

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL**

**JUNE 5, 2018**  
Council Chambers  
1175 E. Main Street

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.]

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Stromberg called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Councilor Slattery, Morris, Bachman, Seffinger, Rosenthal and Jensen were present.

**IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Appointment of Councilor Seffinger to Senior Program Advisory Committee

**Slattery/Bachman moved to appoint Councilor Seffinger to the Senior Program Advisory Committee. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Study Session of May 14, 2018
2. Business Meeting of May 15, 2018

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

**VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS**

1. Annual Presentation by the Band Board

Chair of the Band Board, Don Bieghler presented Council with the annual Band Board update.

2. Ashland High School Sister City Representative Presentation

Mayor Stromberg spoke that two high school students were selected to attend Guanajuato, Ashland's sister City.

Photos of the recently completed Guanajuato mural by Denise Baxter were shown (*see attached*).

Public Works Director, Paula Brown will be representing the Mayor at Guanajuato. Ms. Brown spoke that she is honored to be involved in this.

Senora Chela explained that the students were part of 25 applicants and 2 were selected by the Spanish Department, Faculty and Administration. She introduced Uma Maguire and Layla Kenner.

Layla Kenner introduced herself. Born in Honolulu. She spoke that she gained much from the Ashland school system and would like to be an Engineer. She thanked Mayor, Council and her family for this opportunity.

Uma Maguire introduced herself. Born in Berkley. She spoke that her family is strong in culture appreciation. She spoke that she is the president of Key Club and editor of Rogue News. She thanked her support system and is excited to be the best representative of Ashland that she can be.

President of the Amigo Club, Mina Turner spoke to all of the festivities the Amigo Club will be providing the students coming to Ashland.

Seffinger spoke to the importance of the people to people aspect of the sister cities. She thanked Senora Chela for all her work.

Senora Chela explained how the students will be representing Ashland in Guanajuato.

The students performed a traditional dance. Mayor Stromberg thanked all the attendees.

## **VII. MINUTES OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

[Airport](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Forest Lands](#)

[Historic](#)

[Housing and Human Svcs.](#)

[Parks & Recreation](#)

[Planning](#)

[Public Arts](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Tree](#)

[Wildfire Mitigation](#)

## **VIII. PUBLIC FORUM Business from the audience not included on the agenda.**

(Total time allowed for Public Forum is 15 minutes. The Mayor will set time limits to enable all people wishing to speak to complete their testimony.) [*15 minutes maximum*]

Reverend Richenda Fairhurst- Ashland-Spoke that she has served at United Methodist Church in Ashland for 11 Months. She presented Council with a letter (*see attached*). She spoke in concern of the homeless issue. She thanked the Ashland Police Department on how helpful they have been with this issue.

Huelz Gutcheon- Ashland-Spoke regarding CO2 issues. Spoke that Ashland and the rest of the world keeps adding carbon dioxide to the mix. He spoke to ways about working on fixing this issue.

## **IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Commission Reappointments
2. Appointment of Public Arts Commission
3. Appointment of Conservation Commission
4. Appointment of Housing and Human Services Commission
5. Appointment of Wildfire Mitigation Commission
6. Acceptance of Third Quarter Financial Report

Slattery pulled this item.

Administrative Services Director, Mark Welch gave a Staff report. He spoke that everything remains in compliance with the Budget through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. He spoke that the Central Services are right at where they were the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of the last biennium.

Mr. Welch explained the Health Insurance Plan changes.

Slattery suggested to have quarterly reports on the Regular Agenda instead of Consent Agenda.

Rosenthal questioned if the City Budget is healthy at this point of the biennium or in financial crisis. Mr. Welch spoke that where the budget is at today it is in good shape. He also explained that in the future there may be some issues with PERS.

### **7. Contract Approval for City Hall Concept/Design Service**

Slattery pulled this item.

Public Works Director, Paula Brown gave a Staff report. She explained that the quote of \$97,085 was for City Hall Concepts, Design and Construction Services for Phase 1 of City Hall in its current location, Civic Center, and Briscoe School.

Slattery spoke in concern with this item. He spoke that he would like more information as to where this is going. Slattery spoke in concern of continuing to add fees and taxes and spoke that there needs to be more planning.

Council discussed removing the Briscoe location.

Council discussed the dangers of the current City Hall location.

Rosenthal thanked Ms. Brown for her work on this issue. He spoke to the importance of fixing the current problems at City Hall. He spoke to the importance of due diligence and needing consultants.

Jensen spoke in agreement with Rosenthal. Bachman questioned the cost difference if Briscoe was removed from the quote. Ms. Brown spoke that it would drop some but not a full 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Morris discussed the option of retrofitting the current City Hall, moving the Community Development Department to the Civic Center and selling the current Community Development building.

Rosenthal spoke that data needs to be done so the citizens can see all options were looked at and based on the data the best possible decision can be made.

**Rosenthal/Slattery moved to pull item 7 from Consent and place it on June 19<sup>th</sup> Council Business Meeting Agenda. Rosenthal amended his motion to place this item on the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Business Meeting Agenda. Slattery agreed.** Discussion: Slattery spoke that this is an important conversation that needs to be had. Jensen, Seffinger and Morris spoke in support of the motion. Ms. Brown suggested that Council send any questions to her within the next week. Slattery suggested information on the least cost option. **Roll Call Vote: Rosenthal, Seffinger, Jensen, Morris, Bachman and Slattery: YES. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Brown spoke that she would bring back a cost comparison.

8. Contract Approval for ESRI-GIS Annual Licensing
9. Award Professional Engineering Contract-FERC Park 12
10. Contract Approval for Software Licensing Renewal
11. Adoption of Proposed Economic Development, Cultural, Tourism and Sustainability Grants Ad-Hoc Committee Allocation Recommendations

Seffinger/Bachman/Rosenthal pulled this item.

Seffinger commended Paula Hyatt on her job as the Committee Chair. She spoke to the difficulty in making the decisions they made. She spoke that there were so many great groups deserving of the money but there was not enough to give all.

Bachman agreed with Seffinger. She commended the Committee and their hard work.

Rosenthal commended Ms. Hyatt and Staff. He spoke that there were 31 applicants for \$229,000 of funding available with the total asking amount being \$600,000. He spoke to the uniqueness of Ashland and the importance of the grant process for the Community.

**Rosenthal/Morris moved to approve the Consent Agenda with item 7 removed. Discussion: None. All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**X. PUBLIC HEARINGS** (Persons wishing to speak are to submit a “speaker request form” prior to the commencement of the public hearing. Public hearings shall conclude at 9:00 p.m. and be 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 10:30 p.m. at which time the Council shall set a date for continuance and shall proceed with the balance of the agenda.)

1. Miscellaneous Fees Update

Interim City Administrator, Adam Hanks gave a Staff report.

Bachman spoke in appreciations of the examples submitted in the packet so Community



members can understand the need for fee increases.

Rosenthal questioned the sidewalk dining annual renewal fee discrepancies. He suggested that this gets analyzed. Ms. Brown spoke she would bring this item back to Council on July 3<sup>rd</sup> as an amendment.

Slattery questioned the marijuana operational permit setup fee. Fire Marshal, Ralph Sartain explained that the marijuana process is very specific and done through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor. He spoke that the service is reviewed every 6 months.

Mayor Stromberg opened the Public Hearing at 8:35 PM

Public Input:

None.

Mayor Stromberg closed the Public Hearing at 8:35 PM

**Morris/Jensen moved approval of the Resolution titled, A Resolution Adopting a Miscellaneous Fees & Charges Document and Repealing Prior Fee Resolution 2017-12. Discussion:** None. **Voice Vote:** All Ayes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Public Hearing and Adoption of a Resolution Levying Taxes for the Period of July 1, 2018 to and including June 30, 2019

This item was moved to the next Council Business Meeting.

3. Public Hearing and Adoption for Resolution Certifying City Provides Sufficient Municipal Services to Qualify for State Subventions and a Resolution Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues

Mr. Welch gave a Staff report. He explained that this is done annually.

Mayor Stromberg opened the Public Hearing at 8:37 PM

Public Input:

None.

Mayor Stromberg closed the Public Hearing at 8:37 PM

**Slattery/Rosenthal moved to approve a Resolution titled "Resolution Certifying City Provides Sufficient Municipal Services to Qualify for State Subventions." Discussion:** Rosenthal spoke to the importance of State funding. **Voice Vote:** All Ayes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Slattery/Morris moved to approve a resolution titled, "A Resolution Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues" Discussion:** Slattery spoke to the importance of State

Revenues. **Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. None

**XII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

1. None

**XIII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS**

1. Transportation Utility Fee Resolution Adjustment

Ms. Brown spoke regarding an error in the last Utility Fee Schedule and the need for an amendment.

**Rosenthal/Bachman moved approval of a Resolution adopting a transportation utility fee schedule pursuant to Ashland Municipal Code Section 4.26 and repealing Resolution 2018-11. Discussion: None. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Ordinance Amending AMC 4.24.020 Allowing for the Tax Imposed to be set by Resolution with the Intent to Increase the Transient Occupancy Tax to 10 percent

Mr. Welch gave a staff report. He explained that this would allow to change tax by Resolution instead of Ordinance.

**Bachman/Jensen moved to approve First Reading, and placement on a future Council meeting agenda for Second Reading, of the proposed Ordinance designated as Attachment A titled “An Ordinance Amending AMC 4.24.020, Increasing the Transient Occupancy Tax”. Discussion:** Bachman spoke that this will allow flexibility to do what is needed. Slattery spoke that he is not in favor of the motion. He spoke that he would like Council to consider bringing this item back to a future meeting. He spoke in support for more Police Officers but not in this way. He spoke that this will cause stresses to the General Fund. He suggested Council discuss the General Fund and Strategic Planning before making this decision. Morris clarified that rate setting will happen at the second reading. Bachman spoke in support of the motion but agreed with Slattery that the General Fund needs to be discussed. **Roll Call Vote: Rosenthal, Seffinger, Jensen, Bachman and Morris: YES. Slattery: NO. Motion passed 5-1.**

Slattery suggested to direct Staff to have a joint meeting with Council and the Budget Committee to discuss the General Fund. Mr. Welch explained that the June 18 Study Session Meeting is with Budget Committee and the General Fund will be discussed. He spoke that financial concerns, Central Services, and current budget will also be discussed.

Letters were submitted into the record (*see attached*).

3. Second Reading of an Ordinance amending the Comprehensive Plan Map Designation and Zoning for the properties located at 475 East Nevada Street

Derek Severson gave a Staff report. Mayor Stromberg asked if there were any changes to the Ordinance. Mr. Severson answered no.

**Morris/Bachman moved approval of the second reading by title only of “An Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Plan Map Designation and Zoning for the Properties Located at 475 East Nevada Street” and adoption of the ordinance. Discussion:** Rosenthal spoke in support of the Ordinance. **Roll Call Vote: Rosenthal, Jensen, Seffinger, Bachman, Morris and Slattery: YES. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

Each Councilor announced they did not have any ex parte contact.

**Morris/Jensen moved to adopt written findings for approval of Planning Action #2017-02129. Discussion:** None. **Roll Call Vote: Rosenthal, Jensen, Seffinger, Bachman, Morris and Slattery: YES. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Second Reading of an Ordinance annexing property withdrawing an annexed area from Jackson County Fire District

**Slattery/Morris moved approval of the second reading by title only of “An Ordinance Annexing Property and Withdrawing an Annexed Area from Jackson County Fire District No. 5” Discussion:** None. **Roll Call Vote: Rosenthal, Jensen, Seffinger, Bachman, Morris and Slattery: YES. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

Each Councilor announced they did not have any ex parte contact.

**Slattery/Morris moved to adopt written findings for approval of Planning Action #2018-00154.” Discussion:** None. **Roll Call Vote: Jensen, Seffinger, Bachman, Rosenthal, Morris and Slattery: YES. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

**Seffinger announced that the watershed art piece “Elevation” will be installed in June.**

**Slattery announced SOU softball team came one game short of national championship.**

**Seffinger announced that Slattery will be a speaker at the SOU Graduation.**

**Rosenthal announced that there will be a welcome breakfast sponsored later this month for Guanajuato.**

#### **XV. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING**

**The Business Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

---

**City Recorder, Melissa Huhtala**

**Attest:**

---

**Mayor Stromberg**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator'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).*









An open letter to the people and leaders of Ashland and the Rogue Valley:

We, the Interfaith Clergy Circle of Ashland, Oregon, raise a call to action on behalf of our homeless and at-risk neighbors here in Ashland and beyond. We are one neighborhood, one community, stretching town to town across the Rogue Valley. We call all people of good heart to come together to cultivate compassion for each other, rich and poor, young and wise, hopeful and despairing.

We recognize a deep and growing need in our community for all to have access to clean water, sustaining food, safe shelter, and basic medical care.

*"You have within you more love than you could ever understand." Rumi*

We entreat those with comfort to give comfort to those in need. We entreat those with full bellies to fill the bellies of the hungry. We entreat those with safe shelter free of fear or cold or heat or harm to share in the building of a place of shelter for those in need to rest their burdens, shower, recuperate, and heal from the trauma of living on the street. We entreat the whole community to take the action needed to build, fund, and sustainably operate a shelter for men, women and children, the elderly, open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, local and accessible to those in need.

There is a real and sustained need for a shelter where community members and caseworkers can build fruitful relationships; a central location where community can be forged and recovery can begin; a central location where guests can count on a place to sleep, a respite from summer smoke and heat, a warm place to escape the snow and ice, and a place from which sustainable housing can be found and a more stable life can grow.

Such a shelter must be in the community it will serve. In a community shelter, caseworkers can be mindful of the needs of the residents of that community—keeping children in school and those in need near their networks of support. Shelter provides the consistent rest and stability for employed adults to responsibly maintain their jobs, even when they don't earn enough money to rent their own residences. Caseworkers must be prepared to offer trained and sustained assistance for those with disabilities and mental illness, and in this way, achievable goals can be set in the healing of illness, addiction, poverty, and abandonment. Food, water, and shelter are universal rights given to every person as a child of God. Such care and provision is a spiritual and moral obligation. The mandates of compassion and care of neighbor unite all faiths, wisdoms, and disciplines. Providing adequate housing to everyone is a religious duty in Judaism. Most famous among these texts is Isaiah's prophetic cry to "take the poor into your homes." For Christians, Jesus says "feed the poor, clothe the naked, comfort the sick." For the spiritual but not religious, we ask: What does the spiritual involve in terms of taking action? How is the Spirit the agent for a better world? For the humanist, we call for action to uplift humanity.

*"May we resolve to dedicate our life to the service of humankind,  
and uplift them to Divinity." Yajur Veda*



We applaud the efforts over many years of the many hundreds of leaders, professionals, and volunteers who have taken action across Ashland and the Rogue Valley to alleviate suffering and build relationships across income levels. As a community, we are all in this together. We share accountability to the life we live and choose. If we walk by the one in need, what are we accountable to? For every person is a person of sacred worth, and every voice deserves to be heard. We believe we are in a time of great opportunity. The need for day and night shelter is clear. We ask for the generosity of the comfortable, the stewardship of the professional, the compassion of the faithful, and the leadership of the political. We need one place. A sustaining place. A transforming place. A uniting place. In the face of years of effort by churches, leaders, and community members, it is unconscionable to imagine November arriving and there still not being a place for our homeless neighbors.

We ask for compassion. We call for action. Be a signatory to this letter, donate, or volunteer. Act. For, in a community fractured by want, we must come together as one people, one community, one standard of care, one outpouring of faith.

*"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." St. Augustine*

Signed,  
Ashland Interfaith Clergy Circle

Rev. Richenda Fairhurst,  
Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Ashland  
[revrichenda@ashlandmethodist.org](mailto:revrichenda@ashlandmethodist.org)

Rev. Dan Fowler  
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Ashland  
[revfowler@yahoo.com](mailto:revfowler@yahoo.com)

Rabbi Julie Benioff  
Temple Emek Shalom

Rabbi Joshua Boettiger  
Temple Emek Shalom

Rev. Norma J. Burton  
Unity in Ashland Church  
Circle of Trust Healing Center

Rev. Pandora Canton  
Chaplain Asante Ashland Community Hospital and Asante Hospice

Rev. Sean Parker Dennison,  
Developmental Minister, Rogue Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rosanna Ferraro-Jensen  
Chaplain, Asante Hospice

The Very Rev. Fr. Tony Hutchinson, SCP, Ph.D.  
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church  
Dean, Southern Oregon Convocation of Episcopal Churches

Rev. Christina G. Kukuk  
First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC)

Rev. Allan Miles  
Deacon, St. Martin's Episcopal Church

Alex Reid and Bob Morse,  
South Mountain Friends Meeting Shelter Coordinators

Rev. Liz Olson, M.Div, BCC  
Chaplain for Providence Medford Medical Center and Rogue Valley Manor  
Pioneer Hall overnight host

Rev. Paula Sohl,  
Associate Minister, First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC)

Rabbi David Zaslow  
Havurah Synagogue

The Rev. Meredith Ayer Pech  
Deacon, Trinity Episcopal Church, Ashland

The Rev. Tom Buechele,  
Priest-in-charge, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Shady Cove

The Rev. Bert A. Anderson,  
Associate Priest, Trinity Episcopal Church.

Addie Green,  
Citizen, Ashland, Oregon.

Patricia Morrison,  
Clerk, South Mountain Friends Meeting (Quakers)

Shirley Patton  
Member, First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

The Rev. Morgan Silbaugh  
Trinity Episcopal, Ashland



Marcia Hunter,  
Member First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

The Rev. Mary Piper  
Episcopal Priest and Chaplain, Ashland

Dr. Bruce and Carolyn Johnson

Coyote Marie Hunter-ripper  
Cherokee Traditional Practitioner  
Member, First United Methodist Church of Ashland.

Karen Amarotico,  
First Presbyterian Church Shelter  
Coordinator.

Virginia King  
Member, First Presbyterian Church Ashland

Margie Lininger,  
First Presbyterian Church, Ashland

Rev. Caren Caldwell  
United Church of Christ minister, retired





Beth Neufeld &lt;bethneufeld1153@gmail.com&gt;

---

**New Tax - City Counsel Meeting 6/5/18**

---

**Sarah Challman** <srchallman@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 4, 2018 at 8:59 PM

To: Beth Neufeld &lt;bethneufeld1153@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Second Street &lt;2ndstreetcottages@gmail.com&gt;, Val Bachmayer &lt;relax@ashlandguestcottages.com&gt;, Lois Van Aken &lt;vanaken@mtashland.net&gt;, Corinne Lombardi &lt;ashlandvacationrentals@msn.com&gt;, Ashland Main Street Inn &lt;amsinn@jeffnet.org&gt;, Ben Bryan &lt;benjamin.bryan@gmail.com&gt;

I'm concerned about all of this as well. Unfortunately I have to teach tomorrow and then have things going on tomorrow night so can't make the meeting.

My two cents: It isn't that I even mind the increase too much, but this implementation of it is absolutely ridiculous. Why can't they do it during the off season and not worry about the reservations already made?? Thanks for at least discussing this, all. I'm sorry I can't be there in person, but greatly appreciate anyone who is able to go.

Sarah

On Jun 4, 2018, at 8:48 PM, Beth Neufeld <bethneufeld1153@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]



City Council/June 5, 2018

*Beth Newfeld*

My name is , owner of the 1900 Guest Houses, a vacation rentals. I am one of the silent majority....still working and on medicare. I do not own my vacation rentals, I lease them. This is my livelihood. My concerns is the costs increase we are putting on the tourist industry. We have a meal tax, OSF increased ticket fees, and now the consideration of the transient tax increase. There may be a point where people may go elsewhere to experience a charming small town with its specialties.

*I am concerned about the future tourist industry here in Ashland - I am passionate about this industry, but how far can we go with increased costs!*

*Cell # 541-821-4287*





Beth Neufeld &lt;bethneufeld1153@gmail.com&gt;

---

**New Tax - City Counsel Meeting 6/5/18**

---

Lois VanAken &lt;vanaken@mtashland.net&gt;

Tue, Jun 5, 2018 at 8:47 AM

To: Second Street &lt;2ndstreetcottages@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Val Ashland Guest Cottages <relax@ashlandguestcottages.com>, Corinne Lombardi <ashlandvacationrentals@msn.com>, Beth Neufeld <bethneufeld1153@gmail.com>, Ashland Lynn Main Street Inn <amsinn@jeffnet.org>, Ben Bryan <benjamin.bryan@gmail.com>, Sarah Challman <srchallman@gmail.com>

Hi all,

It would be good for at least a few of us to attend and voice concerns. I have a another political type meeting to attend to tonight already so I can not go.

It would be an ideal opportunity to also voice concerns that the city needs to keep on top of illegal operations that do not collect and remit TOT.

They have a responsibility to tax payers, guests and legit business owners to uphold their own laws.

Lois

[Quoted text hidden]



Expressing concern about proposed TOT increase beginning July 1, 2018. I own and manage a legal vacation rental property in down town Oakland. Three years ago there were 130 available vacation rentals in Oakland; today there are over 300 hotels on Airbnb - many of these are "illegal," operating without proper licensing, oversight and certainly not contributing to TOT. The city has failed to enforce compliance & the tourists are often being ripped off. Tourists have expressed to me that after many years of coming annually to Oakland, increased crime, the transient activity, and feeling that they are carrying the unfair load of city taxes, they no longer want to come here.

My own revenue is way down from last year as many guests can find much cheaper accommodations from residents not in compliance. This increase is not even going to support these issues & the "business owners who are dedicated to doing it right & and being in compliance. If you must raise the tax it should at least benefit the tourist industry here - the backbone of this community."

Crime, homeless, etc. will drive away the business - continually driving our guests while allowing their experience here to continually diminish is killing the goose laying the golden eggs -

Thank you!

Debra