP Progress

- Vehicle electrification + clean fuels program
- City Climate and Energy Programs
- RARE Americorps support
- New website: ashland.or.us/climate
- CEAP-related grants (\$60k)
- Strong solar policies
- Community motivation
- Pandemic opportunities
- USDA-RESP invitation



CEAP Plans

- Apply for **USDA-RESP funding** to expand building energy retrofits
- Pursue **1 MW utility solar** and supporting policies
- Avoid or **reduce fossil fuel infrastructure** emissions
- Additional climate and energy programs planned
- Expand electric utility services
- Incorporate equity considerations into all Conservation programs
- Support regional climate planning

Operational Opportunities - Building Energy Use

- Building energy retrofit loans
 - City is facilitator
 - Removes upfront cost to ratepayer
 - Lowers barriers for
- Create Home Energy Score program
- Create additional emission reduction incentives
- Modify density bonus



Operational Opportunities - Expand Renewable Energy Supply

- 1 MW Utility Solar
- Add Community solar
- Add Municipal solar
- Create Distributed Energy Policy
- Future-proof plans for electrification



Operational Opportunities - Low Carbon Transportation

- Add more **low-barrier public charging**
- Create a landscape that invites more pedestrians, cyclists, and non-car modes
- Continue zero emission incentives
- Continue Municipal fleet and fuel transition
- Seek new revenue



Operational Opportunities - Zero Waste Economy

- Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - In-vessel composting proposal
 - Reduces fuel, labor, cost, emissions
 - Needs funding, support, staff capacity



Adapt your home!

Four pillars of home adaptation

- Prepare
- Switch
- Rethink
- Renew

ashland.or.us/climate



Prepare

We can't control when emergencies happen, but it is important to get ready for them.



Switch

Reduce your greenhouse gas emissions and lower your carbon footprint by switching off of fossil fuels.



Rethink

By rethinking our consumption habits, we can reduce our emissions and the strain on our natural resources.



Renew

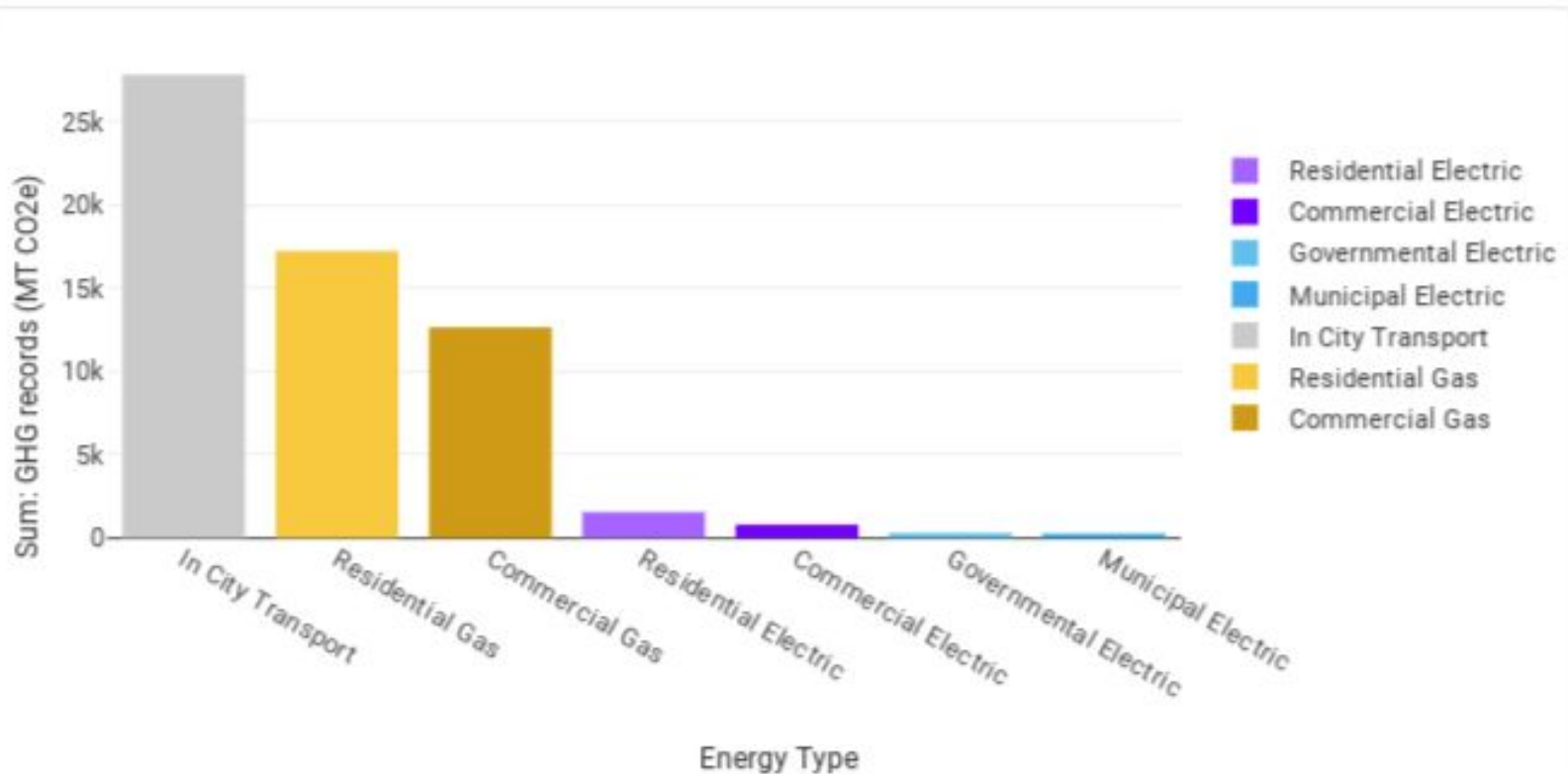
Supporting renewable energy reduces fossil fuel reliance and helps support a green economy.

Q&A



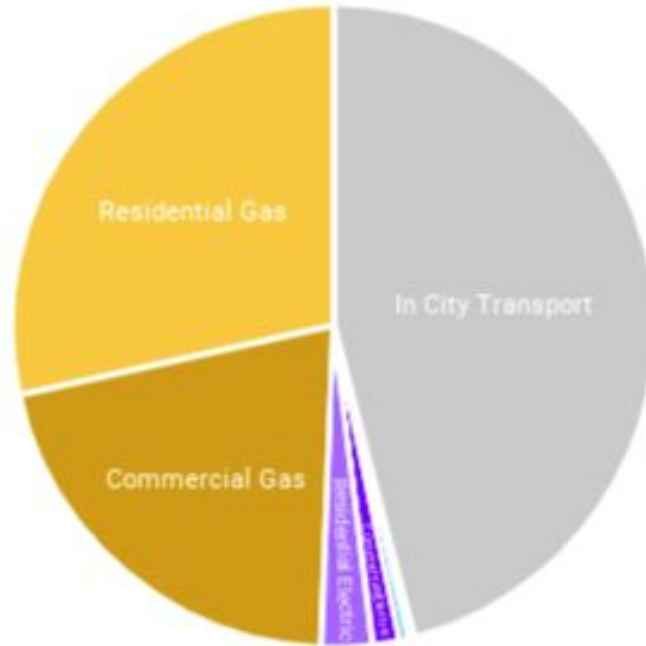
Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions

2020 Ashland Emissions of CO₂e by Source ▾



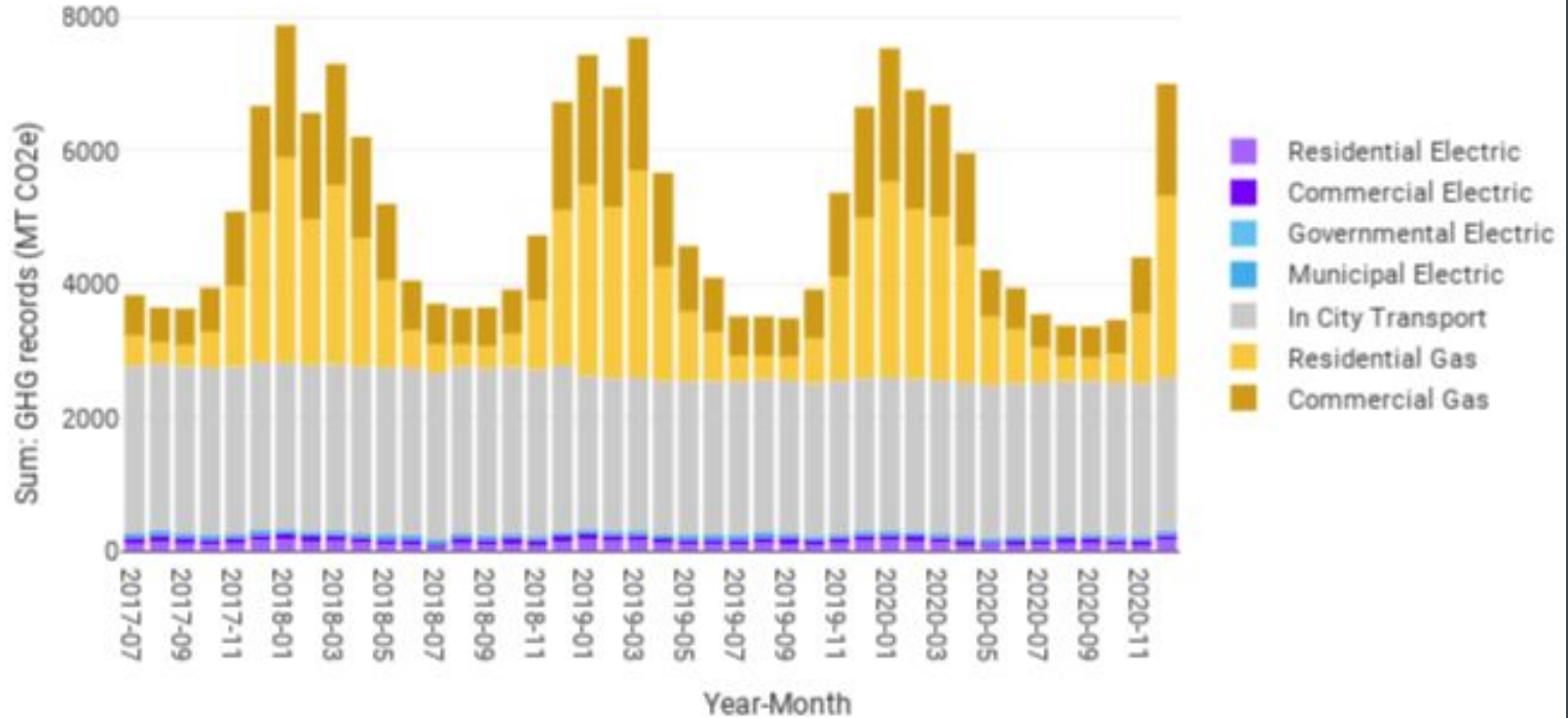
Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions

2020 Ashland GHG by Source ▼



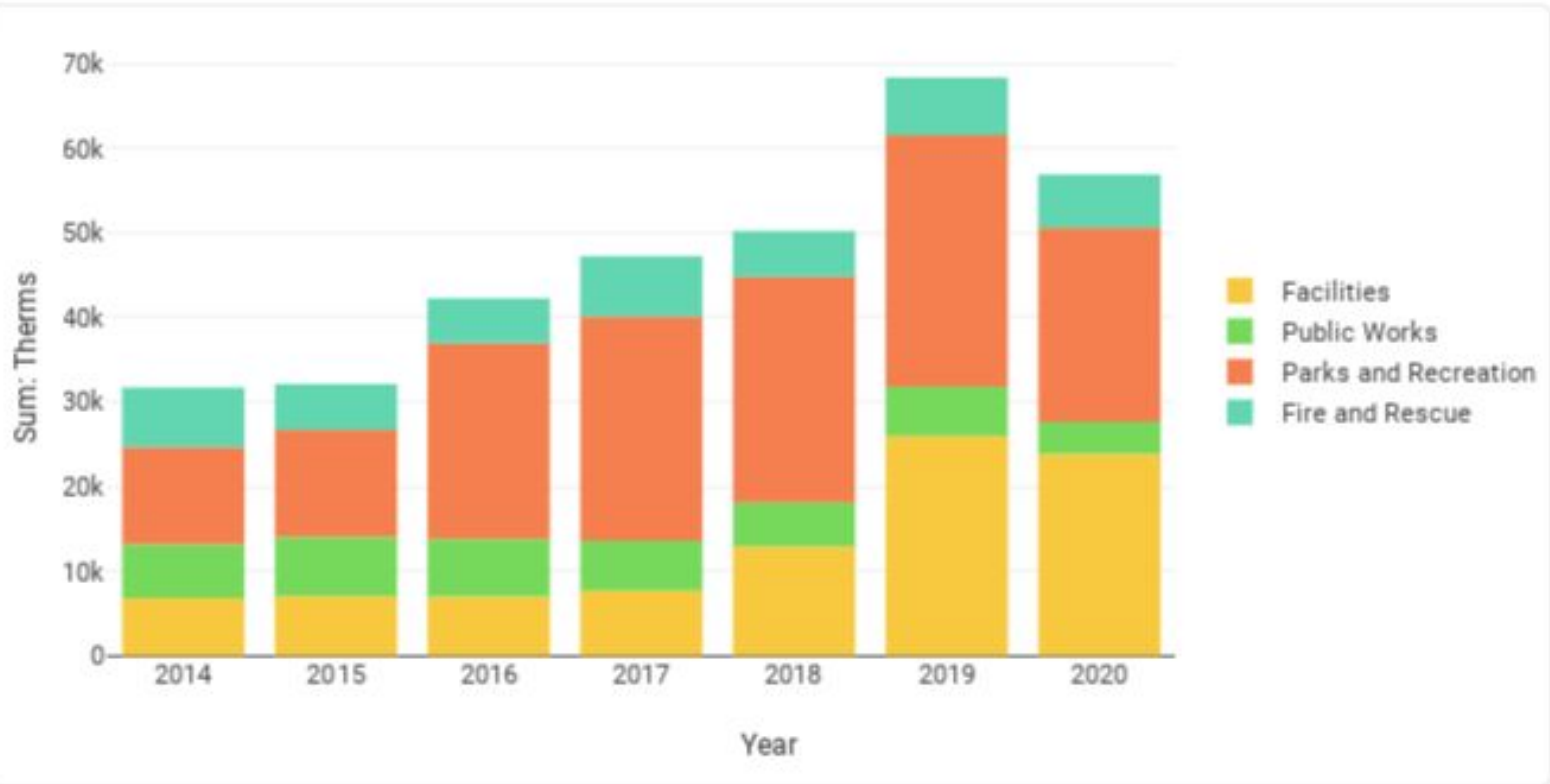
Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions

Approximate MT CO₂e by Energy Source from 2017-2020 ▾

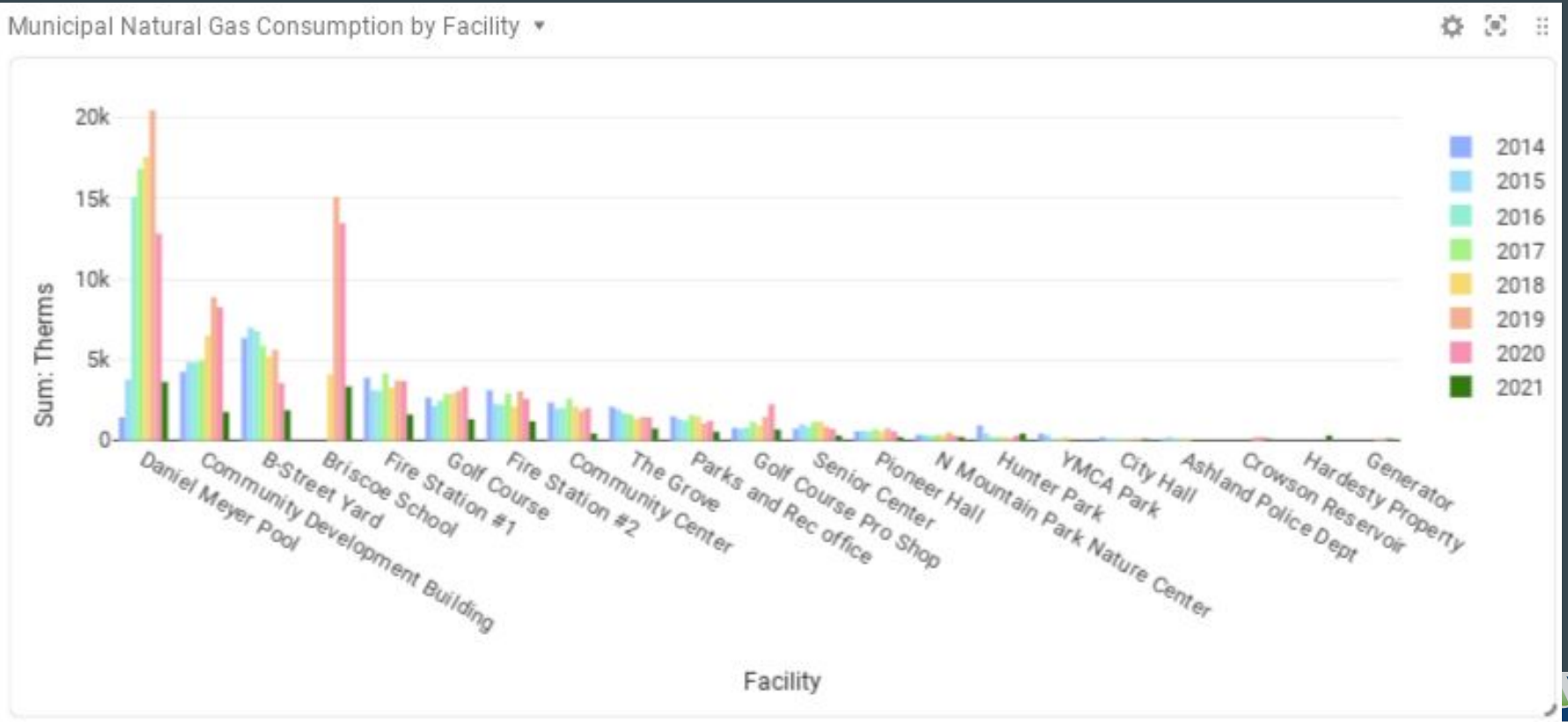


Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions - Municipal Gas

Municipal Natural Gas Consumption by Year/Dept

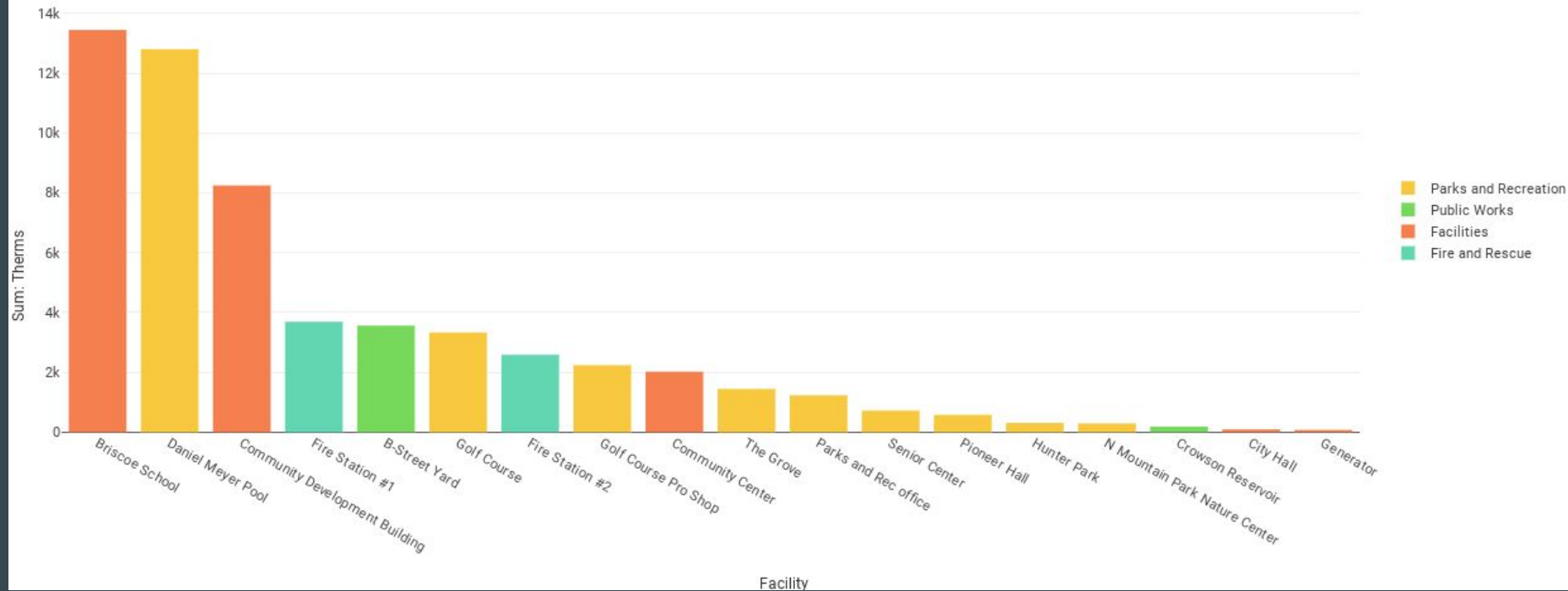


Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions - Municipal Gas



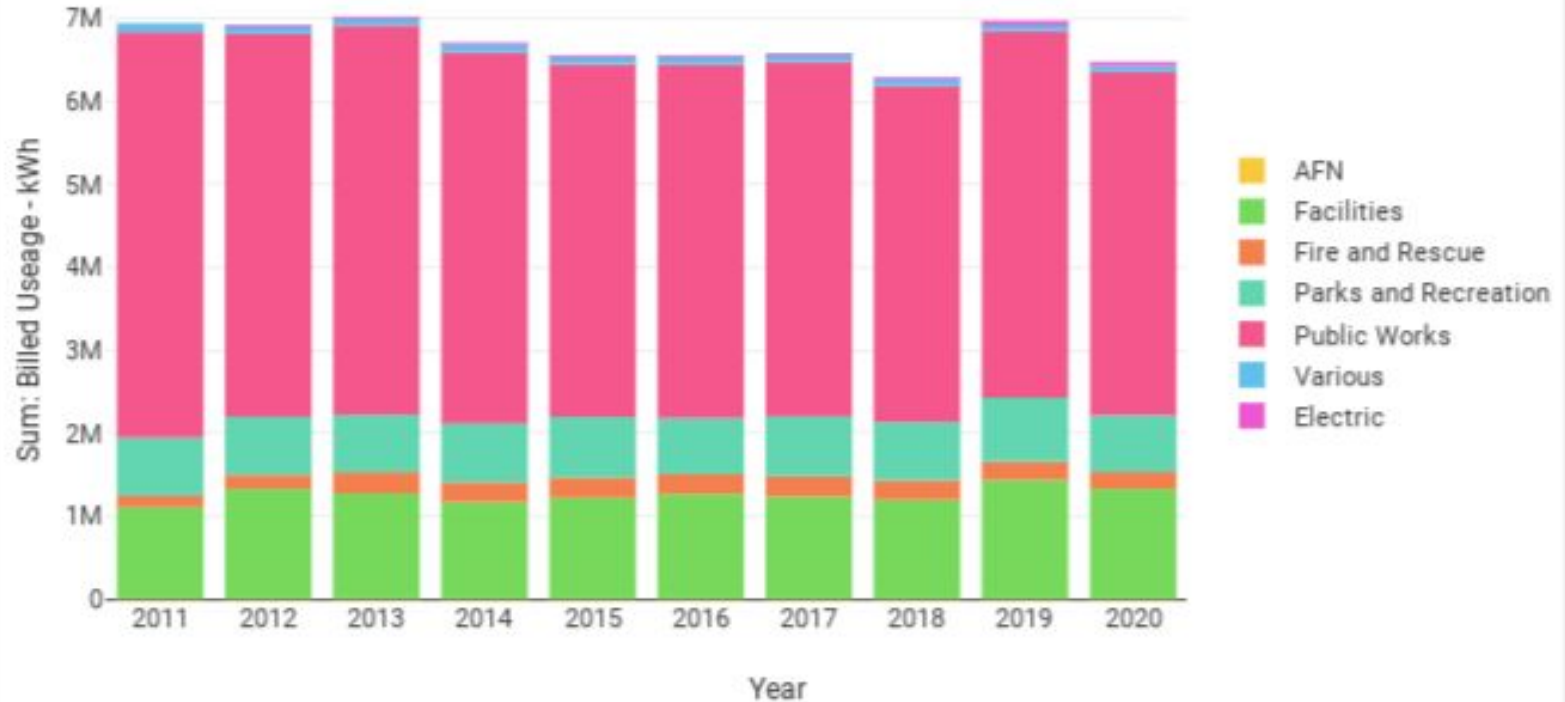
Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions - Municipal Gas

Municipal Natural Gas Consumption by Facility 2020 ▾



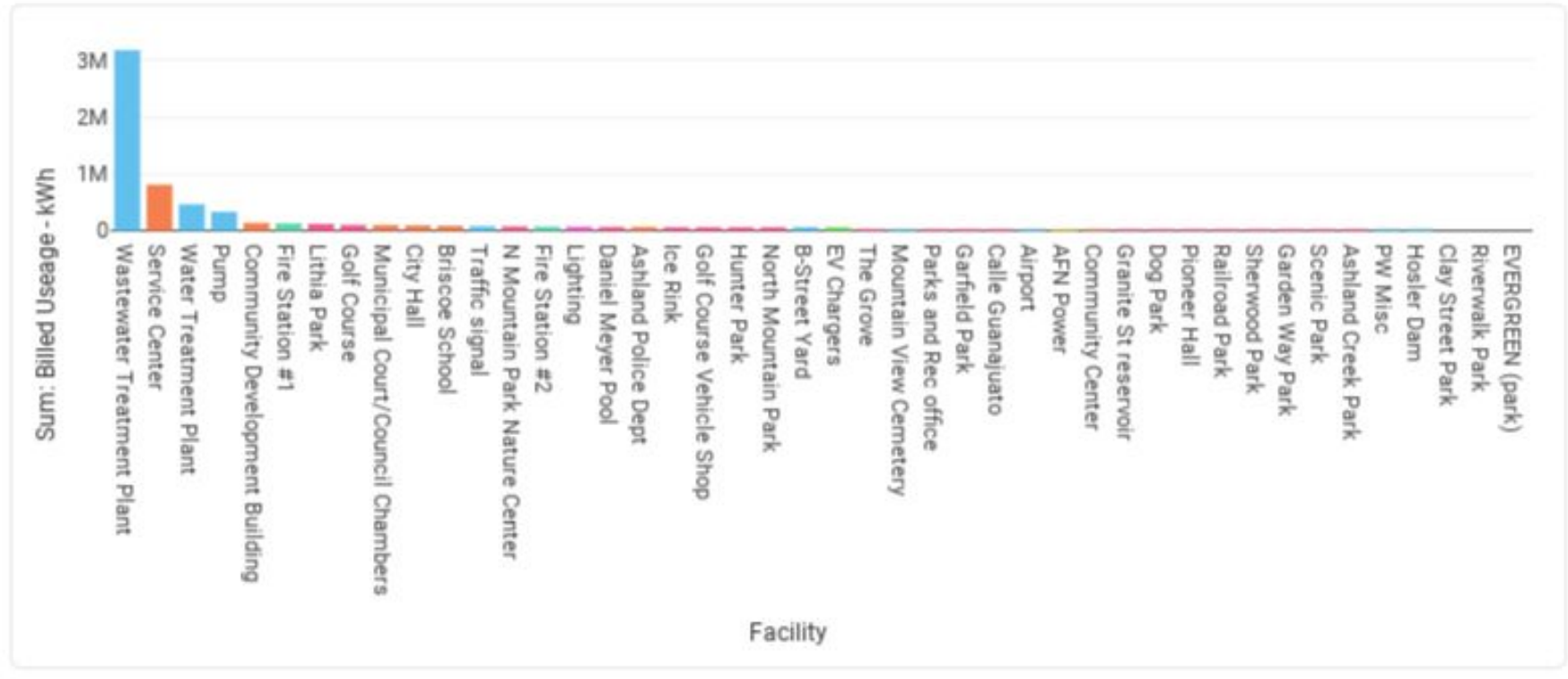
Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions - Municipal Electricity

Municipal Electric Use by Year/Department



Ashland's Climate Altering Emissions - Municipal Electricity

Municipal Electric Use by Facility ▼



Q&A

Thank you!

Stu Green

Climate and Energy Analyst

stu.green@ashland.or.us

Ashland's Climate Vision for 2050 is to be a resilient community that has zero net greenhouse gas emissions, embraces equity, protects healthy ecosystems, and creates opportunities for future generations. For more information please see: [ashland.or.us/climate](https://www.ashland.or.us/climate)

Jackson County will return to the High Risk category for COVID-19 on May 7. Visit the [Governor's website](#) for information on what is allowed during this time. [Get general updates, vaccine information, and resources related to the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic here.](#)



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May 4, 2021 City Manager's Report

Posted: Tuesday, May 04, 2021



City Manager's Report

Adam Hanks, City Manager Pro Tem

May 4, 2021

The City Manager's Report showcases current events facing the City externally and internally since the last Council meeting, while highlighting City accomplishments.

2021 Water Supply Update

Public Works Director Scott Fleury provided a presentation to Council at yesterday's (May 3) Council Study Session regarding the current local water supply status and the City's water supply management plan for 2021.

While the Talent Irrigation District (TID) water supply from Howard Prairie, Hyatt and Emigrant Lakes are extremely low and will create water supply issues for the mostly agricultural users of the system regionally, the City's primary source of water, the Mt Ashland watershed, is in much better condition.

The combination of improved supply compared to last year, along with the availability and planned use of the Talent Ashland Phoenix (TAP) supplemental water supply and the community's outstanding history of proactive water conservation makes staff optimistic that water conditions are adequate to serve the needs of the community throughout the summer/fall peak water use season.

A newly developed water supply dashboard was also introduced to Council and will soon be active on the City's website providing real-time visual display of all key water supply data.

The powerpoint presentation is available [HERE](#) to view

Move Back into Extreme Risk and Business Assistance Available

Jackson County, along with 14 other Oregon counties, moved into the Extreme Risk category for COVID-19 on Friday, April 30. The move back into the Extreme Risk category is due to an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Each county's health and safety restrictions will be evaluated on a weekly basis with Extreme Risk counties potentially remaining there for a maximum of three weeks. For more information, on what will be available as we move back into Extreme Risk visit the [Governor's website](#).

City offices will continue to be closed to walk-ins during this time, but staff are available via the phone and email for assistance. Please visit our [directory](#) to contact our offices.


The Oregon legislature at the request of Governor Brown has allocated \$20 million for businesses in counties that are at extreme risk as of April 30, 2021. Jackson County has been allocated approximately \$1.5 million.

The Small Business Administration has also begun accepting applications for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. This fund will provide help to restaurants, bars, and other eligible businesses. Businesses who receive funding will not have to repay any amount as long as the funds are used for eligible expenses before March 11, 2023. Go to

www.sba.gov/restaurants for more information and to apply.

The State is offering training opportunities on how to apply for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. Eligible businesses can register for the free webinar on May 6 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. [here](#).

Land Use Code Amendment - Duplexes

The Planning Commission reviewed draft land use code amendments to meet new state law and administrative rules regarding duplexes and accessory residential units (ARUs) at their April 27, 2021 Study Session. The Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2001 in the 2019 legislative session which requires "medium" cities such as Ashland to amend codes by June 30, 2021 to allow duplexes on residentially zoned lots that allow the development of detached single-family homes. In addition, HB 2001 includes a provision that prohibits jurisdictions from requiring on-site parking and owner-occupancy requirements for ARUs. 

The Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCD) adopted the administrative rules for implementing House Bill 2001 in August 2020 and the Planning Commission subsequently held study sessions on October 13, 2020, December 22, 2020, February 23, 2021 and the most recent meeting on April 27, 2021. A development roundtable was held on April 21, 2021 and the materials were presented to the Housing and Human Services Commission and Historic Commission at their meetings on April 22, 2021 and May 5, 2021 respectively. The item is scheduled for a public hearing at the Planning Commission on May 11 and study session at the City Council on May 17.

Recent Residential Roadway Work

A number of neighborhoods have recently been impacted due to roadway improvement projects called "Slurry Sealing". The City is appreciative of everyone's efforts to park down the street for a day or two and use different streets than normal to access their home. Many different comments and theories have popped into local social media about the use of slurry sealing. Our Public Works Department has put together some background on the topic that might help answer some of those questions, curiosities and concerns.

When is slurry seal the preferred choice?

Slurry seals are part of the City's pavement maintenance program that also includes asphalt overlays and complete rehabilitations. Staff performs inspections of the roadways throughout the City and uses the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) ranking system to rate the condition of the roadways. This PCI ranking is used to select roadways for the slurry seal project with the intent to extend the useful life of the roadway and provide a re-invigorated driving surface.

Slurry seal is a cost-effective maintenance strategy that is used on residential roadways throughout the community to extend roadway life. Prior to the actual application of the slurry seal, Street Department staff perform minor maintenance work on the roadways that include patching and crack sealing. Once this maintenance work is completed a contractor then applies the slurry seal product that seals the roadway and prevents water from infiltrating the subsurface and damaging the pavement system.

Public Works completes one large scale slurry seal project each biennium and has employed this pavement maintenance strategy for decades as part of the total pavement maintenance program. The current slurry seal project was awarded by the City Council at the June 16, 2020 Business Meeting, [Staff Report](#).

What actually is slurry seal?

A slurry seal is the application of a mixture of water, asphalt emulsion, aggregate (very small crushed rock), and additives to an existing asphalt pavement surface. A slurry seal is similar to a fog seal except the slurry seal has aggregates as part of the mixture. This combined mixture of the emulsion and aggregates represents "slurry." Polymer is commonly added to the asphalt emulsion to provide better mixture properties. The placement of this mixture on existing pavement is the "seal" as it is intended to seal the pavement surface. Slurry seals are generally used on residential streets.

How does it work?

Slurry seal is applied in order to help preserve and protect the underlying pavement structure and provide a new driving surface. Roads chosen for slurry seal applications generally have low to moderate distress and narrow crack width. Slurry seal applications serve to seal the cracks, restore lost flexibility to the pavement surface, provide a deep, rich black pavement surface color, and help preserve the underlying pavement structure.

What roads get slurry seal applied and how often?

Slurry seal is typically applied on either an intermittent or cyclical basis. Location, weather, traffic loading, and pavement conditions are factors used to determine if a slurry seal application is appropriate. Roadways selected for slurry seal treatment are commonly those which have slight to moderate distress, no rutting, and generally narrow crack widths, and where a slurry seal treatment would help extend the pavement life until resurfacing becomes necessary. Roadways chosen for cyclical slurry seal applications would typically be treated every five to seven years.

Looking Ahead

This is a draft of the next Council meetings agenda and is subject to change.

May 17 - Study Session

- Review Housing Capacity Analysis
- Discussion of Proposed Land Use Code Amendment - Duplexes on Single Family Lots

May 18 - Executive Session 5 PM

Executive Session will be held by the Ashland City Council to conduct deliberations with persons you have designated to carry on labor negotiations, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(b). Executive Sessions are closed to the public.

May 18 - Business Meeting

- Presentation of Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Single Audit & Introduction to Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Audit Process
- Police Annual Report to Council (Formerly Use of Force Report)
- COVID-19 Emergency Declaration
- Purchase of Land/Easement for 2290 E. Main Street
- A Resolution Establishing the Energy Retrofit Loan Program
- Social Equity and Racial Justice Resolution Council Discussion and Action Identification
- Utility Rate Review
- Recology Solid Waste and Recycling Rate Resolution
- Approval of a Reimbursement Resolution for Capital Improvement Projects for the 2021-23 Budget Biennium
- First Reading of Wildfire Mitigation Construction Standards Code (R-327)
- Second Reading of an Ordinance relating to Chronic Nuisance Properties, Amending AMC 9.18.020

For the full look ahead and descriptions of each item, go to ashland.or.us/lookahead.

May City Source

The May City Source covers a reminder about living with wildlife as we enter fawning season and to abate weeds and other vegetation by the June 5 deadline. Events for June are listed along with a request for Climate Action Stories and the City Calendar for public meetings.

Go to ashland.or.us/citysource for the latest and past editions.

[Back to News](#)

Online City Services

Customer Central Online Payment Center



Connect to Ashland Fiber Network



Request Conservation Evaluation



Proposals, Bids & Notifications



Request Building Inspection



Building Permit Applications



Apply for Other Permits & Licenses



Register for Recreation Programs



Email Updates

Sign up to receive local important News & Events.

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Emergency Contact Info



Police & Fire, Water, Electric, Red Cross, Jackson County Health, Recology Ashland Sanitary ...

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Phone or Email

Question or Comment

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Social Equity and Racial Justice Resolution

ACTION ITEM TRACKING – UPDATED APRIL 19, 2021

Section 1.B. Proclaim Juneteenth as an annual day of municipal commemoration and partner with communities of color and other local organizations to celebrate African American/Black culture on this day annually.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Adam Hanks (City Manager Pro Tem), Councilors DuQuenne, Hyatt, and Seffinger

Updates:

Council revisited this in January of 2021 and councilors agreed to reach out to local organizations to determine how best the City can support local celebration efforts.

Those conversations have identified the following possibilities: bookstore events, retail shop events (through Chamber), Art Center courses, Talk Backs, Schneider Museum event, American and Juneteenth flags on Siskiyou, OLLI/SOU talks, child pen pals at schools.

Paddington Station has Juneteenth flags for sale, permission has been requested for a Juneteenth banner over Main Street, councilors are working to secure funding for the event.

Next Steps:

Councilors DuQuenne, Hyatt, and Seffinger will continue their work with local organizations to identify the City's role.

Section 1.C. Advocate at the state and federal levels for policy reform that includes: a searchable database of officers sanctioned for excessive use of force and other misconduct; a national data collection program to determine the number of people killed or injured by police officers tracked by race, gender, age, and other demographic characteristics; limiting the transfer of military equipment to local jurisdictions; providing more extensive training for police officers regarding de-escalation, intrinsic bias, and procedural justice; and assisting people with mental health or addiction issues who have interactions with law enforcement.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Councilor Graham

Updates:

Federal: The Justice in Policing Act has passed the House of Representatives. It is also the focus of efforts in the Senate. State: The CAHOOTS legislation (HB 2417) passed out of committee and has been referred to Ways and Means. HB 2481A addresses military equipment transfers to police. The bill passed the House and is in the Senate Judiciary Committee – first hearing this Thursday. HB 3145 is the bill relating to a police database, which passed out of committee and has been referred to Ways and Means. HB 2929 — Modifies a police officer's requirement to report misconduct among peers. On the House Floor, pending vote today. House Bill 3229 – requires the Criminal Justice Commission to convene a broad group of stakeholders to review and establish minimum standards, policies, and procedures regarding the provision of health care in our jails. It is heading to the House floor. HB 2750 -- House Bill 2575 aims to ensure that police officers have the knowledge and skills they need when they encounter an individual experiencing a traumatic response or a neighborhood full of people with intergenerational anguish. It is in Ways and Means. Support for these efforts as identified in the resolution have been shared with our senators and Oregon legislators.

Next Steps:

Councilor Graham will stay up to date with these efforts and bring forward action opportunities.

Section 2.A. Support the Ashland Police Department in taking a more active role in on-campus conversations about racial justice at Southern Oregon University and in developing engagement events to help local residents understand APD's policies regarding use of force and other relevant issues.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Tighe O'Meara (Police Chief), Councilor Seffinger

Updates:

Chief O'Meara has participated in three community forums hosted by BASE (Black Alliance and Social Empowerment)

Ashland Police Department continues to work with BASE and are getting closer to partnering with them to set up a liaison that can facilitate better relationships/interactions between various police departments and the black community. The meeting with SOU has been scheduled for May 13th.

Next Steps:

A community forum remains in the planning stage. The annual report to Council on topics including use of force issues is coming up in May.

Section 2.B. Strengthen our cultural competency and intrinsic bias training program for members of the City Council and City Staff.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Tina Gray (Human Resources Director), Councilors DuQuenne & Moran

Updates:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement has been revised with input from a staff survey

HR is working on training, policies, and new hire orientation

Job descriptions are being updated in hiring processes, policies are being updated with gender-neutral terminology

Next Steps:

Community/City employee survey regarding improving EDI in the City system (survey in Jan/Feb)

Staff is planning a training in the spring and will invite Council participation in an interactive exercise called "Walk a mile in their shoes." Additional training to educate staff will be provided throughout the year.

Internal City committee is being formed to advance EDI work within the City system.

Continue collaborative partnerships within the community and region that focus on EDI.

Section 2.C. Display Black Lives Matter signs at City-owned locations to offer visible and immediate support for racial justice advocates in our community.

Section 2.H. Determine the feasibility of a mural project to provide a mode of artistic expression of our community's commitment to making meaningful, visible, and ongoing progress on issues of social equity and racial justice.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Bill Molnar (Community Development Director), David Lohman (City Attorney), Councilor DuQuenne

Updates:

Government-sanctioned displays or messages in support of particular public policies or viewpoints are allowed only limited circumstances without also allowing displays or messages in support of other, possibly opposing viewpoints.

Public Arts Commission has expressed support to Council for this project and is ready to help move it forward.

Next Steps: Staff will schedule this item on a future PAC agenda in order get input on how best to proceed, including the identification and consideration of possible mural locations for Council consideration.

Section 2.E. Connect with Southern Oregon University and its students to better understand the experience of all college students, but particularly students of color, in the City of Ashland as a first step toward improving that experience.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Adam Hanks (City Manager Pro Tem), Tina Grey (HR Director), Mayor Akins

Updates:

City Administrator meets with SOU President monthly through the Ashland Coalition and will engage President Schott on this concept in upcoming meetings and provide additional information as available.

HR is participating on a Committee with SOU, but COVID-19 impacted activities on that commission. When meetings resume, staff will continue to hold a seat and represent the City of Ashland on the Committee and report progress back to the Council.

Next Steps:

Staff to report back on SOU's social equity and racial justice survey, engagement with President Schott, and the SOU Committee's work. Mayor Akins to renew work with SOU in the fall.

Section 2.F. Work with community partners to develop training, incident response, and community acknowledgement programs that help residents and business owners address the long-term, systemic root causes of inequality and racial injustice and celebrate progress.

Councilors/Staff Assigned:

Updates:

COVID-19 has limited the capacity of the City and community partners to take this on at this time.

Next Steps:

Continue to re-visit this action item monthly until such time that the City and community partners have the capacity to move this forward.

Determine whether this might be part of the set of initial goals for the new Racial Justice and Social Equity commission that is being formed

Section 2.G. Work with Jackson County and neighboring communities to develop a program that will provide trained mental health professionals for instances where the Ashland Police Department is called upon to serve the needs of people who are suffering from mental health issues and/or addiction.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Tighe O'Meara (Chief of Police), Councilors Graham and Hyatt

Updates:

Chief O'Meara and Councilor Graham are participating regularly in a working group sponsored by Jackson Care Connect, All Care, and Jackson County to develop a plan for this type of program. A facilitator has been hired to lead the planning effort.

Next Steps:

Chief O'Meara and Councilor Graham will continue to participate in the working group.

Section 2L: Periodically provide updates on local legal cases with social equity and racial justice implications

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Tighe O'Meara (Chief of Police), David Lohman (City Attorney)

Updates:

Aidan Ellison: No usable evidence of a bias crime has been uncovered, so the case is proceeding as charged, for murder 2, manslaughter 1, reckless endangering and unlawful possession of a weapon.

Tasks that have been completed or are in a holding pattern

Section 2.D. Continue and enhance our support of the annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

Section 2.J. Review recruiting/hiring practices to address implicit bias with input from leaders of local diversity, equity, and inclusion programs.

Section 2.K. Renew the effort with Indigenous leaders in the community to find a solution to the renaming of Dead Indian Memorial Road.

Section 2.I. Request a proactive review of the policies that pertain to the standard process of investigating incidents where deadly force is used in Jackson County.

Section 1.D. Work in the near term as a “Committee of the Whole” to move these efforts forward by assigning tasks outlined in this resolution to individual staff and councilors and reporting back to Council on a regular basis while a more formal process and timeline is developed that includes regular progress reports to Council.

Item Section 1.A. Designate Social Equity and Racial Justice as a Value Service in the City of Ashland's strategic planning process, which will provide an opportunity for focused and sustained attention within the City's planning, management, and policy structure.

Develop Commission on Race and Social Equity

The following slides are the detail updates from tasks that have been completed or are in a holding pattern.

Section 2.D. Continue and enhance our support of the annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

Councilors/Staff Assigned:

Updates:

The City of Ashland was a financial supporter of the celebration hosted yesterday by BASE (Black Alliance and Social Empowerment), shared information via our website and social media, and hung the banner across Main Street announcing the online event.

Next Steps:

Maintain this support annually.

Section 2.K. Renew the effort with Indigenous leaders in the community to find a solution to the renaming of Dead Indian Memorial Road.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Scott Fleury (Public Works Director), Adam Hanks (City Manager Pro Tem), Councilors Jensen and Graham

Updates:

Holding Pattern: Councilor Graham reached out to local Indigenous leaders and communicated that the City stands ready to assist with their efforts to change the name when they are ready to move forward with a new name that is supported by the local Indigenous community. Further action is held off until those leaders reach out to the City indicating they are ready to move forward and request the City's support.

Section 2.I. Request a proactive review of the policies that pertain to the standard process of investigating incidents where deadly force is used in Jackson County.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Tighe O'Meara (Police Chief), Councilor Graham

Updates:

Complete for now.

The Jackson County Deadly Force was recently revisited by the Jackson County District Attorney's office and has been approved by all municipalities and accepted by the State. The plan calls for maximum transparency and outside agency involvement to make sure all aspects of a deadly force encounter are scrutinized. There is likely limited ability to impact change on this. If APD officers were involved in a deadly force incident, best practices would mandate that an outside agency handle the investigation. All other agencies in Jackson County have signed on to this plan, as has APD, so even if we reviewed it and wanted change, the other agencies would still adhere to the plan as currently presented. When it comes up for review again, APD will take an active role in the process as it has done in the past.

Section 1.D. Work in the near term as a “Committee of the Whole” to move these efforts forward by assigning tasks outlined in this resolution to individual staff and councilors and reporting back to Council on a regular basis while a more formal process and timeline is developed that includes regular progress reports to Council.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Adam Hanks (City Manager Pro Tem)

Updates:

Completed/ongoing

This has been put in place with the standard practice of revisiting these action items on a monthly basis since the resolution was passed.

Item Section 1.A. Designate Social Equity and Racial Justice as a Value Service in the City of Ashland's strategic planning process, which will provide an opportunity for focused and sustained attention within the City's planning, management, and policy structure.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Adam Hanks (City Manager Pro Tem)

Updates: Completed

Section 2.J. Review recruiting/hiring practices to address implicit bias with input from leaders of local diversity, equity, and inclusion programs.

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Tina Gray (Human Resources Director), Councilors Moran and DuQuenne

Updates:

HR has implemented a blind application review feature for several recruitments successfully.

HR has removed fields in the application that could reveal irrelevant details about an applicant and/or socioeconomic status to reduce the opportunity for unconscious bias

HR is working to improve our internal promotional processes to ensure they are competitive and fair by utilizing panelists with specific training about implicit bias and implementing transparent scoring.

HR has established pre-requisite training required for anyone serving on an interview panel for the City. The training is available on-line and speaks to the many positives of having a diverse workforce while educating panelists about bias and how it can unconsciously influence hiring decisions.

Develop Commission on Race and Social Equity

Councilors/Staff Assigned: Adam Hanks (City Manager Pro Tem), David Lohman (City Attorney)

Updates: Staff have taken the initial draft provided by Mayor Akins, requested clarification from Council regarding certain aspects of the Commission, and provided a draft ordinance for first reading at the April 20, 2021 meeting.