



# Council Business Meeting

March 15, 2023

<b>Agenda Item</b>	City Council Priority Setting - Town Hall Data and Economic Roundtable Partnerships	
<b>From</b>	Joseph L. Lessard	City Manager
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<b>Item Type</b>	Requested by Council <input type="checkbox"/> Update <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

## SUMMARY

The City Council hosted two recent events, a community Townhall and an Economic Roundtable, toward receiving community input on potential City priorities for the 2023-2025 Biennial Budget. This item it to present the findings for the two events in preparation for future City Council consideration of potential City priorities.

**City Council Townhall** - On January 30, 2023, City Council held a townhall Gathering and together with the citizens of Ashland worked to identify priorities/objectives for the City for the upcoming 2023-2025 Biennium budget process and the next six years. Small group discussions took place between citizens, staff, and Council.

A list of seven PRIORITIES with 32 OBJECTIVES for the City were presented at the meeting and in person voting took place. Citizens were each given 12 voting dots to prioritize their top choices out to the 32 objectives presented. Voters could spread their voting dots or cluster them on one or more objective. In total we had 293 in person voters, with over 300 folks of all ages in attendance.

Simultaneously, online dot voting opened on January 30 and continued through February 3. In total, there were 151 online voters, who were presented with the same 32 objectives and 12 virtual voting dots.

The in person and online voting data has been merged and presented in a tiered format. The tiers highlight votes with the most appeal to Ashland Citizens.

In addition, public comment was garnered both in person and online from January 30 to February 3. The comments have been categorized according to the seven priorities and are included in this Council Communication.

**City Council Economic Roundtable** - On March 6, 2023, the City Council hosted a roundtable discussion with elected and appointed officials of Ashland's key economic support institutions, including Pam March State Representative for Southern Jackson County, Dave Dotterer - Jackson County Commissioner, Vitro Chang - Chair of the Ashland School District (ASD), Samuel Bogdanove - ASD Superintendent, Rich Landt - Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioner (APRC), Rich Bailey - President of Southern Oregon University (SOU), Diane Yu and Sachta Card - Board of Trustee Members of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF), Dr. Hersch - Vice President of Medical Affairs and Administrator for Ashland Asante Community Hospital, Coleen Padilla - Executive Director of Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Inc. (SORED), Sandra Slattery of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce and, Katharine Cato - Director of Travel Ashland. The roundtable discussion focused on addressing the following questions?

- What are our economic challenges and opportunities?
- What are the most important next steps for addressing our challenges and opportunities?





# Council Business Meeting

- What should our next “Better Together, “steps be?

The roundtable participants identified three key next steps the participants could take together that would benefit Ashland’s citizens, businesses, and visitors:

1. Establish a Partnership to Build the Ashland Brand – this collaborative partnership is for marketing Ashland for tourism and potential business relocation opportunities.
2. Establish a Partnership to Establish a University District Activity Center – this initiative is to jointly plan potential future development of a University District that would diversify the City’s economic base and support SOU by enhancing Ashland’s student life experience.
3. Establish a Partnership for Affordable Childcare & Early Childhood Development – This partnering effort is to plan potential advancement of childcare or early childhood development options for Ashland residents.

## **POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

In the summer 2022, the City Council adopted Vision and Value Statements for the City. The statements are intended to provide direction to the City’s strategic planning and service delivery. The Townhall Voting Data and Economic Roundtable Partnerships provide the City Council with important community input that can assist them in formulating and adopting 2023–2025 City priorities.

## **BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

N/A

## **FISCAL IMPACTS**

The results provide valuable input for City Council and the Citizens Budget Committee for next steps with the 2023–2025 Biennial Budget.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

N/A

## **SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS**

Between March 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, consider the attached Townhall Data and Economic Roundtable Partnerships information, with an intent to discuss and formulate potential top priorities for 2023–2025 at the March 21<sup>st</sup> Council Regular Meeting.

## **REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS**

Ashland Vision and Values Statements  
Townhall Voting Data  
Townhall Public Comments



# City Priorities

March 7, 2023

# Strategic Choices – Vision for Success – Mayor & City Council Ballot Results

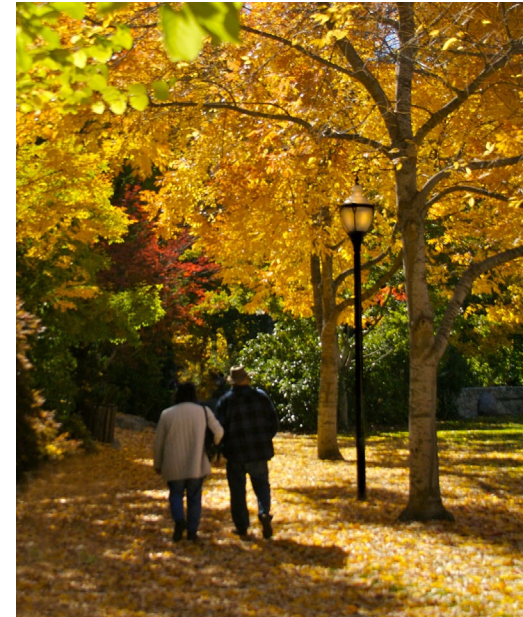
- *Ashland is a resilient, sustainable community that maintains the distinctive quality of place for which it is known.*
- *We will continue to be a unique and caring city that stresses environmental conservation, fosters artistic expression, and is open to new ideas and innovation.*
- *We will plan and direct our efforts to fulfill this Vision for the long-term with a constant view toward being an open, welcoming community for all with a positive economic future.*



# Strategic Choices – Values for Success – Mayor & City Council Ballot Results

*Values that support the Vision:*

- **Community**
  - Community affordability, including in available housing and childcare
  - Belonging through mutual respect and openness, inclusion, and equity
  - Quality of life that underpins the city's economic vibrancy
  - Environment resilience, including addressing climate change and ecosystem conservation
  - Regional cooperation, including in support for public safety and homelessness



# Strategic Choices – Values for Success – Mayor & City Council Ballot Results

*Values that support the Vision:*

- **Organization**
  - Respect for the citizens we serve and the work we do
  - Excellence in governance and city services
  - Sustainability through creativity, affordability and right sized service delivery
  - Public safety, including emergency preparedness for climate change risk
  - Quality infrastructure and facilities through timely maintenance and community investment

# Information Gathered

## TOWN HALL

January 30, 2023, 5PM Historic Armory  
Over 300 attendees  
Dot voting & small group discussions

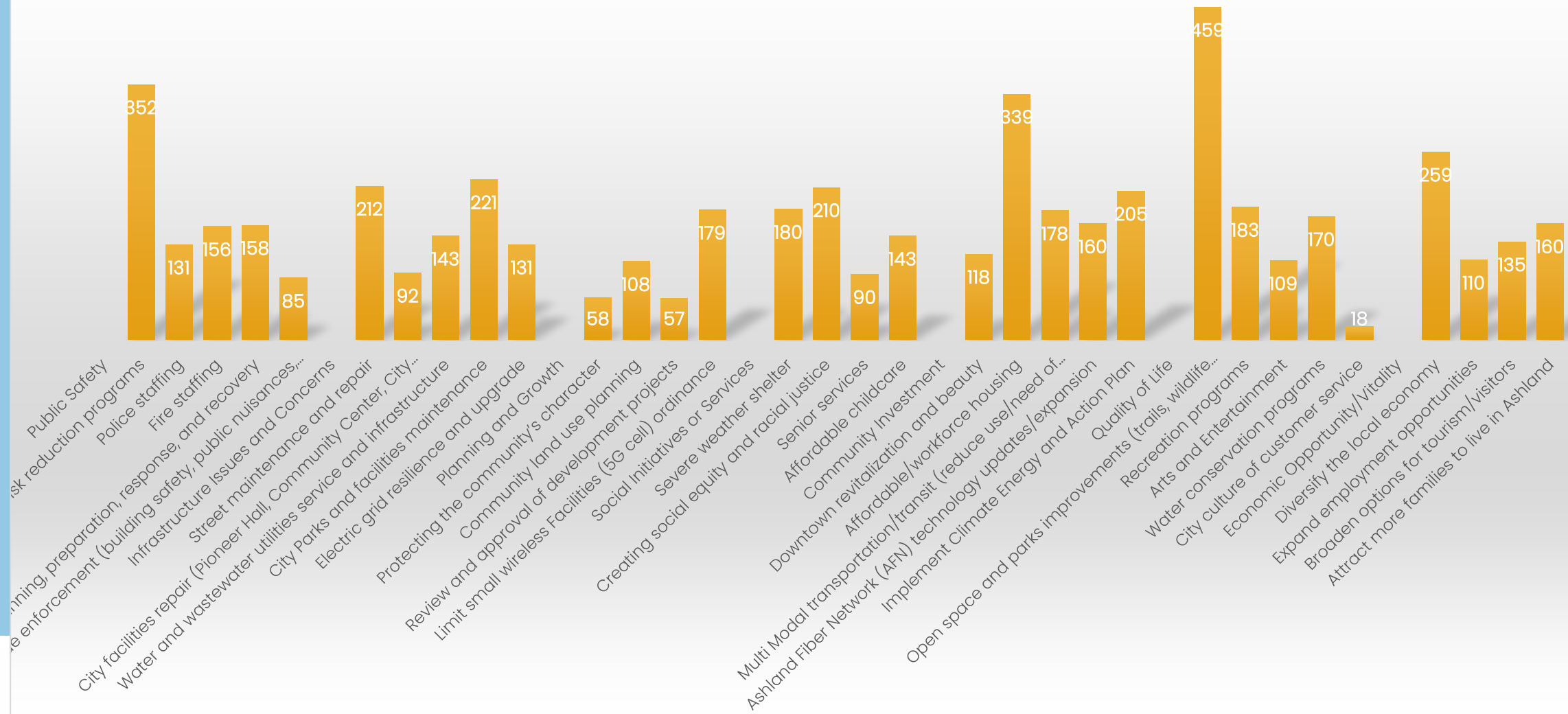
## WEBSITE

Open from January 30, 2023, to February 3, 2023  
Over 150 participants (duplicates removed)  
Dot voting & comments



# Results

## Initiatives by Vote





# Results

Over 200 votes

1	Open space and parks improvements (trails, wildlife hab	459
2	Wildfire risk reduction programs	352
3	Affordable/workforce housing	339
4	Diversify the local economy	259
5	City Parks and facilities maintenance	221
6	Street maintenance and repair	212
7	Creating social equity and racial justice	210
8	Implement Climate Energy and Action Plan	205

Priorities by percent	
<b>Community Investment</b>	18.84%
<b>Quality of Life</b>	17.69%
<b>Public Safety</b>	16.61%
<b>Infrastructure Issues and Concerns</b>	15.05%
<b>Economic Opportunity/Vitality</b>	12.51%
<b>Social Initiatives or Services</b>	11.73%
<b>Planning and Growth</b>	7.57%



# Economic Roundtable

## City Council Study Session

- March 6, 2023, 5:30PM City Council Chambers
- 22 attendees
- Elected and appointed officials from key economic support institutions



# Economic Roundtable

The roundtable participants identified three key next steps the participants could take as together that would benefit Ashland's citizens, businesses, and visitors:

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2. Establish a Partnership to Establish a University District Activity Center – this initiative is to jointly plan potential future development of a University District that would diversify the City's economic base and support SOU by enhancing Ashland's student life experience.
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Next Steps -  
Council for deliberation and  
adoption of priorities.

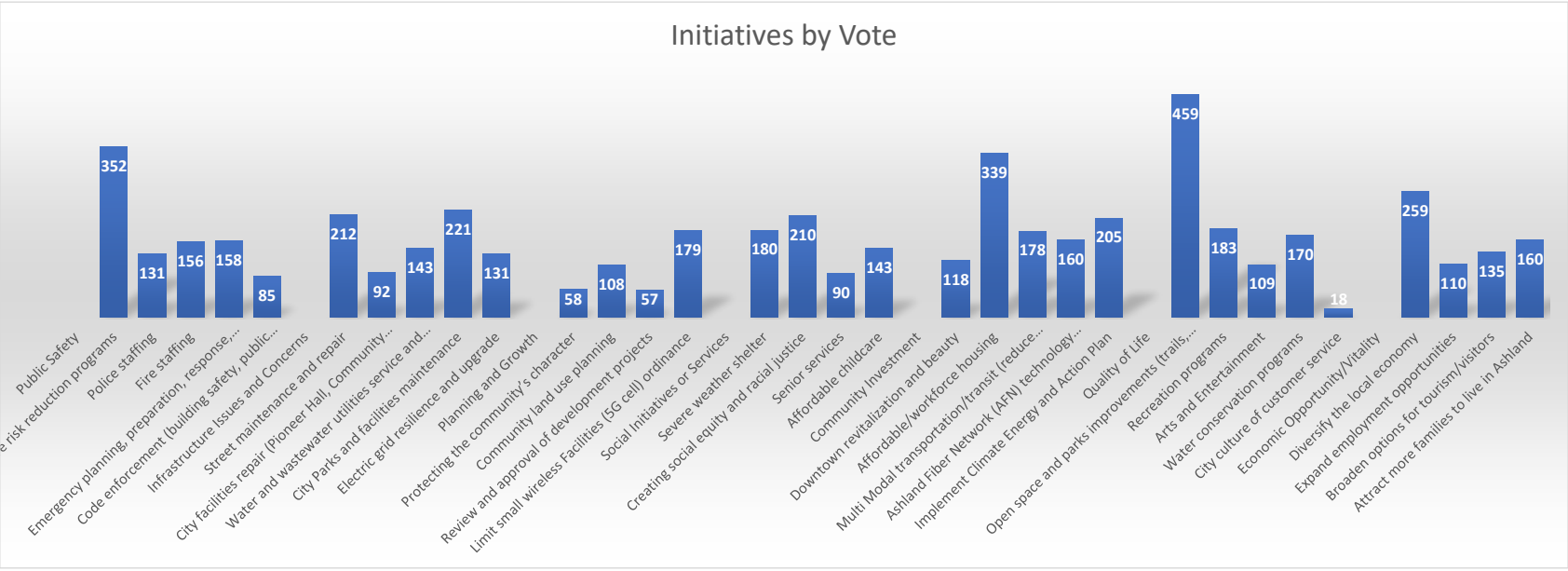
QUESTIONS?



Total Dots	5309		
<b>Public Safety</b>			<b>16.61%</b>
1 <b>Wildfire risk reduction programs</b>	<b>352</b>	6.63%	
2 Police staffing	131	2.47%	
3 Fire staffing	156	2.94%	
4 Emergency planning, preparation, response, and recovery	158	2.98%	
5 Code enforcement (building safety, public nuisances, neighborhood, and environment)	85	1.60%	
<b>Infrastructure Issues and Concerns</b>			<b>15.05%</b>
6 Street maintenance and repair	212	3.99%	
7 City facilities repair (Pioneer Hall, Community Center, City Hall)	92	1.73%	
8 Water and wastewater utilities service and infrastructure	143	2.69%	
9 <b>City Parks and facilities maintenance</b>	<b>221</b>	4.16%	
10 Electric grid resilience and upgrade	131	2.47%	
<b>Planning and Growth</b>			<b>7.57%</b>
11 Protecting the community's character	58	1.09%	
12 Community land use planning	108	2.03%	
13 Review and approval of development projects	57	1.07%	
14 Limit small wireless Facilities (5G cell) ordinance	179	3.37%	
<b>Social Initiatives or Services</b>			<b>11.73%</b>
15 Severe weather shelter	180	3.39%	
16 Creating social equity and racial justice	210	3.96%	
17 Senior services	90	1.70%	
18 Affordable childcare	143	2.69%	
<b>Community Investment</b>			<b>18.84%</b>
19 Downtown revitalization and beauty	118	2.22%	
20 <b>Affordable/workforce housing</b>	<b>339</b>	6.39%	
21 Multi Modal transportation/transit (reduce use/need of second car)	178	3.35%	
22 Ashland Fiber Network (AFN) technology updates/expansion	160	3.01%	
23 Implement Climate Energy and Action Plan	205	3.86%	
<b>Quality of Life</b>			<b>17.69%</b>
24 <b>Open space and parks improvements (trails, wildlife habitat protection, etc.)</b>	<b>459</b>	8.65%	
25 Recreation programs	183	3.45%	
26 Arts and Entertainment	109	2.05%	
27 Water conservation programs	170	3.20%	
28 City culture of customer service	18	0.34%	
<b>Economic Opportunity/Vitality</b>			<b>12.51%</b>
29 <b>Diversify the local economy</b>	<b>259</b>	4.88%	
30 Expand employment opportunities	110	2.07%	
31 Broaden options for tourism/visitors	135	2.54%	
32 Attract more families to live in Ashland	160	3.01%	
	5309	100.00%	<b>100.00%</b>

Top 5		
1	Open space and parks improvements (trails, wildlife habitat pr	459
2	Wildfire risk reduction programs	352
3	Affordable/workforce housing	339
4	Diversify the local economy	259
5	City Parks and facilities maintenance	221

Priorities by percent	
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## Community Investment

I want to speak on houseless advocacy and the housing crisis.

Don't assume that low interest in discussing or making a priority of AFN means that people do not want the city to keep on with it. It is a valuable service to me.

I would like to see more car-free or car-reduced spaces in downtown Ashland. When I travel to places with pedestrian-friendly (i.e. car-free) streets I notice that they are filled with people enjoying a high quality of life. I think people would be drawn to downtown if the plaza was mostly car free and if cars could be reduced on Main Street. (I understand that Main Street is an Oregon state highway and that negotiations would be necessary.) Sure businesses would complain at first but ultimately they would benefit from increased foot traffic. There would be ways to provide access for delivery vehicles people with limited mobility etc. Ashland is a livable city—we could make it even more so and attract tourists from other regions with a more pedestrian / bicycle friendly environment.

Affordable housing is a driver for many other issues not the least of which are homelessness and economic stability/development. It is also dependent on intentional land use planning. I urge City decision-makers to make affordable housing a priority and to do so with an eye toward equity and racial

Climate adaptation is essential and becomes simply one of the several criteria analyzed for any project.

We can also get a dual benefit from putting solar on all large parking lots and large roofs. Shaded parking lots will decrease the heat island effect of all the asphalt and cool not only the vehicles but the surrounding area. The electricity generated becomes a major source of locally generated power. With more locally generated and distributed power comes the need to upgrade the local grid to allow power shut-offs to be controlled by district (I'm not sure the term officially used) of small neighborhoods so that during an extended outage power could be provided on a rotating basis across town. Community solar barely scratches the surface of the possibilities here and is far too legalistically cumbersome. Without City Utility engagement this won't get done.

Where does a review of zoning come in? Heavily weighted toward single family units.

Could we have a marketing team for ANF? Lot of people know it exists and a very special Ashland Service.

Affordable housing & affordable utilities must be a priority. Our St Vincent de Paul spends 80% of it's budget keeping Ashlanders housed with utilities on. Roughly \$100 in fees is attached to the average utility bill in Ashland-before a light is turned on or the tap is flipped. Help is needed!

Noise pollution/air pollution from blowers. Start an initiative to ban or reduce the use of gas blowers.

We live in an extreme drought region. Signs that say "use water wisely" & helping people with irrigation is not enough. The city needs to invest in & incentivize rainwater catchment. When we had Julie Smitherman I hosed educational events @ my home to show - 9k plus catchment & laundry to landscape. The above efforts are a starting point. A 50 gallon barrel won't get us far. Larger installations would go a much longer way while educating community. Please do more. Thank you.

I am really concerned with our water. I think we could reuse more & even find ways to gather more. Too much development has damaged our wetlands. It affects our fire safety our economy - farmland and wildlife & lakes - big issue. Swimming Pool - I believe this is a very important to get moving on a recreation center with an adequate indoor swimming pool. I understand energy is a big issue on this surely the Inflation Reduction Act or other Federal grant could help us get an alternative such as geo thermal or solar rather than gas.

The city needs to ramp up efforts to support & begin achieving objectives for CEAP. Climate realities affect every single area that the city is involved with. CEAP is not/nor has it been front & center. Re-hiring for climate Analyst is a start.
Need bike/ped friendliness. Keep bike lane markers painted. Bike lane thru downtown!!
Creating cutting edge infra-structure in fiber optic cable so that Ashland offers innovative and SAFE internet access. DON'T GIVE UP ON AFN. Find a path forward so that residents are confident in their investment of a hackproof safe & secure & affordable internet.
The topic "multi-modal transportation/transit" is mis-represented or simplifies the issue as one for transit and not for walking or bicycling. It is the later where the city actually has policy authority as contrasted w/ transit which is RVTD's policy/responsibility. The city does have responsibility for creating safe & convenient bicycle network. Doing so would allow the roughly 50% of residents who are interested in cycling for some of their in-town trips but are afraid to share the road with cars/trucks. The city must build protected bike lanes of major roads as a part of any capital improvement project.
I'd like to see inspiration from an event show n tell something to remind citizens of their power to do something; one thing; on their worn to address an issues: vehicles use cars 1 day less each week each month just do it and tell about it so others will do it. Inspire pride.
Combine climate plan w/ economic development & leverage the opportunities in renewable industries. Interest in the infrastructure to accommodate low carbon high quality life styles. such as: compost facilities bike-ability energy & water conservation home efficacy passive solar thermal regulations etc. Businesses that encourage reduce/reuse/repurpose.
Emphasize waste reduction & low-cost low-tech opportunities for reducing demand on natural resources.
I'm wondering about how many homes are actually only occupied by their owners part-time. Is there a way to require a high % of occupancy by owner or be assessed a fee or require renting them out.
We need public funded affordable housing.
My first priority is addressing income inequity. Ashland has 1/3 of the households that are wealthy. 17% middle income and 51% low income very low income and very low income. We must address this need for housing for the lowest income with the housing production strategy process to take land and housing out of the market system.
Of course affordable housing & support for disadvantaged among us. Equitable treatment Responsive fair hones policing

Comments/Ideas Presented at the Group Discussion at the Town Hall Gathering

- 19 Housing study in 2019? Summarize it for people-
  - Increase in vacation rentals
  - Have city owned property for housing (SOU doing that)?
  - Zoning requirement and issues
  - Pedestrian Mall
- 20
  - Zoning issues/incentives
  - Land Trust Assess SDC's
- 21



What is available?

Ashland owned public transportation

Bear trash cans

22

Make cycling safer and more accommodating. Rail for intercity travel

Community owned. Partnerships. Questions about upgrade costs.

Explore alternative grassroots funding

23

Do more CEAP

Actionable programs like composting

Renewable energy

## Economic Opportunity/Vitality

Without economic vitality I don't see how any of the other priorities can be met.

Our town needs diversity of economic foundations - tourism natural medicine and health agriculture manufacturing education etc. in order to have a thriving community.

Work with SOU on community service learning to build skills meet needs & grow jobs.

Economic development safety and our ability to attract your families DEPENDS on our ability to communicate wherever we go.

## Comments/Ideas Presented at the Group Discussion at the Town Hall Gathering

Golf course revenue opportunity

Economic leakage

support local business

Trails bring in \$ - more trails

More types of trails, public art on trails

Diversity in business

Downtown beautification

Study on gaps in goods and services

Economic vitality through incentives for tech center

Preservation of trail easements

Open up things lost, trails

What will we not do to hamper development

activities for younger families

Combine with SOU for programs

University district

Market tourism more

Partnership with OSF on marketing

Partnership with Chamber on marketing

Build infrastructure to support affordable shuttles

Advertising at SOU

Start races/activities in town - billboard - advertise

Connect more with farmers

Hire economic development director

Drain lower reservoir/create swimming

Event Center

More art murals

Support Ashland Independent Film Festival
Support for young families to start businesses - grown our own
Incubators
Accessibility for houseless to enter workforce
Retraining program, internships, service learning
College discounts
Affordable housing
More like First Friday - expand
More that attract young families
Greenlight more parties
Collaboration with Chamber, SOU, OSF
Paid Parking - Out of City pays more
Increase SDCs
pedestrian malls
Protected bike lanes
Arts, Eats & Beats
Encourage recruiting business to fill niches
Renaissance Faire
Music at OSF theatres
South Ashland commerce center/
Get on top 10 list - best Christmas town
Grants for business beautification
Close off plaza for booths
Programs to understand why businesses are leaving/business retention
Decrease rent
Microloans for businesses to start
Support business beautification store fronts
Attract people to get business in community
Year round lights
pedestrian dining
use bandshell more
grant to revitalize downtown
concerts at golf course
outdoor seating, traffic change

jurisdiction control of 99
coordinate with SOU Arts
Childcare
Collaborate with SOU - Economic
Crownman Mill, RR district
Preferred vendor
Bring in outdoor based businesses, Embark example
lower bar for barriers to Development
More good, trails events
Make outdoor destination
Need parking
Transportation to wineries
Wine village
Upgrade exit 19 area to support growth
Affordable housing/retail at Briscoe, Lincoln
Identify busking sign up areas
Promote electric vehicles, Uber, Subscription based cars
Food & Wine Festival

## Infrastructure issues and concerns

I understand our water treatment plant needs considerable work so this should be part of a capital improvements plan. Road maintenance is an annual obligation. Parts of Old Hwy 99 near Walker Avenue are very rough for example.

The City Hall improvements or rebuild should be listed as a separate action item than the community center and Pioneer Hall work. It's misleading to lump them all together. Your responses may have been different had citizens of Ashland been able to distinguish between funding a city hall upgrade vs re-opening the community center and Pioneer Hall.

It's not currently safe for people to choose biking or walking to get around Ashland. There are 3 main things we could do to our street network to ensure bike/ped safety: a. Designate protected bike lanes on all major streets b. Add sidewalk gaps and access ramps c. Implement traffic-calming measures (with lower speeds) in all residential neighborhoods I implore our city councilors to direct the Public Works Department to include the first two on all transportation capital improvement projects. Thank you!

We get our drinking water from the Ashland Creek Watershed impounded by Reeder Res. sometimes from TIP and tap and have complicated storage and water rights and distribution. Then we have sewer wastewater and water treatment. It is important to me that we have staff well compensated and well qualified at all these positions. The future may bring reduced supplies and well-informed thing people are essential for planning and implementing measure to anticipate future problems.

Community Center. Please do what needs to be done to re-open it. It is a valued community resource and we miss it.

The same goes for our electric service which is a complex system of the grid substations transformers net metering renewables supply and demand. Electric cars and the possibility of EV storage to grid complicate our future. Again the best staff people are our best investment. Utilities that defer upgrades and maintenance fail under stress. Our utilities should be prepared for challenges that may occur in the future.

Highest priority - get the city hall open and running. Its closure so long after the pandemic is inexcusable. The city is dysfunctional without a staffed and open city hall. Also open all city council meetings to be in-person and to encourage public comment in-person participation.

For water conservation please remove the grass medium @ N Mountain- replace with low water plants.

In 1999 Ashland conducted an assessment of B street due to the increased traffic congestions and speeds. We who live on B street wish the plan which was formalized be initiated. If not a few more traffic mitigation (ie stop signs) should be put in place.

Traffic on B St - safety issues study done in 1999 - cost \$100K & not one of the suggestions were done & traffic has doubled - new development on Mtn. street- 56 homes. will make it even worse- Please do something to slow traffic - several stop signs - this is a biking & walking corridor.

Please fix & reopen Pioneer Hall & community Center. We need community meeting places.

Concerns managing water supply Ashland st repair. what is the "Tap System" - what is the new Community Center?

Traffic mitigation for B street - stop signs! Speed dips/bumps Length & weight size reductions of vehicles - NO semi trucks! Painted crosswalks flashing stop signs or crosswalk lights (like @SOU on Siskiyou.)

Transportation - several levels. Reduce traffic in downtown w/ remote parking options & free transportation to & from. Refund the CONNECTOR so elderly can connect to services w/o leaving.

Comments/Ideas Presented at the Group Discussion at the Town Hall Gathering

B street traffic - bike Blvd., stop signs to slow traffic, traffic mitigation. 2000's study & no changes

Utility billing fees

Focus on infrastructure - water reuse, focus on fiber networks, AshlandSavesWater.org

Focus on hiring a climate analyst - anticipated start time of analyst is Feb. 27

Focus on basic services & resources to set up a solid foundation

Community solar - Ashland Community Solar

BPA federally responsible to provide reliable energy

Plumbing permits for grey water. Can plumb some water into landscaping to reuse water

Infrastructure & public safety - better plan to solve issues and be more reliable. Make westie more simple to navigate.

Micro hydro - solar panels going in @ plant to counteract usage. Battery storage on site

Provide resiliency on site

5th & B st dangerous wheel chair ramp. Needs traction. Consistent ice.

Plan to focus on foundation- Regulatory needs met first (improve & maintain) upgrades to meet growth & capacity requirements. UB better communication, more staff

Streets-Ashland streets (needs improvements, pot hole to be filled) project to fix Ashland St is in the works.

Wastewater- hasn't meet minimum standards ( new DEQ permit has been acquired) restorations in progress to meet all requirements

More regulation on summer use- Audits & community resources available to all individuals

Climate & sustainability - Anyway to focus on sustainability as the biggest priority.

Lots of interest in local services being more sustainable. Reducing risk, increasing resiliency

Grid resilience- certain grinds with more outages. Focus on individual outages

Structural deficiencies in city facilities in planning 6 moth construction window.

Budget deficit - budget issues in general fund. Inflation.>tax % which supports public works

Poor timing on traffic lights downtown. Contact ODOT (main & Helman)

Street fund - franchise fee. Trading food & beverage for franchise fee

Exit 14- light doesn't change. SB Off ramp. Seems like it doesn't trip when a car pulls up

Diversifying grid - Concern to balance out cost with more people going solar

New substation to allow higher capacity

Rates staying the same for 2 years

More community solar programs

Look into long term electric affect on the general fund
Transportation master plan at the end of the year. Lots of community input opportunities
Adopting street plan updates
safety in multi modal transportation
Electric bikes- speed enforcements, education, safety concern for users, more signage as we become more bike friendly
Downtown parking - looking at whole system before it changes
Purple lights - bad leds. Electric replaces them
South Mountain visibility by railroad tracks. Hard to see down bike path.-improvements planned
A St. not enough room for two sides of parking
Greywater-exploring options for parks
Purple pipe system- not cost effective for homes but it is for bigger plots of land.
Has sediment-bad for environment
Electric Vehicles - DC fast charger right off exit. 24 point charger in installation process soon.
More chargers than just Tesla chargers
Chargers down I5
Electrify America funding?
Land use impacts
Public restrooms- self cleaning options, safety
Underground electric - expensive, adds capacity
focus on efficiency in decisions

## Planning & Growth

The Ashland Planning department formulated master plans for the triangle of Ashland St aka Highway 66 Siskiyou Blvd and Tolman Creek Road and for what is known as the Croman Property. Granted the Croman Plan needs to be reworked because the goal of attracting industry there did not prove feasible. So now there needs to be a new vision for that area. But the property seems to have been ignored as an area to provide a possible mobile home park or other more affordable housing options. Along Ashland Street there are many one story buildings and properties that are underdeveloped. That is where the focus for adding housing should be. There is the potential for being able to walk and bicycle to places in that area.. Also the roads can accommodate more traffic. In the approval of the annexation request for the 250+ units above the car dealerships the reality that North Main at times is at capacity for vehicular traffic seems not to have been adequately considered. Hopefully some of the Planning Commissioners and City Counselors know that 10 daily vehicle trips are added for each new residence. That could mean 2500+ more vehicle trips on North Main per day. With that street already often clogged the reality is that we will have a failure in providing timely police and fire responses to that area. Then what? And why would we want that? Thus both bodies need to re-think their approval of that ill advised project when it is remanded or the application timeline is not met. Why ignore former master plans? Provide incentives for them to be acted on. Don't encourage sprawl and traffic with ill advised annexations on the fringes of the city..

For 25 years we fought to retard or avoid sprawl. Why throw that out?

Regarding 5G towers: I live in the hills above town. In case of power failures or anything that brings down wifi in our home we don't have any cell service around us that's reliable. I truly believe it's a huge safety issue/concern for the town. 5G seems to be available on the boulevard but having it available all over town would be ideal. I know they're those that don't want the technology infecting them but I see it as huge safety concern for the town if something catastrophic happens. The needs of the many outweighs the needs of the few! Thanks

No 5G towers or small cells! They are harmful to biological life.

Needs signs that direct tourists to the Japanese Garden location.

Regarding 5G. Consider establishing Ashland as the first 5G free city in the Nation. By that I mean the first city to NOT have 5G installed. Scientific residence is now abounding on the negative effects on human brains blood & general health. Ashland will prosper hugely! Price of houses will not decline & it will become a really sought after city to love grown & thrive in on all levels. This is very special city. lets keep it that way.

Assuring that we have a comprehensive tele-communications ordinance is paramount. Understanding what is legally possible and how to safely integrate new internet frequencies to allow for safe technology usage in Ashland.

I'm also concerned with cell tower incursions in our area & strengthening out local sovereignty by creating a robust legal document where as require installation of this nature to prove they are safe by rigorous & neutral evaluative means. Also what could be done to mitigate "dirty energy" in our buildings and along our roads (where at least some of our electrical lings) are grounded into earth- meaning a lot of electrical emissions are being flooded into the environment & is not a healthy situation for biological life in general.

Protect community character is too vague.

Don't listen to the 5G people. They are sheep!



Ashland's future planning as a destination city must consider and implement an ordinance to maximize municipal authority on the placement and operation of wireless communication facilities. An awareness is growing in the public of the adverse health effects of short and long term man made pulsed electromagnetic radiation. Hire attorney Andrew Campanelli to protect Ashland from telecom industry intrusion...with an unregulated exposure to an invisible toxin. Fifty years of solid science have identified the harmful effects. 5G is not the original problem. It's 2G and 3G. Fiber optics cable to the user's property is the ultimate broadband solution. It offers much higher data rates much lower power consumption higher data security and NO man-made pulsed electromagnetic radiation. Use of wireless and WIFI on the user's property at low EMT power levels can be optional for that user.

As a WFH resident I support increased 5G coverage in Ashland. I felt item #18 was negatively worded w/o another option to show my support with a dot.

5G will be out only option when 4G/LTE are eventually phased out. Don't let Ashland be left behind because of a fringe movement obsessed with pseudo-science.

I encourage allowing 5G towers away from family homes schools hospitals etc. where vulnerable populations might be negatively impacted.

My concern is 5G. There is lots of research that has shown how devastating EMF's are on living beings human and otherwise. Ashland has always drawn folks taht care about their health. T even consider 5G is horrible. Do your research.

There is far too much development here. Will there be enough resources for all of these new homes? Consider also the devastation caused by a developer between NMP and the Senior community beyond. Nothing has been built there and yet the area has been spoiled and habitats destroyed.

#### Comments/Ideas Presented at the Group Discussion at the Town Hall Gathering

Family friendly, affordable housing, universal housing

Variance process & public input (timing)

5G ordinance

Safe routes to school

Senior accessibility

Community land to use/lease

High utility bills (base fees)

Climate considerations

Climate friendly & equitable communities

Not outsourcing city services/city jobs

How to develop more housing in the space we have

Increased density on transit lines

Development of Croman Mill site

Multi-use zones

Easements for TID trails to allow public access

## Public Safety Services

• Clarification: My wife and I attended the Armory Town Hall Monday night (big thanks for organizing that meeting!) and placed our 12 dots each at that time. We did not submit any written public comments on the form provided (in the 4 page packet handed out at the door). We're offering our comments instead via this web form. • After 9 years on the Wildfire Safety Commission — 4 of them as chair — and out of many discussions with wildfire experts both locally and nationwide it's very clear there's consensus among all that are paying attention that towns in our vicinity are currently at high risk of another Alameda Fire level event in our lifetimes. It's more about *\*when\** than *\*if.\** • I don't write this to be scary or fear-mongering but rather to share some good news that I'm hoping can be folded into future Council planning efforts: this threat could be reduced by 80 to 90% if our town seriously engaged in enacting a manageable *\*relatively affordable series of well defined steps following proven fire science.* • The bad news is that at the current rate of progress it will take decades before Fire Department and Wildfire Safety Commission (recently now renamed Wildfire Risk Reduction Committee) efforts bring our risk down to a reasonable level. And I don't believe we have decades. • It's not from lack of effort on their part - both groups are all too aware of Ashland's current level of vulnerability and are doing all they can within the limits of current staffing levels and budgets. • Unfortunately due mostly I understand to City budget concerns staffing departures and resultant shortages and turnover as well as Covid's impact current town-level planning has not yet fully recognized and engaged in solution planning to resolve the massive financial impacts of such an event if we stay on our current course. • Those impacts dwarf Ashland's other budget planning considerations. *\*They also dwarf what it would cost us to lower our risk dramatically. (Beyond losing thousands of homes we know such fires also massively impact city utilities including introducing toxins in water lines. OSF tax revenue and our tourism industry would suffer major hits.)*

CONTINUED... The two-step solution to an 80 to 90% risk reduction is pretty simple at least on the physical level -- first changing out Ashland's major fuel sources that create burning embers in the first place -- bark mulch and wood fences are key culprits -- and second removing fuel sources on individual homes that embers can ignite. The latter involves landscaping changes as well as some basic inexpensive ongoing home maintenance. [Back story: Urban Wildfires like the Alameda Fire become city-sized events by burning embers that spread on the wind. The embers move the fire from neighborhood to neighborhood by jumping across roads and other potential firebreaks. Without such ember spread the "next Alameda" might still take out hundreds of homes but not thousands. The proof? The Alameda fire burn scars reveal that it didn't involve a single continuous fire front but rather scores of individual fires separated by large fire breaks including Interstate 5. Embers carried the fire on the wind—skipping past less vulnerable landscaping and homes— and the igniting the next vulnerable area.] To make these changes involves a range of public relations educational and policy challenges. Here's a quick sketch of some of them to offer a sense of scale. Chris Chambers and other Fire Department staff as well as the Wildfire Risk Reduction Committee would be delighted to provide a more comprehensive list outlining how our town could reduce our risk within a reasonable time frame if given full support including needed funding by Council.

- We need to find effective ways to overcome homeowner (and landscaper) attachment to current dangerous landscaping and bark mulch practices.
- We'd need a small range of City ordinance changes including some affecting new bark mulch installations.
- We'd have to come up with a menu of solutions and financial support to change out existing high-risk landscaping and fencing. Incidentally several local banks have already agreed to explore a partnership with the City to assist low income homeowners offering easily accessible low rate loans to assist with this effort if Council decides to move forward on that front.
- We'll need a major educational campaign to bring the public on board with the financial aspects of needed changes new regulations adding needed additional fire department staffing as well as enforcement staff.

Our comments here are our individual views and have not been reviewed by the Wildfire Committee. I resigned from the Committee last month due to health considerations. Thanks for all that you do. We have great respect for the challenging work facing City Management and Council and know you take this work very seriously! Stephen and Cyndy Gagne

I believe all of the other potential priorities pale in comparison to wildfire risk reduction. Wildfire is the only existential threat to this community. If we have a fire like Paradise it won't matter who makes the decisions at Parks and Rec. Repairing our streets will not be important. Building affordable housing will be a joke. There is will be dramatically reduced property tax. There will be no lodging tax. There will be no food tax. There will be no tourists. Our community could literally cease to exist. This should be the number one priority for City government and the Council.

Not only have we seen that we are subject to significant disasters (flood heat fire smoke wind ice...) in my thirty years here we should make use of federal funds for preventive and proactive actions. Separately from capital funds we must support operational funds to support volunteer coordination staff and increased committed to community volunteer groups to prepare and help respond to disasters (CERT ...)

Emergency /fire evacuation plans unclear look at Paradise CA which had much better plans than ours but still...what can we learn from them? Why is Eagle Mill Road between Oak and Valley View Road so bad with high weeds on both sides in some areas? This will be a major access road in a fire but NO SHOULDERS means it is designed for gridlock; it should be 3 lanes. Who champions this as an exit from Ashland? And why an additional exit GOING SOUTH to where? S. Summit? California? Why not one NORTH toward Medford? where the major hospitals are?

The number one threat to Ashland is extreme wildfire destroying a massive swath of the City. It is not a matter of if but when. Extreme wildfires are no longer limited to remote landscapes or wildlands surrounding the community. They are now consuming communities at an unprecedented scale. In the wake of the September 8 2020 Alameda Fire which started in a residential Ashland neighborhood more than 2 600 homes were destroyed in approximately 9 hours. To prepare for these highly destructive fires we must understand our risks and reduce them. We will infrastructure businesses tourism and every quality of life imaginable when a catastrophic wildfire occurs. None of the other 32 priority objectives come even close to addressing this threat proactively. Do not fund more firefighters and firefighting equipment as we have learned that suppressing wildfires is only one tool and it has failed. The best way to support the Ashland Fire Adapted Communities Program is to increase the capacity of the program. The WRAP is a first step but supervising this program along with many others is beyond the capacity of the sole employee assigned to the Fire Adapted Communities Program. The top budget priority for the City should be to provide Brian Hendrix with at least one full-time assistant. Everyone who has held the position has burned out in a few years. Don't let it happen again!

Protect the city from wildfires and smoke because nothing else matters if Ashland burns down.

Kudos to Officer O'Meara for being very respectful and diplomatic with homeless people that sort of hijacked the public safety services table during the time I was there.

I walk through town daily about 0515. People in sleeping bags are often sleeping and NOT disturbed by police! I am okay with that. I am NOT okay with Tents! I don't want another S.F L.A or Seattle here in Ashland. Only leads to criminal activity.

Drugs cartels and criminal behavior can destroy our town. We must fund solutions. Infrastructure of high quality should be #1 if the City of Ashland's priorities are public safety. Thank you for this town hall!

How can we protect the environment? From wildfires from pollution of air land & water

Coordinated fire protection

Why can't we email the Police Chief?

#### *Comments/Ideas Presented at the Group Discussion at the Town Hall Gathering*

Police & fire staffing shortages

Emergency management

CERT & Firewise programs

Fire adapted community program staffing shortage

Homelessness & use of funding

funding for removal of fire prone landscape

Evacuation route shortage & safe "shelter in place" area
Street lights in dark areas
Department stats available to public - call types & numbers
News website or advertisement for police & fire information. Dashboard
Safe areas for children & homeless
mental health training & concerns with homeless for police & fire
Future planning for increasing homeless populations
Parks dept. property near golf course for housing homeless
Notification during emergency events
Note Nixle on utility bills
Anti-camping enforcement. What's being done?
Revisit UGB & how to get it back
Needle exchange program
Community dumpsters
Bathroom type facilities

## Quality of Life

Maintaining our parks parks programs and restoring the Perozzi Fountain are functions that are priorities for me. The Parks Commission must be in charge of their own budget and establishing priority parks projects.

The fact that the city manager doesn't have an assistant or a person to answer the phone is embarrassing. It's essential for the city manager to have a receptionist or secretary who can answer the phone when a citizen calls.

The electric utility office must be staffed and opened. The City Newsletter that went out with utility bills needs to return.

Please make sure information about the budget is accurate and clear. There was too much misinformation about Ashland's so-called deficit last spring. Transparency in all things!!

Lithia Park is integral to our experience of Ashland as residents and the experience of visitors to our city. I'm saddened to see how the park has not been adequately maintained especially when compared to other city parks I've visited during my travels away from home. The large trees are not pruned at all or if they are pruned not properly the hard scape is in disrepair the ponds are still dirty and smelly and the list goes on. This was happening already pre-covid so the excuse that it's due to staffing shortages isn't credible. And the funds were there to purchase and build other parks so lack of funds cannot be cited as a reason for why Lithia park looks the way it does. I would like to see my tax dollars put to work and the parks being managed better.

We can't let AIFF (Ashland Independent Film Festival) die. There are problems with the board of directors and all of the staff has abandoned the sinking ship. What was until late 2022 a vibrant component of city life throughout the year—something that drew many people to Ashland—is dying. The festival drew people here to live and to visit—filling restaurants and lodgings. AIFF had developed a reputation as a superior small festival that directors loved to attend and that gave participants great joy. Hundreds of locals volunteered their time to help make the festival thrive. It will be a tragedy (Shakespearean even) if AIFF is allowed to die. Many of us have tried to figure out how to fix this problem but those with more power in the city need to step in.

Ashland needs more Pickle Ball courts to accommodate the existing players as well as future players and visiting players.

I'd like to hear parks/rec plans for the gold course! The mess your dept. made was deplorable. What now!!?? It's truly a gem for our city & not recognized as such.

For Parks or Planning add Pickleball lines to some Hunter Park courts for multi-use. Keep pickleball on the plan for gold course replacement project.

Need to invite Ashland residents to donate to support with case the big items like pool. Many would and could.

I'm 70 and have just taken up pickleball. It's great fun but it can be difficult to find a court. Request- Make tennis courts multi use w/ pickleball. Revive the Oak Knoll pickleball courts project.

Please do not shut off water to Oak Knoll gold course. The cost to counter that decision must be extremely high. I love all our parks but the cold course does bring in revenue.

Dog Park - I would like a dog park that is large enough to walk out dogs. It is healthy that is why we have dogs. Not being able to walk out dogs in the parks makes it even more important to have choices for dog parks. Notice how full the dog park is. We need more. Thank you.

I live on Granite St directly across from the pickleball courts. That sound does not bother me. The lights don't bother me. I think it is fantastic how crowded the courts are with people from teenagers to 80 year old's. Anything that gets that many people out and about should be encouraged and expanded.

I live across the street from the pickle ball courts and they are constantly in use - which is great! But the wait time is too long to get a court. Please add more courts in the city! or reline tennis courts for multi-use.

Please get the golf course up and running. It's a beautiful feature in this city- add some pickle ball courts there! Thanks!

We are having more & more pickleball players & we could use more courts. The tennis courts @ hunter park could be easily re-lined to accommodate pickleball play. This would make is easier to find a place to play. Thank you.

We are having more pickleball players of all ages & would like to request Hunter park tennis courts to be stripped for multi-use . Thank you.

We need more recreational activities for senior like pickleball in Hunter park.

I want to see more pickleball courts. I'd love to see public indoor courts eg. if the community center was repaired we could be tape to mark a court or two.

My first priority is the gold course. I utilize it every day and adore the facility. It produces so much to the city I pray that it somehow can survive.

Please tell Michael Black to stop constructing/deconstructing the shelter over the ice rink. What a waste of money and shade!

We need a feeder Mt bike specific trail that connects downtown Ashland to the Mt. bike trails in the Ashland watershed and to provide more beginner trails for people who would like to access the sport.

Building more trains such as Mt bike trails can help establish Ashland as a Mt bike destination that can further diversify the economy. See Grand Junction Colorado and the Grand Valley as a case study. Also look at Embark in bend OR as a possible co-working space that can draw in new business to the area.

Parks & Rec: pickleball has EXPLODED in popularity as a social & accessible sport for all ages & demographics. It provides community for the elderly & young alike. We love the courts at Lithia but already they are often overfull! We need more pickleball courts in the city of Ashland. Ideally located on the opposite end of town from Lithia to be easier to access for South Ashland folks. New courts would be great but also putting lines on existing courts like Hunter Park would be cost effective and fast.

Create pickleball courts throughout Ashland. There are not enough courts for existing players let alone future players or visiting players. There are many parks and public spaces that could accommodate pickleball courts.

Keep the parks.

Support out Mt. bike community!

We are now overflowing our pickleball courts in Lithia Park. \*Repurpose tennis courts @ Hunter to pickleball courts. \* Build courts @ Oak Knoll Golf Course

Comments/Ideas Presented at the Group Discussion at the Town Hall Gathering

Water conservation. Brown is the new green

Wetland Conservation

Tree pruning practices - respect for trees

Where is priority for golf course? Recreation

Arts & Entertainment - Role of COA APRC

Recreation Programs - pool progress, indoor vs outdoor- energy costs

Noise pollution - blowers/trimmer

Senior center funding - open more days

Pickleball -court use maximized

Pickleball/tennis court locations

Dogs in Parks policy

Dog park

Importance of parks/open space to connecting community

Sustainability Initiatives

SOU partnership - APRC COA, learning lab, service projects

Mountain bike trails closer to town, more accessible/safe routes for children

Addressing Lithia Park Hillside/Glenview safety

Management & control of APRC & budget

Golf course water use-tourist amenity, other use, pickleball courts

Indoor recreation center - fields

TID easements & access

More access to bike trails children safety

North Mountain Park playgrounds exposed to sun

Need shade over play structures

central bike path access points for bikes - East Main



## Social Initiatives/Services

Affordable childcare similar to affordable housing is a driver for many other issues. Among them are economic stability/development attracting more families to Ashland and the prevention of homelessness. I urge City decision-makers to invest in staff who can partner with others in the early childhood and childcare professions and champion a local plan that elevates equity and includes leveraging State and Federal resources to address the need for affordable childcare in Ashland.

I am concerned about Ashland services diminished. Asante Home Health quietly closed a few years ago. Now no Intensive Care Unit at the Ashland Asante. No Day Care for seniors in Ashland only one SNF and one assisted living which keeps changing owners it seems. No DMV hope the Post Office stays etc.

Affordable childcare (social initiative social services) is crucial to economic opportunity (attracting more families) & community investment. Portland is beginning to provide child care facilities at sites of retirement facilities (churches are also an option as is the senior center or the Grove). This is highly cost effective as much of the staffing is provided by the retired/elderly (a senior service). Both ends of the age spectrum benefit. The city would need to set child care standards in line with state requirements. Hiring of directors or SOU grad students or staff would be primary on-going expense; also cots tables rugs educational materials which I bet many Ashland residents would donate! I am Early Childhood Specialist MA ECE former adjunct faculty in Ed. Dept at SOU. I would be happy to consult at no cost. Childcare is not just an Ashland Community priority but a nation-wide concern!

I feel very strongly that senior services are under represented in this dot vote. most people who utilize the services are very old and don't go out (especially after dark). This needs to be taken into consideration.

Food/clothing shelter/ kids always first

I would like to add an objective to topic of social initiatives and services. Ashland needs to be linked to a system-wide crisis response program for behavioral health needs. The goal should be to serve people who experience mental health and addiction symptoms with non-police professional providers. System services to provide care that keeps people out of jail and hospitals.

Develop city owned transient shelter to get homeless squatters off our streets & bike paths! (way to scary to walk around!)

## Comments/Ideas Presented at the Group Discussion at the Town Hall Gathering

### Group 1

#### Shelter locations

- Permanent vs temporary
- City facilities/buildings not available
- OHRA - possible location
- Notification process - what is the way to notify?

#### No bus service within city communities

- City services vs. RVTD
- grass roots funding for city bus services vs raise taxes

Senior center possible has resources  
Partner w/community businesses who have busses/vans  
Seniors impacted  
Application for transportation services

#### Childcare

Any city resources for this  
YMCA possibly working on this

#### Racial Justice collaboration

community  
SOU  
BASE

#### Group 2

##### Mental/behaviors health resources - topic to add

crisis response teams  
Partner with county  
help make functional community members

#### Childcare

Setting them up at senior/retirement facilities

#### Social Justice

what is city/council doing  
social justice manager - who will dot his? City looking at this  
OSF of target regarding

#### Shelters

Not enough space, using other locations such as library  
volunteers needed vs OHRA  
shelters for families (children)  
problem is possible not in my backyard when finding a permanent shelter location  
specific family having issues

governor priority for homelessness  
triage limits resources with OHRA  
encampment location requested  
waitlist long for country shelters  
self sufficient on the street don't have location  
keeps people from setting up in dangerous locations i.e. watershed  
actual # of homeless in Ashland

### Group 3

#### Social Justice

city services that are working on this  
conversations that work better for all diversity groups in city  
partner with SOU & OSF  
SOU population has interest in this  
Holiday with parade to bring this people together

#### Transportation

No late bus services, tax incentives for participants  
city working to partner with RVTD

#### Childcare

Restart SOU services? Maybe a few still available  
Reviewing city properties

#### Shelters

SOU students as volunteers/work credit manning these  
How is it going with OHRA doing this?  
Transitional housing might be better vs short term  
location for RV's to stay

### Group 4

Town Hall meetings requested more often

#### Childcare

short term downtown for events

#### Transportation

Free charging stations that are available, good resource  
drug treatment - what are available

#### Social

City working with LGBT+ community  
rainbow flags on city property  
Council has order/process for this now  
Kindness pole holders - who regulates these?  
Does have and inclusive feeling for attracting people  
vaccine vs unvaccinated still an issue. Look at this from social equity standpoint

#### Shelters

What are available here?  
What groups do OHRA take?  
Groups that don't want housing, what is the root cause? Can city identify this?  
treatment of homeless by community

## Misc

Thank you for seeking input from the community through this Town Hall. However the way I understand it we are being asked to "spend" 12 virtual dots on the objectives outlined here: <https://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=18289> I am familiar with dotmocracy voting and I'm concerned about the way the options are laid out. 1) None of these priorities have a verb attached to them. For example "Severe weather shelter" doesn't specify whether you want to build one purchase one or refurbish an existing building. "Arts and Entertainment" doesn't say whether we are voting to invest tax dollars to support OSF or to convene a meeting to hear about the needs of local artists or to commission more public art pieces. Without verbs you are asking people to choose between concepts rather than initiatives. Initiatives should be able to compete for scarce resources while concepts should not. 2) This creates a problem because you are essentially asking a room full of people to vote about whether they care more about EITHER "wildfire risk reduction" OR "social equity and racial justice". This is a false dichotomy! You've falsely set two concepts into direct competition for scarce resources (i.e. limited dots). If there were verbs attached to these objectives I could conceivably select between "offer a fire-resistant landscaping class" OR "make a brochure about Black History Month". But these are only presented as concepts and I can care about both concepts equally at the same time. It should be possible for the Council to take actions that support both objectives or even to have one approach informed by the other. False dichotomies like this one are unnecessarily polarizing. 3) The voting options that you have offered here should be examined for "vote splitting" which is one of the pitfalls of dotmocracy voting. A quick review of the options shows at least one flagrant case of vote splitting. For example a vote for the "Implement Climate Energy and Action Plan" should also implicitly INCLUDE a vote for "Multi Modal transportation/transit". Ashland's existing Climate and Energy Action Plan already contains strategies for multi-modal connectivity public transit ride-sharing bike and pedestrian access. ([https://ashlandor.org/wp-content/uploads/Ashland-Climate-and-Energy-Action-Plan\\_pages.pdf](https://ashlandor.org/wp-content/uploads/Ashland-Climate-and-Energy-Action-Plan_pages.pdf) page 46) By setting these up as two separate options when they are really components of the same thing you have split the votes of people who want to take conservation action. <https://dotmocracy.org/dot-voting/>

CONTINUED: 4) As an environmental educator and manager of North Mountain Park Nature Center I'm concerned that we don't see any mention of youth education science education or sustainability education for any age group. Because the Nature Center is housed within the "Recreation" wing of Parks and Rec all the sustainability and natural resource education that we offer at the Nature Center is hidden under the somewhat misleading bullet: "Recreation". 5) Which brings me to my final point. Without more information about what we are voting on the objectives (as outlined) are obscuring the real value and meaning of things. Just as the word "Recreation" hides the immeasurable impact of thousands upon thousands of kids and adults taught to live sustainably through North Mountain Park Nature Center programming. There are other examples of this lack of clarity throughout the list. "City Parks and facilities maintenance" could mean increasing staffing for Parks maintenance or it could mean that you're suggesting that we make Parks staff responsible for a greater number of facilities. "Implement Climate Energy and Action Plan" is a shorthand for over 120 pages of well-researched and thoughtful advice. Links to that document should probably be provided before we vote. And "Review and approval of development projects" or "Diversify the local economy" could obscure any number of things some of which I might support and others of which I might oppose. I don't know what those objectives mean to the Council so I don't know what actions my vote could be used to justify. This process lacks clarity. I would like to see verbs used to lay out the proposed actions under each objective. If we all vote ranking what "concepts" are valued most by the people at the town hall meeting... then we are going to serve the priorities of the vocal few who happen to understand what the Council means by each of these bullets. I believe that this voting system (as worded) will lead to a low-valuation on objectives that serve historically-marginalized people children who are too young to participate in City government and of course the silent wildlife and plants with whom we share this landscape. I hope that you will re-consider this approach or at least take these results with a grain of salt.

I will be grateful for less drama on the council (won't miss Julie or Shaun) and suggest that Dennis Slattery be appointed to fill out the mayor's term.

The selection of topics under the major headings is a jumble of required city/public services mixed with special interest current concerns. Paying for essential public services is not optional. For those mandatory services which may not have attracted as many dots as parks housing and fire/disaster resilience they are services that citizens count on: fire police community development (with significant state mandates but also guidance and includes planning building and conservation) water (safe drinking water is taken for granted) sewer paved streets with functioning stormwater management and electricity (in Ashland's case by voter and citizen choice for a century) are basic and not up for dismissal. Since property tax (severely limited in Oregon for 35 years) and state revenues don't fully support the cost of these services the city has been creative and successful (see the Meals Tax and the Hotel/Motel tax and fees attached to each utility) in finding revenues to support a right-sized program. The city should look at a parcel tax to raise funding for services: City of Jacksonville has successfully defended a parcel tax that funds their fire department (not sure if that includes police). I think several desired city services could logically be tied to a parcel tax on homes worth more than a certain amount such as \$300 000. Things like disaster planning street paving police and fire affordable housing. This would be paid annually. SDCs for new development should be looked at for as many capital needs as possible beyond sewer water and street expansion costs. For example single family homes on large lots in the forest interface pose a higher added risk of emergency response than homes along the main boulevards. All areas below a certain density of units per acre have fewer lots/homes per lineal feet to support not only new construction cost but the forever pavement maintenance water line maintenance power distribution etc. imposed on the city.

Hi! Thank you for allowing us to vote on COA Priorities online for those of us who couldn't make the Town Hall. There is only one comment I wanted to make about the survey. COA CUSTOMER SERVICE shouldn't even be a question. Although not a priority like fire mitigation or safety it should be assumed. Thanks again Brigitte

Just one comment regarding the option "City culture of customer service." Please folks it's udderly ridiculous to have to vote for customer service. Customer service should be a 100% goal always in all departments.

It is my understanding you are accepting comments on the upcoming budget. I sincerely request the City of Ashland include in the budget plans for 2023 payment of the funds necessary to restore my home at 236 N 1st Street Ashland Oregon to it's pre-loss condition. October 30 2022 my home at 236 N 1st Street was flooded every room in the house with raw sewage as a result of the negligence of the City of Ashland. Since the catastrophe occurred where I lost all my food toiletries personal family treasures all my furniture and over 1000 items of non salvageable belongings as well as a place to live the City of Ashland has paid out zero dollars in restitution although on the day after the catastrophe the city assumed itself as totally at fault. I experience this as unconscionable that no financial assistance has been rendered. I request the City of Ashland please be accountable and assume 100% financial responsibility to remedy this devastating situation and fully fund recovery efforts to restore the property to a pre-loss condition and reimburse me personally for the tremendous loss of personal property. At present my entire home sits gutted with all the floors ripped out walls half torn out all the kitchen cabinets are gone the bathrooms are emptied of the cabinets sinks showers toilets and floors. It is a complete and total loss and I need 100% restitution assistance please. The current third party insurance company CIS the city hired is obviously not adequate to remedy this urgent situation. Please help!

No easy way to participate via online dot voting! So I am doing this as my only option. I am registered at City of Ashland but not OpenGov (no link given) Item #. Dots awarded 4 3 dots 10 1 dot 12 1 dot 17. 1 dots 15. 1 dot 20. 1 dot 23. 1 dot 24. 1 dot 29. 1 dot 30. 1 dot

Has there been any progress in determining the cause of the knocking & banging on houses all across Ashland in the middle of the night? We experienced two separate incidents and via "Next Door Neighbor" app have observed dozens of incidents & reports of shootings as well. The noises we heard were very clear & even cadence & the number of raps differed from other reportings as did the specific times. Thank you for devoting some attention to this potentially serious safety & culture issue.

I think this was a good start for public engagement. I would like to see the folks here tonight be given a way to stay engaged with issues & developments that they care about. Example: encourage them to sign up for updates related to\_\_\_\_\_. If we had a city council member that focused on a distinct neighborhood - like per the evacuation zone then a relationship and understanding can start to build. These problems are not insurmountable and we can be more effective by coming together.

I would like to see "specific" programs with "defining" steps residents as well as the of the city of Ashland can take steps to conserve water.

This town hall was/is a great idea but very hard to listen/hear what's going on at different tables especially once we were asked to move from initial tables. None the less very much appreciated.

Balanced budget - I have ran several businesses & been on several committees - You cannot spend more than you have. Audit - & prosecute anyone that has profited & stole from the city or appropriated funds for their own benefit!

Please provide opportunities for community to participate in commissions & committees. It is democracy in action. The former mayor & city manager dismantled out public ability to make Ashland the engaged community the citizens WANT.

Sustainability can be linked to more strategic sovereignty. what products & services are we importing that we could not producing here- and perhaps eventually even export? More local investment instruments that could include grassroots involvement (not just credited investors) could raise money for projects without raising taxes. This means creatively involving locals bringing at least 10% or even 1% of their savings/investment \$ home

No justice no peace or anything else. We all care about & want- There is a way forward that is will development & proven in practice.

This was a really fun community event! I enjoyed listening to the staff and councilors.



Pull resources. F.B. this was a great to gather us together as a community. There has got to be a way for open communication that lets everyone have a voice. I mean everyone. Calling another's opinion misinformation is dividing the community not bringing it together. F.B. is not a good venue to explore either. I have no respect for FB that has control of what people say. We each are valuable and have our gifts. Maybe the word curiosity could be our new motto. Curious about what our neighbor thinks. How about recommending folks "MAP THEIR NEIGHBOORHOOD" Really get to know their neighbors! Work in supporting and helping those in need. That is what we are here for. How can help each other and our city will flourish thus the ripple effect. How can we a model of a healthy vigorous well nourished community. Another person suggested that we invite the wealthy of this community to help with community projects. This would turn the tide instead of the rich just getting richer they could invest in a local needs. Another model for a better ventured world & world view. Curious about all perspectives. Let's keep property taxes from continuing to grow.

Schools are fountains of change invite middle & high school students to be a city committees for general problems almost any task could be accomplished with kids' help.

Change charter so that councilors no longer run for a specific position or seats. Instead have the 4 highest vote getters elected to the council.

Enjoyed the town hall. Great event.

More partnerships with youth SOU.

A heartening beginning to what hopefully can spark new & better solutions.

Better use of citizen volunteers

How does the recent vote for parks dept change the economics of the city?

If Ashland has a budget crisis to deal with let's look around and even visit other cities that have gotten creative and found ways to increase revenue.

Perhaps paid parking for out-of-state license plates? Voice-and-sight-dog tags?