

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

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

**Note: Written and oral testimony will be accepted for public input. For written testimony, email [public-testimony@ashland.or.us](mailto:public-testimony@ashland.or.us) using the subject line: October 6 Business Meeting Testimony. Those who wish to give oral testimony can fill out a Speaker Request Form at [ashland.or.us/speakerrequest](http://ashland.or.us/speakerrequest) and return it to the City Recorder. The deadline for submitting written testimony or speaker request forms will be on Monday, October 5 at 10 a.m. All Public Forum comments will comply with Council Rules; otherwise they will not be included in the Agenda or Council Minutes.**

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 Business Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

Councilors' Slattery, Graham, Akins, Seffinger, Jensen and Rosenthal were present.

**IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**VI. Business Meeting of September 15, 2020**

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

**VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS**

1. Proclamation for Indigenous Peoples' Day

Slattery read the proclamation into the record (*see attached*).

**VIII. MINUTES OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

<a href="#">Airport</a>	<a href="#">Budget</a>	<a href="#">Conservation</a>
<a href="#">Historic</a>	<a href="#">Housing and Human Svcs.</a>	<a href="#">Parks &amp; Recreation</a>
<a href="#">Forest Lands</a>	<a href="#">Climate Policy</a>	<a href="#">Cost Review</a>
<a href="#">Planning</a>	<a href="#">Public Arts</a>	<a href="#">Transportation</a>
<a href="#">Tree</a>	<a href="#">Wildfire Mitigation</a>	

**IX. 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] *See note above for how to submit testimony for Public Forum.***

## **X. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Interim City Administrator Adam Hanks gave a report (*see attached*).

Items discussed were:

- Alameda Fire Debrief.
- Emergency Housing Update.
- Expanded Access to EV Charging.
- State Eviction Moratorium Extension.
- Look Ahead.

## **XI. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. League of Oregon Cities Annual Membership Meeting Voting Delegate  
**Slattery/Jensen moved to approve Councilor Graham as the voting delegate for the LOC annual membership meeting. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Annual Liquor License Renewals  
Rosenthal pulled this item. Police Chief Tighe O'Meara gave a staff report.

**Rosenthal/Graham moved to not recommend approval of Stop and Shop Liquor License.**  
Discussion: Rosenthal thanked the Police Department for their diligence. **Roll Call Vote: Slattery, Graham, Seffinger, Rosenthal and Jensen: YES. Akins: NO.**

3. Appointment of Ed Wight to the Band Board

**Jensen/Rosenthal moved to appoint Ed Wight to the Band Board. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**XII. 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 8:00 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 9:30 p.m. at which time the Council shall set a date for continuance and shall proceed with the balance of the agenda.)

## **XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Annual Appointment to the Citizens' Budget Committee

Council appointed Paula Hyatt and Bob Kaplan to the Citizens' Budget Committee (*see attached*).

2. Oregon Worker Relief Fund Discussion

Hanks gave brief Staff Report. Graham Discussed the item.

**Akins/Graham moved for Staff to send letter of support in worker relief in Covid 19 and addition funding due to fire. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Pioneer Hall and Community Center Facility Improvements Proposal

Interim Public Works Director Scott Fleury gave a Staff Report.

**Jensen/Graham moved approval of the development of a three phased qualifications-based selection request for proposal for engineering and architectural services for required repairs and reconstruction of both Pioneer Hall and Community Center. Discussion:** Jensen spoke in support of the good work of this project. Graham spoke in agreement. **Roll Call Vote: Slattery, Graham, Akins, Seffinger, Rosenthal and: YES. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

**XIV. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

1. Award of Housing Trust Fund and Community Development Block Grants

Housing Program Specialist Linda Reid gave a Staff report.

**Public Speakers:**

**Cass Sinclair**-Options for Helping Residents of Ashland.

**Brian Kelly Shelton** – Neighbor Works Umpqua

**Mary Ferrell and Corrie Summerfled**-Maslow Project

Each speaker gave a background of their organization.

Council discussed options.

**Seffinger/Jensen moved to award \$43,000 to Neighbor Works Umpqua in Ashland Housing Trust Funds; award \$173,983 to Options for Helping Residents of Ashland and \$60,000 to Maslow Project using a combination of Ashland Housing Trust Funds and Community Development Block Grant -Coronavirus funding; as well as other federal funding. Discussion:** Seffinger and Jensen spoke in support of the motion. Graham spoke to the importance of the opportunity to act on funds that have to be on this type of work. Akins spoke in support of the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Graham, Seffinger, Akins, Rosenthal and Jensen: YES. Motion passes unanimously.**

**XV. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS**

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

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING**

The Business Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**City Recorder Melissa Huhtala**

**Attest**

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**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).*

## PROCLAMATION

- The City Council of the City of Ashland recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands (later known as the Americas) have lived on these lands since time immemorial.
- The City Council honors the fact that the community of Ashland is built upon the traditional homelands of the Takelma, Shasta and Klamath Basin Peoples and affirms the legal rights of the nine federally recognized tribal nations in the State of Oregon and all Indigenous Peoples everywhere.
- Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous populations in the Americas.
- The City of Ashland is committed to protecting and advocating for justice, human rights, and the dignity of all people who live, work and visit in Ashland, and to supporting the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the "Declaration") endorsed by the United States on December 16, 2010.
- The Declaration recognizes the right of Indigenous Peoples "to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information," and places an obligation on States to "take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous Peoples and all other segments of society".
- On August 1, 2017, the Ashland City Council unanimously approved a resolution establishing the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day as an opportunity for the community to reflect on the ongoing struggles of Indigenous People of this land, to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region, and to stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples everywhere
- Furthermore, the resolution encourages other businesses, organizations and public institutions to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day in Ashland the second Monday of each October.

NOW THEREFORE, THE City Council and Mayor, on behalf of the citizens of Ashland, hereby proclaim October 12, 2020 as:

"Indigenous Peoples' Day"

in the City of Ashland and encourage all residents, businesses, organizations and public institutions to acknowledge, honor, value and celebrate Indigenous Peoples' historic and current contributions locally and beyond, while also recognizing the ongoing and interconnected struggles of all Indigenous communities locally and beyond.

Signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.

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John Stromberg, Mayor

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Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder



# City Administrator's Report

Adam Hanks, Interim City Administrator

**OCTOBER 6, 2020**

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

## ALMEDA FIRE DEBRIEF

City staff from various departments have just recently wrapped up different elements of the response phase of the Almeda Fire and are moving into the recovery phase. A key element of this transition is to undertake an After Action Review of the event.

This is a standard step taken as part of any event that triggered the establishment of our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and a particular structure is called out in the City's Emergency Management Plan.

Because the event quickly became regional in scope, the City's debrief process will also be reliant upon and also improved by regional participation from other agencies like Jackson County, Oregon Department of Transportation and others. This extends the timeline for the completion of the process and the final report, but it is essential in understanding improvements that can be made both within our City operations and in our coordinated efforts with our regional partners.

Also critical in this process is engagement and input from our local community. A survey was released today to gather input from the community with a focus on communication and evacuation.

The survey can be found at: <https://www.opentownhall.com/9809>

City staff is coordinating our after action review process with the Jackson County EOC, who is the primary responsible entity for this regional emergency event. If additional community input is solicited through Jackson County EOC, City staff will be sure to make those opportunities known and available to our community.

General information on the Almeda fire can be found at [www.ashland.or.us/almedafire](http://www.ashland.or.us/almedafire).

## EMERGENCY HOUSING UPDATE

In response to the immediate short-term housing needs as a result of the Almeda fire, an executive order was issued October 1, 2020 allowing for temporary use of Recreational Vehicles (RV's) and also expanded allowed uses of hotel and motel rooms.

To host an RV on a private lot, there are conditions that must be met including, but not limited to:

- No more than one RV on lots smaller than .5 acres
- RV occupants must have access to sanitation facilities
- RV's must be parked on a hardscaped surface such as concrete or gravel
- Lot structures and the RV must comply with Fire Codes
- RV's must be registered and current with the State of Oregon
- On lots over .5 acres, more than one RV may be approved with an acceptable site plan addressing sanitation, utilities, spacing, affordability, and aesthetics.

For Hotels and motels wanting to rent rooms for more than 30 days, there are conditions that must be met including, but not limited to:

- Fully comply with Fire and Building Codes
- Get City permits for any remodeling or construction needed
- Have written consent of the operator of the facility
- Submit a copy of agreements to rent rooms over 30 days, exempting payments from the City's Transient Occupancy Tax.

City staff continues to actively participate in regional planning efforts to address short, mid and long-term housing needs within the region being led by Jackson County.

### EXPANDED ACCESS TO EV CHARGING

City of Ashland has expanded and upgraded public vehicle charging downtown. The new charging area features 10 upgraded Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) chargers. The charging stations are located in the Pioneer parking lot at the corner of 175 Lithia Way and Pioneer Streets. Local stakeholders inaugurated the new charging stations with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 5 pm on Friday, October 2.

Electrifying transportation is a key strategy in the City's Climate and Energy Action Plan and the new charging area is designed to lower barriers for drivers who switch to electric. There is no sign up process and no fee to pay—just park and plug in! Ashland Electric is able to offer no-fee charging thanks in part to funds from the Oregon Clean Fuels Program which is designed to lower the carbon intensity of transportation fuels around the state.

Highlights of the project include:

- This project is expected to generate approximately \$24,000 annually in electricity sales for the City's Electric Utility, based on estimated EV uptake influenced by the availability of public charging. Of that annual revenue, 20 percent goes into the general fund.
- Public charging investments, operations, and maintenance costs are more than offset by the City's participation in the State Clean Fuels program.
- Public response to the chargers has been overwhelmingly positive.
- The City can start charging a fee for public charging at any time.
- Climate action does require financial investment and the cost of doing nothing is far higher.
- Transportation electrification is one of the key pathways for Ashland to reduce climate altering emissions.
- Providing low-barrier (no-fee) charging is a proven method for equitably increasing access to zero emission vehicles.
- The City is fortunate to operate our own electric utility and our carbon emissions and general fund benefits from transportation electrification.



### STATE EVICTION MORATORIUM EXTENDED

Governor Brown has created a new moratorium on residential evictions starting September 30 until December 31, 2020. The moratorium closely follows House Bill 4213 which ends on September 30, 2020. The new moratorium has been put in place to address the aftermath of the wildfires and continued COVID-19 pandemic.

Landlords cannot evict tenants for non-payment of rent or other charges described in the rental agreement from April 1 to December 31, 2020, give a tenant a termination notice without cause, charge a fee, or report a tenant as delinquent to a credit reporting agency. Tenants are still responsible to pay rent and other charges, but cannot be evicted during the moratorium if they are unable to pay the full amount each month.

[Click here for Tenant and Landlord resources](#) including rental and utility assistance programs.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### October 20—Business Meeting

- COVID-19 Emergency Declaration
- Approval of a Contract for Utility Printing and Mailing Services
- Public Hearing and First Reading of Open Space Ordinance Amendment
- Public Hearing for Resolution to Grant an Exemption for the APRC Japanese Garden Contract Approval
- First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Ashland Municipal Code for City Manager Charter Change

**CITIZENS' BUDGET COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT TALLY SHEET**

	Councilor Slattery	Councilor Graham	Councilor Akins	Mayor Stromberg	Councilor Seffinger	Councilor Rosenthal	Councilor Jensen	Total
Ellen Alphonso		x						<b>1</b>
Jim Falkenstein			x					<b>1</b>
Paula Hyatt	x	x		x	x	x	x	<b>6</b>
Bob Kaplan	x			x	x	x	x	<b>5</b>
Jessica Kensinger								<b>0</b>
Kristen Roy								<b>0</b>
David Runkel			x					<b>1</b>
James Whitaker								<b>0</b>