

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES  
Tuesday, April 19, 2022

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

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

For oral testimony, fill out a Speaker Request Form at [ashland.or.us/speakerrequest](http://ashland.or.us/speakerrequest) and return to the City Recorder. The deadline for submitting written testimony or speaker request forms will be on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and must comply with Council Rules to be accepted.

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

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

Mayor Akins explained that the City’s Emergency Declaration is no longer in effect and a Councilor needs to make a motion to suspend the rules at the beginning of the meeting to allow electronic attendance of the Council at tonight’s meeting.

**Jensen/Hyatt moved to suspend rule AMC 2.04.040. titled “Conduct of Meeting” to continue the zoom meeting tonight. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Moran, Seffinger, DuQuenne and Jensen: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Hyatt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ROLL CALL**

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

**IV. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Land Acknowledgement\*\*

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Business Meeting of April 5, 2022

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

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

**VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS**

1. Tree City Commission Annual Report and Proclamation  
Tree Commission Chair Chris John gave an update.

Jensen and Graham thanked the Tree Commission for their work.

## **VII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Janet Bell – Ashland – Spoke regarding being an Ashlander and the importance of the bees and the birds in Ashland. She spoke in concern of the 5G Tower and to change the Ordinance.

Bach Thor – Ashland – Spoke in concern of 5G. He spoke regarding looking into placement of the towers. He suggested to revise the Ordinances.

Cynthia Moscaritolo – Ashland – Spoke in concern of the towers. She spoke to revise the telecom Ordinances.

Kelly Marcotulli – Ashland – Spoke in concern regarding radiation from cell towers and the health effects.

Linda Peterson Adams -Ashland – Spoke regarding Wildfire Safety (*see attached*).

Daniel Gregg – Ashland – Spoke regarding the cell towers. He spoke to his concerns of 5G.

Miriam Reed – Ashland – Spoke suggesting to update the cell tower Ordinances.

## **VIII. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Joe Lessard gave a brief Managers report. Items discussed were:

- Look Ahead
- Special Meetings Structure

## **IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Moran pulled Item #1.**

**Graham/Hyatt moved to approve Item #2. Discussion: None. Voice Vote: All Ayes.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

1. Liquor License approval for Trapdoor Bar and Grill  
Moran pulled this item.

Lessard gave a brief Staff Report.

Police Chief O'Meara gave a Staff Report. He spoke in support of the application. Fire Chief Sartain also spoke in support of the application.

## **Public Input:**

Curtis Hall – Ashland - Mr. Hall was joined with Joshua Langworthy co-owner. Mr. Hall spoke that he is the owner of Trapdoor and was joined by. He spoke to an overview of the layout of the business. He spoke that they are not the Vinyl Club and do not plan on being open until 2 AM every night of the week with loud music and dancing. He explained that they are a lounge and cocktail bar.

Council discussed options regarding restrictions.

Council discussed the OLCC process.

**Jensen/Moran moved that Council ask the OLCC to approve this liquor license with restrictions. Discussion:** Jensen spoke that there should be some credence with the surrounding residence and to keep in mind these are only advisory restrictions. He suggested that Council should consider the restrictions. Moran spoke regarding the requirements that are in the packet. Jensen spoke that the motion could read “City Manager Restrictions that were sent to Council”. Chief O’Meara spoke that he would send a copy of what the restrictions are. Graham spoke that the list of restrictions was a laundry list of potential restrictions. She spoke that she is uncomfortable supporting the entire list of restrictions. Chief O’Meara spoke that him and Mr. Lessard came up with language regarding the restrictions. He spoke that he went off of what OLCC historically has done. Hyatt spoke that she would like to see this business succeed and the residences near can coincide. She spoke that she won’t be supporting the motion as it is stated. **Jensen withdrew his motion. Moran agreed.**

**Graham/DuQuenne moved that Council ask the OLCC to approve this liquor license without restrictions. Discussion:** Graham spoke that the applicants have shown that they have something different and that she is excited to have a new business in town. DuQuenne spoke that she is looking forward to the Trapdoor opening and a different clientele. **Roll Call Vote: Jensen, DuQuenne, Seffinger, Moran, Graham and Hyatt: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Liquor License approval for Handle Bar

## **VIII.**

## **X. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Public Hearing for the award of Community Development Block Grant funds

Housing Program Specialist Linda Reid gave a Staff Report.

Reid introduced Housing Commissioner Co-Chair Linda Reppond. Ms. Reppond discussed the recommendations.

Council questioned if this would be a long-term facility and how it would be funded.

Reid explained that the City did receive a grant from the State and received 5 months of funding to keep the facility open during COVID.

Phil Johncock from Rogue Retreat spoke regarding the success of Rogue Retreat. He spoke to the future of the site and fundraising.

Rogue Retreat Development Director Matt Vorderstrasse spoke regarding funding and goals to find a long-term funding option for Ashland.

Council discussed fundraising.

Options for helping Residents of Ashland (OHRA) Executive Director Cass Sinclair gave an overview of what OHRA does to keep people housed. Council questioned if they could expand and take on clientele if Rogue retreat was defunded. She explained that was the case they could expand 12 rooms. Mr. Vorderstrasse spoke that they are currently serving 49 residences.

Council discussed options.

**Graham/Hyatt moved to direct Staff to draft the 2022 Annual Action Plan for the use of Community Development Block Grant funds reflecting the award of CDBG funding for the 2022 Program year as follows:**

- \$128,266 to Options for Helping Residents of Ashland
- \$25,000 to Maslow Project School Based Services

**Discussion:** Graham spoke in support of the motion. She spoke that she does serve on the advisory board for Options for Helping Residence of Ashland.

**Hyatt/Seffinger moved to extend the Public Hearing. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mayor Akins opened the Public Hearing at 8:00 PM.**

**Discussion continued on the Motion:**

**Hyatt:** Clarified what the HUD funds are. DuQuenne spoke that she is working with the Maslow Board. She spoke that she has not spoken with the board regarding this topic.

**Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Jensen, Moran, Seffinger, DuQuenne and Graham: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Graham/Seffinger Moved to award of the remaining balance of CDBG CARES act funding as follows:**

- \$40,673 to Options for Helping Residents of Ashland
- \$40,674 to Rogue Retreat Ashland Community Shelter

**For the specific purpose of planning and executing a transition point where the Ashland Community Shelter ceases operations. Discussion:** Graham spoke that there is an incredible amount of people taking care of our neighbors. She spoke that we are now at a point to look at our long-term picture. She spoke to the importance of having a solid transition. Seffinger spoke

in respect to both of the organizations. She spoke to the importance of citizens having a permanent place to go. Mayor Akins spoke in concern of those that have nowhere to go and would not vote for this. DuQuenne spoke regarding opportunities about finding a permanent location for housing for those that need it. Hyatt spoke that there is a future direction regarding families and children. She spoke that we are fortunate that we have a group of providers. She spoke that she will not vote yes to this motion. Moran questioned if OHRA would be amendable to having children and families. Ms. Sinclair spoke that they are a low barrier shelter and serve the highest needs individuals. Seffinger spoke in concern of families with children. Graham explained the intentions of her motion. She spoke in concern in supporting 2 shelters and does not want to see both fail because the resources are not there. She spoke that investments set direction. **Roll Call Vote: Jensen and Graham: YES. DuQuenne, Seffinger, Hyatt and Moran, NO. Motion failed. 2-4.**

**Hyatt/Moran moved to award of the remaining balance of CDBG CARES act funding as follows:**

- \$40,673 to Options for Helping Residents of Ashland
- \$40,674 to Rogue Retreat Ashland Community Shelter

**And request that Council take up a strategy discussion specific to our shelter policy.**

**Discussion:** Hyatt spoke that Council is working hard to make the best possible decision and thanked all Council for their work. Moran spoke in agreement with Hyatt. He spoke to the importance of having open discussions. Seffinger spoke that she is looking forward to options in the future. **Roll Call Vote: DuQuenne, Jensen, Hyatt, Seffinger, Graham and Moran: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mayor Akins closed the Public Hearing at 8:27 PM.**

2. Public Hearing for the award of Housing Trust Funds  
**Mayor Akins opened the Public Hearing at 8:27 PM.**

Ms. Reid gave a brief Staff report.

Ms. Reppond went over the recommendations.

Ms. Reid and Reppond discussed the process in determining the recommendations.

**Jensen/Hyatt moved to direct staff to allocated Affordable Housing Trust Funds as follows:**

- \$60,000 to Habitat Housing Proposal
- \$55,000 to OHRA
- \$55,000 to Rogue Retreat

**Discussion:** None. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Jensen, DuQuenne, Seffinger and Moran: YES. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**XII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

1. Ashland High School Public Art Request

Jensen gave a brief Staff Report and spoke in support of the proposal.

Public Arts Commissioner Cassie Preskenis – Ashland – Spoke in support of the proposal.

Shane Abrams – Ashland – Abrams spoke that he is the Teacher at Ashland High School and Advisor of Truth to Power Club. He requested approval of the request.

Dan Wahpepah – Ashland – Spoke to the background and motivation of the project.

Abrams spoke to the importance of the project. He went over a PowerPoint Presentation. Items discussed were:

- Collaboration with stakeholders
- Visions and logistics
- Sign details
- Project expense and funding sources
- Project timeline.

Council thanked all for their presentation.

**DuQuenne/Seffinger moved to approve the installation of the proposed public art installation at Ashland Highschool. Discussion:** Seffinger spoke stating if they ever want help on future projects let her know. Graham thanked all for this project and spoke in support of the project. **Roll Call Vote: Moran, Seffinger, Hyatt, Graham, DuQuenne and Jensen: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Ashland School District - Community Development Permit Fee Adjustment

Lessard gave a brief Staff Report.

**Jensen/Hyatt moved to approve Resolution 2022-06 which establishes a \$30,000 maximum cap for the Community Development Fee per building permit, for ASD capital projects.**

**Discussion:** Jensen thanked the City Manager and the School District. Hyatt spoke in agreement with Jensen. Moran thanked all parties involved and the importance to work together. DuQuenne questioned how much money the Ashland School Department has paid in fees so far.

Community Development Director Bill Molnar spoke that he would have to look at the spreadsheet to give an exact answer. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Jensen, DuQuenne, Moran, Seffinger and Graham: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **XIII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS**

1. Supplement Budget & Resolution

Interim Finance Director Alison Chan gave a Staff Report.

**Hyatt/Graham moved to adopt Resolution 2022-07 authorizing a 2021/23 supplemental budget. Discussion:** Hyatt thanked Chan for her work. Graham agreed with Hyatt. **Roll Call Vote: DuQuenne, Jensen, Hyatt, Graham, Moran and Seffinger: YES. Motion passed**

unanimously.

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

**XV. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING**

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

**The Business Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

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**City Recorder Melissa Huhtala**

**Attest:**

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**Mayor Akins**

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

**\*\*LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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

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

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Manager's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number 1-*

*800-735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).*



Public Testimony 4/19/22 Note: I removed italicized paragraph because of time constraints  
Linda Peterson Adams  
642 Oak Street

April begins the four month campaign produced and promoted by the Wildfire Commission for Wildfire Preparedness. This month the flyers you can find around town encourage you to Harden your Home. Go to [fireadaptedashland.org](http://fireadaptedashland.org) for more information. Many thanks to the Wildfire Commissioners, their Council Liaison , and their Staff Liaisons from Ashland Fire Department for putting together this essential program.

April is also Volunteer Appreciation Month. Perhaps that is why every April all City Commissioners whose terms of service are coming to an end are asked to either reapply should they want to continue their service to the community or step aside.

It is also a time when it behooves our City to recognize the contributions of these dedicated volunteers and give utmost thanks and recognition for their efforts and to encourage others to step forward to fill vacant positions.

*Most policy decisions made by Council have their beginnings of public deliberation in Citizen Standing Commissions. Commissions learn in detail what options are being considered and how ideas are being structured and how proposals are being formed. In fact, Commissioners are an integral part of public engagement. **A veritable canary mused a past interim City Manager.** They volunteer and commit to three years of study and action and make considered recommendations to the quasi-judicial Planning Commission and/or the Council.*

*At least one Staff member is assigned to work with each advisory commission or board. The staff liaison provides professional guidance, continuity, and insight into City policy and helps research funding sources, the legalities of putting forward action items and code compliance. Councilors, too, are assigned as liaisons to Commissions, completing the circle of communication from Council to Staff through Commissions to Council.*

There are two Commissioners that I know of that I would like to thank tonight who are passing the baton after their service.

Thank you Katherine Danner. Your three years of studied input, combined with your wit and calming influence on the Transportation Commission is much appreciated. And Risa Buck your 100 years of service on the Conservation and Climate Outreach Commission is a study in persistence in helping this community realize the necessity and importance of seemingly small changes that add up to big successes for the Common Good.

These two commissioners, I'm sure, could offer data to back up Mayo clinic research in which it was shown that volunteering provides a sense of purpose which can lower stress and lead to lower levels of depression and anxiety. On the other hand, they might also offer their tales of frustration at the speed of action taken by Council on months of study and research by Staff and Commissions. And while retiring commissioners do not require a pat on the back, it would be kind to acknowledge their service in at least a note from the Mayor.

Vacancies on Commissions had been announced at Council meetings. Currently, (according to the City website)there are vacancies on many of our City's Commissions, including The Transportation, Housing and Human Services, Conservation and Climate Outreach , Wildfire Safety , Forest Lands Tree, Historic, Climate Policy, Public Arts and da-dum Citizen's Budget Committee . Please consider joining with your fellow Citizens in service to our community by engaging where the work of policy implementation actually begins. Apply today

