

**MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING
ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
Friday, June 30, 2017
3:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 1175 East Main Street**

Call to Order

Mayor Stromberg called the Special Meeting to order at 3:03 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Members Present

Councilor Darrow
Councilor Lemhouse
Councilor Morris
Councilor Slattery
Councilor Seffinger
Councilor Rosenthal

Members Absent

Public Forum

None.

Discussion of funding options for additional police officers

Finance Director, Mark Welsh gave a presentation on the options provided in the packet (*see attached*).

He explained the 4 options: No additional Police officers, no property tax increase, property tax increase or reduce other fund expenditures.

If no property tax increase would have to increase electric and water or increase Property Tax 4.5 cents.

Public Hearing

Mayor Stromberg opened the Public Hearing at 3:15 PM

Mary Ruth Wooding- 727 Park St., Ashland - Spoke that Ashland is getting too expensive to live. She spoke that we have a budget committee for a reason. She suggested to only fund 3 Police Officers.

Roy Lained-419 Willow Ashland – Spoke that as a member of this community we should have to pay for services and that raising property tax is best alternative. He spoke that we need to adequately fund our Police Department.

Jean Conger - 370 Glenn St., Ashland - Spoke in support of the Budget Committees decision. She spoke of the need for Police Officers but suggested finding the money another way.

Betsy Shanafelt - 572 Holly St., Ashland - Spoke opposed to tax rate increases. She explained the population has not grown and the City does not need 5 new Police Officers.

Carola Lacy - 85 Park St. Apt. #10 Ashland – Read a letter into the record (*see attached*).

Andrew Kubik – 1251 Munson Dr., Ashland - Spoke regarding staffing. He suggested doing a staffing comparison study with other cities. He stated he supports the Budget Committee’s findings and is against rate increases.

Karen O’Rourke – 742 Fairway Ct., Ashland - Spoke against tax increases and agreed with what the other citizens have said.

Douglas Smith – 60 Granite St., Ashland – He spoke that Council needs to listen to the Budget Committee. He suggested hiring 2 Police Officers at this time and work up to 5 over time. He spoke that a tax increase would hurt all property owners.

Marilyn Briggs – 590 Glenview Dr., Ashland – Suggested that Council read the letters from Carol Voison and Russ Silbiger. She explained that Administration costs have increased twice as much in the last 2 years. She spoke in support of the Budget Committee.

Mark DiRienzo – 1005 Timberline Terrace – Ashland - Read a letter into the record (*see attached*).

Shaun Moran – 615 Taylor St., Ashland - Spoke that he was a member of the Budget Committee and voted against rate increases. He explained his reasons why. He spoke that the Council should support the Budget Committees decision.

Barbara Combs - 444 Park Ridge Pl., Ashland – Suggested to raise room tax instead of property tax. She explained that would be more fair to the Citizens since Ashland is a tourist town.

Susan Hall - 210 East Nevada Ashland– Read a letter into the record (*see attached*).

Paula Hyatt – 625 Van Sant St., Ashland - Spoke that she was on the Budget Committee. She explained that she voted to keep the tax rate flat. She spoke that in support for the Police Officers. She spoke that she would of have voted no had she known there would have been this meeting tonight.

Salagon Amery - 419 Waterline Rd., Ashland- Thanked Council for their work. Spoke in concerns of excess spending. Advised Council to consider other alternatives to pay for Police Officers.

Debra Neisewander – Tax Lot 1700 (1159 Tolman) Ashland - Spoke regarding measure 50. Spoke opposed for hiring more Police Officers, tax increases or utility rates.

Heidi Parker – 344 Bridge St., Ashland – Spoke to not approve increase in utility rates until the public can speak. She explained that she worked for the school district and had to cut the budget for 8 years. Cuts are necessary not raising taxes. She spoke that community involvement is important and that Council takes advice from the Public Commissions and Committees.

Huelz Gutcheon- 2253 HWY 99 – Spoke regarding the importance of having Police Officers and to address climate change.

Mayor Stromberg closed the Public Hearing at 4:04 PM

Discussion:

Councilor Rosenthal questioned how the phase in hiring process would go. Chief O'Meara explained the process and spoke that 2 Officers would be hired by the end of July. He explained there are 4 patrol teams. Hiring 5 additional Police officers would allow for one additional officer for each patrol team and one officer for the re-engagement with the school resource officer program.

Councilor Slattery asked if policing is more complex than a few years ago. Chief O'Meara answered that it is more complex and that the population has increased from 18,000 to 21,000. Tourism has increased as well as the student body. He explained that the case load, calls for service and response time have all gone up.

Chief O'Meara explained that the cost to hire an officer with wages and benefits is \$110,000 per year. The Police Department can absorb all other costs except for personnel. Mayor Stromberg asked if there was an incident at the Plaza and another across town with the current coverage who takes the call. Chief O'Meara answered that PD has excellent partnerships with Talent, Phoenix, Medford, County and State PD. He explained that even with the partnerships it is still important to hire the officers needed to ensure the best job for Ashland. He gave examples of being shorthanded. He spoke that in 4 weeks there was 9 times that only 1 officer was on duty to handle all Ashland business. Chief O'Meara explained that being short staffed is also dangerous for the Officer and the criminal if there is an altercation.

Police Officer shifts was discussed. Chief O'Meara spoke that there should be 2 officers/1000. With this ration Ashland should have 40 officers and currently there are only 23.

Mayor Stromberg addressed the suggestion to cut social service grants. He spoke to the importance of keeping this service for the City. Quality of life in Ashland draws in 300,000 visitors and it is important to look at everything and prioritize.

Councilor Slattery moved to not fund the 5 police officers using an increase in property tax or metered city surcharge. Councilor Seffinger seconded. Discussion: Councilor Slattery spoke in support for the need of 5 Police Officers. He spoke regarding issues of the budget process. He spoke that he is not in favor of increasing property tax or city surcharge. He doesn't think that the \$285-million-dollar budget has been tightened so much that there is no way to fund the Police Officers within the City's resources. He spoke to the importance of knowing how much the marijuana tax will be before making a decision as well what the legislature is going to do. Councilor Seffinger spoke that this is a difficult decision because she understands the burden of extra taxes. She spoke regarding the difficulties to prioritize and fund everything. She spoke that public safety and the safety of the Police Officers is a moral duty for the Council to support. Councilor Darrow spoke in opposition of the motion. She explained that the Council approved hiring 5 Police Officers in April. She spoke that her motion to increase property taxes was a way to keep the commitment that Council had already made to the Police Department. Councilor Lemhouse spoke that going against the Budget Committee was not a good decision and Council should not be here today. He explained that Council is part of the Budget Committee and work well together. He explained he is not in support of changing the tax rate and his reasons why. He spoke to the importance of having the Police Department adequately staffed. He does not support the motion regarding no utility fee increase. He spoke that a utility fee increase would be the fairest way to fund this since it is a rate based utility fee. He would also like to see the marijuana tax first. Councilor Morris disagreed with Councilor Lemhouse and spoke that he would prefer a property tax increase instead of a utility fee increase. He spoke that he would like to set aside property tax for PERS. He also spoke that since the marijuana tax is still unknown he would like to start with hiring 2 Police officers. Councilor Rosenthal spoke that he cannot support the motion. He spoke on how to define the

City's priorities. Would like to look at creating revenue streams. He spoke regarding the need for the Police Officers and that Ashland needs to stop using other Cities for their Public Safety.

Councilor Slattery spoke that his motion was not suggesting to not fund the Police Officers. He explained resources are available to utilize to fund the Police Officers except the property tax.

Councilor Lemhouse moved to divide the motion between property tax and utility rate. No second motion died. Roll Call Vote on the main motion: Councilor Slattery: YES. Councilor Lemhouse, Rosenthal, Morris, Seffinger and Darrow: NO. Motion failed 1-5.

Councilor Darrow moved to approve "A Resolution Levying Taxes for the Period of July 1, 2017 to and Including June 30, 2018, Such Taxes in the Levy rate of [\$4.2865/\$1000 or some lower rate] Assessed Value Upon All the Real and Personal Property Subject to Assessment and Levy Within the Corporate Limits of the City of Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon". Councilor Rosenthal seconded. Councilor Darrow explained that she is not a fan of the property tax but we do have to keep the commitment made to hiring the 5 new Police Officers. She explained that this only gets half of the funding needed. Councilor Rosenthal spoke that he is not excited for an increase but the reality is needed for what to achieve. He explained this is an excellent investment for those who live and visit here. Councilor Lemhouse disagreed with this motion. He spoke that the Budget Committee worked hard and Council should. Councilor Slattery agreed with Councilor Lemhouse. Councilor Seffinger spoke that the decision of Budget Committee should be honored. Councilor Morris spoke in support of the motion and agreed to honor the Budget Committee. Mayor Stromberg spoke to finding a compromise. He suggested funding 3 Police Officers and then wait until the Fall to see what happens with the marijuana tax. With compromise it will lessen the negative impacts and deal with addressing the urgency. He spoke he will vote no with the idea that there is a better approach. Councilor Darrow, Morris and Rosenthal: YES. Councilor Lemhouse, Slattery and Seffinger: NO. Mayor Stromberg: NO. Motion failed 3-4.

Councilor Lemhouse moved to set the property tax at 4.1972 per thousand of assessed value. Councilor Slattery seconded. Discussion: Councilor Rosenthal spoke he will vote against this motion because it would shut off a potential revenue stream. **Councilor Darrow moved to amend the motion to set the property tax rate at 4.2422 per thousand of assessed value. Councilor Morris seconded.** Councilor Darrow spoke to have a compromise and that this is a good way to get started on the commitment made. Councilor Morris spoke that this is a compromise worth doing and hopes for other funding streams in the future. Councilor Lemhouse spoke that this is not a compromise undermining the Budget Committees work. Councilor Slattery agreed with Councilor Lemhouse. Councilor Seffinger agreed with Councilor Lemhouse.

Roll Call Vote on motion amendment: Councilor Darrow, Morris and Rosenthal: YES. Councilor Lemhouse, Slattery and Seffinger: NO. Mayor Stromberg: YES.

Roll Call Vote on Main Motion: Councilor Darrow, Morris and Rosenthal: YES. Councilor Lemhouse, Slattery and Seffinger: NO. Mayor Stromberg: YES. Motion passed 4-3.

Councilor Rosenthal moved to create a public safety support fee and set the assessment at zero. Councilor Lemhouse seconded. Councilor Rosenthal spoke of the importance to establish revenue streams. He explained that setting it at zero Council has the option to set the fee by Resolution. Roll Call Vote: Councilor Darrow, Lemhouse, Morris, Slattery, Seffinger and Rosenthal: YES. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Darrow moved to Repealing Resolution 2017-16 amending the biennial budget to be \$286,173,664 Adopt the 2017-19 Biennial Budget including amending the Police Department line item to \$15,248,125. Councilor Seffinger seconded. Discussion: Councilor Darrow explained that this is the motion that needs to be passed to get to the state. She urged Council to pass this motion. Councilor Seffinger spoke in support of this motion and the need to fund the Police Department. Councilor Slattery spoke that he will continue to work to find ways to get the Police Department but will not support this motion. Roll Call Vote: Councilor Darrow, Morris, Seffinger and Rosenthal: YES. Councilor Slattery and Lemhouse: NO. Motion passed 4-2.

Councilor Slattery thanked the Council and Staff for their hard work on the budget.

Councilor Seffinger spoke that Council was transparent in dealing with this situation.

Adjournment of Special Meeting

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

City Recorder, Melissa Huhtala

Attest:

Mayor Stromberg



Council Meeting June 30, 2017

Police Officer Funding

Property Tax



Police Officer Funding

- ▶ April: Authorization provided for the addition of 5 Police Officers
 - ▶ Funding options needed to be developed
- ▶ June 20th: Council approved a Property Tax rate up to \$4.2865/\$1,000 assessed valuation
 - ▶ Set June 30th date to discuss Police Funding and Property Tax Levy



Police Officer Discussion

- ▶ Estimated to cost about \$110,000 for each Police Officer per year
- ▶ Staff developed 4 options to start the deliberations
 - ▶ No change to Police Staffing
 - ▶ No Property Tax Increase, Meter Fee
 - ▶ Property Tax Increase, Meter Fee
 - ▶ Reduce other General Fund expenditures


Option #1 and #2

Option #1: (5 Police Officers)

- ▶ Property Tax rate increase: None
- ▶ Electric Meter Fee Per Month: \$1.75 per meter
- ▶ Water Meter Fee Per Month: \$2.85 per meter
 - ▶ Or \$1.75 and \$2.15 adjusted based on State Marijuana Tax estimate

Option #2: (5 Police Officers)

- ▶ Property Tax rate increase: 4.5 cents (\$112,000)
- ▶ Electric Meter Fee Per Month: \$3 per meter
 - ▶ Or \$2.50 adjusted based on State Marijuana Tax estimate



Option #3 and #4

Option #3: (5 Police Officers)

- ▶ Property Tax rate increase: Full tax levy 8.93 cents (\$224,000)
- ▶ Electric Meter Fee Per Month: \$2.25 per meter
 - ▶ Or 1.75 adjusted based on State Marijuana Tax estimate

Option #4: (5 Police Officers)

Year 1: No property tax change

- ▶ \$2.25 Electric Meter Fee
- ▶ Use estimated State Marijuana Tax

Year 2: Property tax increase 9 cents (\$232,182)

- ▶ \$1.75 Monthly Electric Meter Fee
- ▶ Use estimated State Marijuana Tax



Option #5

- ▶ Reduce Other General Fund Expenditures

Discussed Items

- ▶ Social Service Grants (\$134,000)-Committed for the BN
- ▶ Economic/Cultural Grants (\$150,000)



Property Tax Impact on Median Assessed Valuation: \$270,672

- ▶ 4.5 Cents: \$12.18 per year increase
- ▶ 8.93 Cents: \$24.17 per year increase



Outcomes for this Meeting

- ▶ Property Tax Levy Resolution must be Adopted
- ▶ If any changes made to the Adopted budget, then a subsequent Resolution will need to be adopted.
- ▶ If a Public Safety Support Fee is created, the a subsequent Resolution will need to be adopted.



Water

Per Dollar/Month	8,800
1	105,600.00
1.25	132,000.00
1.5	158,400.00
1.75	184,800.00
2	211,200.00
2.25	237,600.00
2.5	264,000.00
2.75	290,400.00
3	316,800.00
3.25	343,200.00
3.5	369,600.00
3.75	396,000.00
4	422,400.00
4.5	475,200.00
4.75	501,600.00
5	528,000.00

Electric

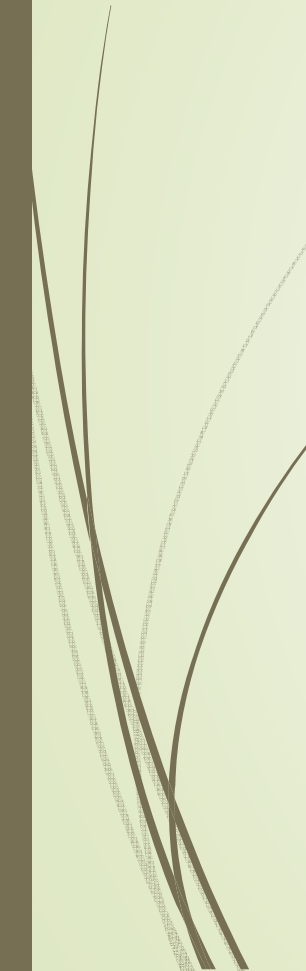
Per Dollar/Month	11,840
1	142,080.00
1.25	177,600.00
1.5	213,120.00
1.75	248,640.00
2	284,160.00
2.25	319,680.00
2.5	355,200.00
2.75	390,720.00
3	426,240.00
3.25	461,760.00
3.5	497,280.00
3.75	532,800.00
4	568,320.00
4.5	639,360.00
4.75	674,880.00
5	710,400.00

Property Tax

	FY 18	FY 19
Per penny	24,926.00	25,798.00
1	24,926.00	25,798.00
2	49,852.00	51,596.00
3	74,778.00	77,394.00
4	99,704.00	103,192.00
4.5	112,167.00	116,091.00
5	124,630.00	128,990.00
6	149,556.00	154,788.00
7	174,482.00	180,586.00
8	199,408.00	206,384.00
9	224,334.00	232,182.00

		1 Officer	2 Officers	3 Officers	4 Officers	5 Officers
		110,000	220,000	330,000	440,000	550,000
		Corresponding Electric Meter Public Safety Support Fee				
	0	0.77	1.55	2.32	3.10	3.87
	0.5	0.69	1.46	2.23	3.01	3.78
	1	0.60	1.37	2.15	2.92	3.70
	1.5	0.51	1.29	2.06	2.83	3.61
	2	0.42	1.20	1.97	2.75	3.52
	2.5	0.34	1.11	1.88	2.66	3.43
	3	0.25	1.02	1.80	2.57	3.34
	3.5	0.16	0.93	1.71	2.48	3.26
	4	0.07	0.85	1.62	2.40	3.17
	4.5	-	0.76	1.53	2.31	3.08
	5	-	0.67	1.45	2.22	2.99
	5.5	-	0.58	1.36	2.13	2.91
	6	-	0.50	1.27	2.04	2.82
	6.5	-	0.41	1.18	1.96	2.73
	7	-	0.32	1.09	1.87	2.64
	7.5	-	0.23	1.01	1.78	2.56
	8	-	0.14	0.92	1.69	2.47
	8.5	-	0.06	0.83	1.61	2.38
	8.93	-	-	0.76	1.53	2.30

Property Tax Change per cent



Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilors,

The City's interim budget administrator recently said that there is simply not enough money in the City to do all the things the City wants to do.

That was not a recommendation to raise taxes to maintain current level of City activities. It was a warning that the City is facing financial risks if Council doesn't prioritize current activities or worse, adds new things.

Our small population of tax & fee payers cannot do it all.....a fact made clear... by the dire financial projections for future biennium budgets going forward.

Council recently increased tax and fee revenues by raising: System development charges,....Fees, , Utility Fees,Planning Department application fees and the Diversion of tourism taxes over to basic road maintenance

Now Council is planning bond issuances within this two year cycle..... equating to even more future property tax increases to pay for new items like 10x20, CEAP, City Hall, the pool, etc. All of these increases combined will exponentially increase the cost of living and doing business in town, not counting the new taxes and fees on today's agenda.

It's time you prioritize our core services by making cuts to non-essential services.

Please vote "no" on these new taxes and fees and instead find a way to use our existing revenues to pay for core services such as these Police officers. Like all of our core services, our Police Officers should be a priority instead of an afterthought.

Mark DiRienzo
Ashland

LETTER TO ASHLAND CITY COUNCILORS REGARDING HIRING FIVE NEW POLICEMEN
Y , 30 JUNE 2017

1. It is irresponsible to promise that *one* will hire 5 policemen without first securing public input, and income to pay for them. St., Apt.10, Ashland. Good afternoon.
I called that Shaun Moran's White Paper on Ashland police hiring has not been discussed by your body. As a Citizen Member of the Budget Committee, she represents us, the public. Take out that light within you and let it shine with your compassion for those of us who struggle to live in Ashland.
2. The International Association of Chiefs of Police for a decade now, does not recommend hiring new officers based on population numbers. Population in Ashland has been flat, never going over the peak in 2006, of almost 21,000.
3. Cost projections for new hires do not seem to include the following:
 - a. Increase in PERS, and
 - b. More police training, police cruisers, body cameras, protective vests, ammunition, and maybe other items.

a year.

The city figures five new policemen would cost us \$530,000. When we include the two items above, the bill comes to \$921,000 . . . a difference of almost \$400,000. As city councilors, how did you come up with the \$530,000 figure? We the public have a right to know, item by item, what are the expenses of our police department. After all, we are the ones who will have to pay the bill.
4. Theft is our biggest crime in Ashland. It's seasonal, from April to October. Police cadets, and a 25-39 member volunteer police force help deal with our seasonal influx of tourists, travelers, and the uptick in crime. The city could hire mental health professionals, dressed inconspicuously, to help deal with the mental health epidemic in Southern Oregon. These three groups working together with the police department could be far more effective than the hiring of more policemen.
5. By not hiring new officers, by not spending \$921,000, by reducing prohibitive regulations on businesses, and instead use our many volunteers, you city councilors can help folks to maybe be able to continue living in Ashland. When we old folks, I'm 94, die off, who will be living in, and running the city? Please don't rush your thinking, and your decisions. Thank you,

Carola Lacy
Carola Lacy

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Carola Lacy
Carola Lacy



Oregon State Lodging Local City and County Room Tax Contact Information

**Local taxes may have changed since this table was published.
Contact your city or county taxing authorities for the most recent information.**

County	Jurisdiction	Rate	Phone	Fax
Baker	County-wide	7% tax May–October 5% tax November–April	(541) 523-8221	(541) 523-8340
Benton	Corvallis	9% city tax	(541) 766-6990	(541) 754-1729
Clackamas	Lake Oswego	6% city tax	(503) 635-0260	(503) 699-7457
	Oregon City	4% city tax	(503) 496-1525	(503) 657-3339
	Sandy	3% city tax	(503) 668-5767	(503) 668-8714
	Wilsonville	5% city tax	(503) 570-1596	(503) 682-1015
	County-wide	6% county tax	(503) 742-5000	(503) 742-5401
Clatsop	Astoria	9% city tax	(503) 325-5821	(503) 325-2997
	Cannon Beach	8% city tax	(503) 436-5056	(503) 436-2050
	Gearhart	7% city tax	(503) 738-5501	(503) 738-9385
	Seaside	8% city tax	(503) 738-5511	(503) 738-5514
	Warrenton	12% city tax	(503) 861-2233	(503) 861-2351
	Unincorporated	7% city tax	(503) 325-8522	(503) 338-3638
Coos	Bandon	6% city tax	(541) 347-2437	(541) 347-1415
	Coos Bay	7% city tax	(541) 269-8915	(541) 267-5912
	Coquille Indian Tribe	8% tribal tax	(541) 756-0904	(541) 756-0847
	Lakeside	7.5% city tax	(541) 759-3011	(541) 759-4325
	North Bend	7% city tax	(541) 756-8500	(541) 756-8527
Crook	Prineville	8.5% city tax	(541) 447-5627	(541) 447-5628
Curry	Brookings	6% city tax	(541) 469-1123	(541) 469-3650
	Gold Beach	6% city tax	(541) 247-7029	(541) 247-2212
	Port Orford	7% city tax	(541) 332-3681	(541) 332-3830
Deschutes	Bend	10.4% city tax	(541) 693-2127	(541) 385-6675
	Redmond	9% city tax	(541) 923-7735	(541) 548-0706
	Sisters	8% city tax	(541) 323-5222	(541) 549-0561
	Unincorporated	7% county tax	(541) 383-4399	(541) 749-2902

County	Jurisdiction	Rate	Phone	Fax
Douglas	Reedsport	5%-7% city tax	(541) 271-3603	(541) 271-2809
	Roseburg	8% city tax	(541) 492-6866	Not available
	Sutherlin	5% city tax	(541) 459-2856	Not available
	Winston	5% city tax	(541) 679-6739	(541) 679-0794
Gilliam	None	None	(541) 384-6321	(541) 384-2166
Grant	County-wide	8% county tax	(541) 575-1798	(541) 575-2248
Harney	Burns	9% city tax	(541) 573-5255	(541) 573-5622
	Hines	8% city tax	(541) 573-2251	(541) 573-5827
Hood River	Cascade Locks	7% city tax	(541) 374-8484	(541) 374-8752
	Hood River	8% city tax	(541) 387-5252	(541) 387-5289
	Unincorporated	8% city tax	(541) 386-1301	(541) 387-6894
Jackson	Ashland	9% city tax	(541) 488-5300	(541) 552-2059
	Central Point	9% city tax	(541) 664-3321	(541) 664-6384
	Jacksonville	9% city tax	(541) 899-1231, ext. 313	(541) 899-7882
	Medford	9% city tax	(541) 774-2030	(541) 774-2528
	Phoenix	6% city tax	(541) 535-1955	(541) 535-5769
	Rogue River	6% city tax	(541) 582-4401	Not available
	Shady Cove	6% city tax	(541) 878-3757	(541) 878-2226
	Talent	6% city tax	(541) 535-1566	(541) 535-7423
Jefferson	Madras	9% city tax	(541) 475-2344	(541) 475-7061
	Metolius	6% city tax	(541) 546-5533	Not available
Josephine	Grants Pass	9% city tax	(541) 450-6035	(541) 479-0812
Klamath	County-wide	8% county tax	(541) 883-4202	(541) 850-5385
Lake	County-wide	6% county tax	(541) 947-6030	Not available



County	Jurisdiction	Rate	Phone	Fax
Lane	Coburg	8% city tax	(541) 682-7870	(541) 485-0655
	Cottage Grove	9% city tax	(541) 942-3346	(541) 942-5125
	Creswell	8% city tax	(541) 895-2531, ext. 306	(541) 895-3647
	Dunes City	8% city tax	(541) 997-3338	(541) 997-5751
	Eugene	9.5% city tax	(541) 682-5022	(541) 682-5414
	Florence	9% city tax	(541) 997-3436	(541) 997-6814
	Junction City	8% city tax	(541) 998-2153	(541) 998-3140
	Lowell	8% city tax	(541) 937-2157	(541) 937-2936
	McKenzie River	8% city tax	(541) 682-5022	(541) 682-5414
	Oakridge	8% city tax	(541) 782-2258	(541) 782-1081
	Springfield	9.5% city tax	(541) 726-3704	(541) 726-3782
	Veneta	8% city tax	(541) 935-2191	(541) 935-1838
	Westfir	8% city tax	(541) 782-3733	Not available
	Unincorporated	8% city tax	(541) 682-4200	(541) 682-6743
Lincoln	Depoe Bay	8% city tax	(541) 765-2361	(541) 765-2129
	Lincoln City	9.5% city tax	(541) 996-2151	(541) 996-1284
	Newport	9.5% city tax	(541) 574-0621	(541) 574-0609
	Waldport	7% city tax	(541) 264-7417	(541) 264-7418
	Yachats	7% city tax	(541) 547-3565	(541) 547-3063
	Unincorporated	9% city tax	(541) 265-4142	(541) 265-5466
Linn	Albany	9% city tax	(541) 917-7505	(541) 917-7511
	Lebanon	9% city tax	(541) 258-4212	(541) 258-4950
	Sweet Home	6% city tax	(541) 367-5128	(541) 367-5113
Malheur	Ontario	9% city tax	(541) 881-3242	(541) 881-3262
Marion	Detroit	8% city tax	(503) 854-3496	(503) 854-3232
	Keizer	6% city tax	(503) 390-3700	(503) 393-9437
	Salem	9% city tax	(503) 588-6040	(503) 588-6354
	Silverton	9% city tax	(503) 873-5321	Not available
	Stayton	7% city tax	(503) 769-3425	(503) 769-1456
	Sublimity	7% city tax	(503) 769-5475	(503) 769-2206
	Woodburn	9% city tax	(503) 982-5222	Not available
Morrow	Heppner	5% city tax	(541) 676-9618	(541) 676-9650

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Multnomah	Fairview	6% city tax	(503) 674-6247	(503) 666-0888
	Gresham	6% city tax	(503) 618-2445	(503) 661-6073
	Portland	6% city tax plus 2% tourism tax	(503) 865-2857	(503) 823-5189
	Troutdale	6.95% city tax	(503) 674-7231	(503) 667-0524
	Wood Village	6% city tax	(503) 489-6853	(503) 669-8723
	County-wide	5.5% county tax	(503) 988-3440	Not available
Polk	None	None	(503) 623-9264	(503) 623-0721
Sherman	Condon	6% city tax	(541) 384-2711	(541) 384-2700
Tillamook	Bay City	9% city tax	(503) 377-2288	(503) 377-4044
	Garibaldi	8% city tax	(503) 322-3327	(503) 322-3737
	Manzanita	9% city tax	(503) 368-5343	(503) 368-4145
	Nehalem	9% city tax	(503) 368-5627	(503) 368-4175
	Rockaway Beach	9% city tax	(503) 355-2291	(503) 355-8221
	Tillamook	10% city tax	(503) 842-2472, ext. 3466	(503) 842-3445
	Wheeler	9% city tax	(503) 368-5767	(503) 368-4273
	County	1% county tax for all cities; except 2% for Garibaldi	(503) 842-3408	(503) 842-1819
	Unincorporated	10% city tax	(503) 842-3408	(503) 842-1819
Umatilla	Hermiston	2.5%–8% city tax	(541) 567-5521	(541) 567-5530
	Milton-Freewater	7% city tax	(541) 938-8206	Not available
	Pendleton	8% city tax	(541) 966-0331	(541) 966-0352
	Umatilla	3.5% city tax	(541) 922-3226, ext. 104	Not available
Union	La Grande	5% city tax	(541) 962-1313	(541) 963-3333
	County-wide	3% county tax	(541) 963-1001	(541) 963-1079
Wallowa	Enterprise	3% city tax	(541) 426-1496	(541) 426-3395
	County-wide	5% county tax	(541) 426-7753	(541) 426-5901
Wasco	The Dalles	8% city tax	(541) 296-5481, ext. 1	Not available
Washington	Beaverton	4% city tax	(503) 526-5345	(503) 526-2490
	County-wide	9% county tax	(503) 846-4448	(503) 846-4464
Wheeler	None	None	(541) 763-2191	(541) 763-2026
Yamhill	Newberg	6% city tax	(503) 538-9421	Not available

Susan Hall 210 E.Nevada St
Mayor & Council Members:

I find it disturbing that this meeting was called for 3pm on June 30 on the Friday before 4th of July weekend..to examine at the Eleventh Hour amending the budget to fund 5 new police officers by raising property taxes and /or utility taxes or both. Who do think is in town to attend? I guess it is out of the public eye and maybe being missed by many of the public members of the Budget Committee

Here is the issue:

The CC Agenda for 4/4/17 listed Police Staffing Presentation. PC O'Meara made his presentation asking to hire 5 more officers. According to the minutes from the meeting, the CC "directed City Staff to provide funding options at a future CC meeting with the understanding that NO ACTION would occur until after July 1,2017". No Motion appears in the minutes.

The CC Agenda for 4/18/17 had NO AGENDA item indicating the CC might consider a motion to vote at this meeting on hiring 5 police officers. Item 4 simply stated: "Approval of a resolution to assess utility fees to fund additional police positions". PLEASE TELL ME: How were members of the public to know they needed to attend to speak to the actual motion to HIRE?

Remarkably 3 public members were astute enough to attend and comment on the utility fees by asking for a postponement until public input could be gathered and the Budget Committee could meet the next month in May, 2017. BUT ALAS

Shortly after discussion of the funding options pros and cons by the CC and Mayor...Out of Left Field comes this verbatim from the City website minutes for 4/18/17:

Councilor Slattery/Darrow m/s to approve the hiring of five police officers and wanted the funding issues brought forward to the priorities discussions on Wednesday and Thursday. Roll Call Vote: Councilor Seffinger, Slattery, Rosenthal, Lemhouse, Morris, and Darrow, YES. Motion passed.

Since then I have personally heard the Mayor state several times (at the Budget Committee meetings in May and recently at the CC meeting of 6/20/17) that there would be NO discussion of the hiring of the 5 officers, that has already been decided.....

Yes indeed it wasin private , behind closed doors and in such a manner that it makes me feel like I am watching CNN cover the GOP Senate Healthcare bill which stayed hidden (with 17 Senators) from the public and other 83 Senators.

I have talked with many of you, I thought I could expect you to support a democratic & public process? Why was this not something you valued as our ELECTED OFFICIALS?

Now today we find ourselves being rushed to judgement on how to pay for 5 new officers all at once. If we truly need 5 officers, why not hire them one at a time as funding allows? Why weren't the funding concerns of the Budget Committee Public members, many of whom are experienced professional finance managers, listened to in May and respected?

I am submitting two documents regarding these issues written and signed by 5 of the public members of the Budget Committee.

Thank you

Susan Hall RAH



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Ashland City Council Is Marginalizing Citizens' Role on the Citizen Budget Committee - A Must Read

Chronicle Editor 28 Jun 2017 0

Marginalizing Citizens' Role on the Citizen Budget Committee

It is clear the City of Ashland is attempting to marginalize the role of citizens on the Citizens Budget Committee. State Budget Law requires citizens, equal in numbers to councilors, be on a

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Budget Committee to review and approve the budget including any property tax rate changes. State law ORS 294.426(4) and 294.428(3) allow citizens to request any pertinent information. Ashlanders who watched the recent Budget Hearings may have observed strain between the council and some of the citizens on the Committee, and there are reasons for this.

In May, 2015, many of the citizens on the Committee were new to the budget hearing process and, after the 2015-17 budget was approved, wanted to form informal study groups of 2-3 citizens to become more familiar with complex issues in the budget. The City repeatedly and strongly implied citizen members could not meet, due to State public meeting law restrictions. However, during State provided Budget Law training in March, 2017, citizens learned they could indeed have met in study groups as long as they did not meet or deliberate outside of a quorum. City Councilors do this all the time. Clearly the City intended to discourage citizens from learning about our City's services and operations.

The City scheduled numerous meetings to discuss updates to the quarterly financial statements and issues of concern such as Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs), etc. However, as time went on, it became more obvious the City was not interested in answering questions asked by citizens. For example, a citizen member asked the City to provide information about personnel services expenses, including overtime, several times dating back to the May 2015 budget hearings. During the May 11, 2017 Budget Hearing, the Interim Director of Finance Services implied that it was not "appropriate" for a citizen serving on the Budget Committee to ask such questions. The City finally provided some documents on employee compensation, but only after 2017-19 budget hearing meetings were underway and there was public outcry.

Citizen members asked questions about CIP projects but were told those inquiries were related to policy and not within the

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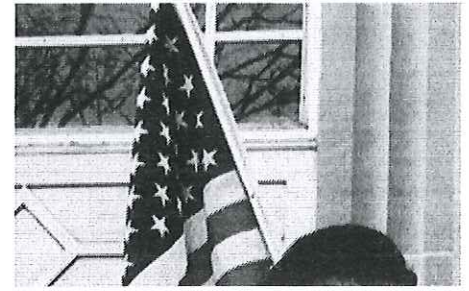
purview of the citizens on the Budget Committee. However, during the State training session on Budget Law, it was confirmed that citizens did indeed have the right to inquire about policy issues in general, particularly, when funds are needed to implement or pay for those policies.

Into the second year of the biennium, the City cancelled the remaining scheduled quarterly meetings, claiming there was no need to meet as topics had been covered. They had not, in fact, been fully covered. To encourage the reinstatement of valuable quarterly Budget Committee meetings to discuss quarterly financial statements and other issues, a citizen on the committee made a motion that the City schedule the meetings in the new biennium. The citizen was chastised by the Mayor, who stated the citizen did not have the authority. To date, quarterly budget meetings have not been scheduled to meet in the new biennium.

Clearly, the City Council wants it known that they are the 'deciders' and do not want any probing questions or suggestions from citizens serving on the Committee or, for that matter, from Ashlanders, in general. The purpose of the committee under ORS 294.231 (5) states that citizens are "To provide for the control of revenues and expenditures for the promotion of efficiency and economy in the expenditure of public funds."

Citizens Excluded from the Budget Process

In preparing for the upcoming Budget Hearings, the City deviated from prior years' process by excluding citizen members, stating that only the Council can make policy decisions. Unlike prior years, citizen members were omitted from discussions about "assumptions," that are changes to the base budget. Instead, the City bypassed the Citizens' role and scheduled "special meetings" for city councilors only and closed the public forum segment. Ashlanders in general could not comment. Also, deviating from prior practice, the City approved



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hiring of additional police officers without input from the citizens on the Committee and without securing funding sources other than mentioning the possibility of adding a flat surcharge to utility billing statements. The end result was a flawed process resulting in additional work for everyone involved. It seems the "spirit" of having citizens participate in the process is not being valued or honored.

Budget Document

The budget document that was released on May 4, 2017 contained numerous numerical errors, was light on detailed information (resulting in more than 150 documents being provided during the Budget Hearings), and noticeably missing from the budget document were the many Performance Measures that provide insight into the performance of Departments' operations. For example, the Police Department regularly provided information on department performance that included graphs, charts, and 23 Performance Measures such as "Have adequate staffing to safely handle an incident 99% of the time." The 2017-19 budget document this year contained 3 performance measures for the police Department at a time the Police Chief is requesting hiring five police officers costing the City more than a million dollars in the biennium. During deliberations, the Mayor stated that it is not the duty of the citizens to ask about performance measures. In the end, citizens serving on the Budget committee were shut down and continue to have many unanswered questions.

In Summary

It is now apparent the City Council wants to push forward its agenda without any resistance from citizens including seasoned citizens on the Budget Committee. For that matter, it seems this City Council does not let budget constraints stop them from their agenda, as they will simply approve hiring employees, suggesting that the cost may be added to utility statements.

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Former Budget Committee members spoke out against the proposed budget, particularly, that of the unconventional process to hire five police officers without identifying a funding source, thereby placing an additional burden on Ashlanders.

Overall, for this budget process, the Mayor and City Council followed a flawed process that has resulted in a flawed budget.

As one former councilor stated the budget document is a "disaster." The four Budget Committee members who sign this article, all voted not to approve the budget.

The Mayor and City Councilors have run for office on the premise of "transparency". Transparency is a practice, not just a word. It is defined as "an organization or its activities that are open to public scrutiny". We request the Mayor and City Councilors to open those doors to public scrutiny by scheduling quarterly meetings to freely discuss the budget and financial health of the City, including that of performance measures. Let's work together to practice transparency. If you feel the same, please write to the city councilors at council@ashland.or.us and also include Budget Committee Chair David Runkel at Runkels@hotmail.com.

David Runkel, Budget Committee Chair

Garrett Furuichi, Budget Committee Vice Chair

Shaun Moran, Budget Committee

Mary Cody, Budget Committee

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I ask that you reconsider your decision to hire 5 additional Ashland policemen. That decision was based on inaccurate facts which quite frankly, if had been more thoroughly vetted, would never have been presently last week.

Population Growth in Ashland

The question is not what the population of Ashland was 20 years ago but is our police department capable of providing adequate safety for our community today? A major underlying assumption justifying more police hiring is that population growth in Ashland over the last 20 years warrants more police. Our quality of life is threatened as police are unable to provide the safety needs demanded by our diverse community. Through the press and presentations to council the city has pressed this version of the facts. However, according to US Census Bureau data the population of Ashland in 2016 (20,861) was actually lower than it was in 2006 (20,974). Over the last 5 years the population in Ashland has essentially been flat never surpassing that 2006 peak. What population explosion in Ashland is the city actually referring to? Keep in mind the number of Ashland police staff has been the same since 2010 at (28) but still one more than the (27) officers in Ashland in 2006 which had the higher population. Despite the hype the facts show the police department is **NOT** chronically under staffed based on a population surge in Ashland. Maybe the city should be talking about a realignment or reallocation of our police assets to better address staffing in the patrol officer division. Could more staffing for the "boots-on-the ground" patrol division come from other areas of the police department?

IACP Data Doesn't Justify Adding Police Staff

Furthermore, the city has relied on data from the *International Association of Chiefs of Police*, to justify the need for police hiring. The IACP used population ratio data (1 policeman for every 1000 residents) as a key metric in its hiring rational. In a July

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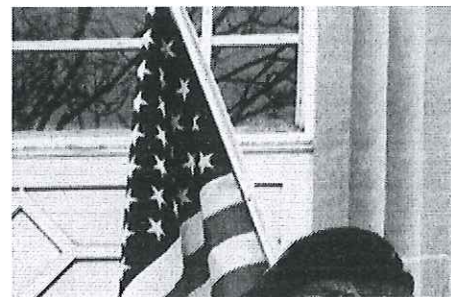
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and Sept 2016 presentations to council and in a Sept Mail Tribune newspaper article it was stated that Ashland needed additional officers since current staffing levels are below national averages. It was stated that although "the IACP does not recommend relying solely on factors such as population as logic for hiring, based purely on the city population, the need for additional officers is clear". Yet when I did some detective work myself and reached out to the IACP I was told they had abandoned that model more than a decade ago. In fact, the IACP doesn't recommend using population based justification as a basis for police hiring at all. On the IACP website I found this statement, "Ratios, such as officer-per-thousand population are totally inappropriate for a basis for staffing decisions. Accordingly they have **NO** place in the IACP methodology". It isn't that the IACP believes that population to officer ratios could be used in police hiring, they says it has **NO** place in modern police hiring methodology. That's not just in Ashland, but not in any modern police force in America.

Cost Projections Miss the Mark

Additionally, the \$530,000 per year, average cost of \$106,000 per officer, add-in proposal doesn't seem to reflect the true costs to the city. When you calculate the police staff employee average pay per year (personnel services) and then add in the average yearly cost to the city to employ that police staff (service and materials), as outlined in the adopted 2015-17 budget, the true cost to taxpayers, appears to be higher. The cost for each new police officer would (on average) be roughly \$184,000 per person or \$921,000 year for five new officers. Data provided in the adopted 2015-17 budget (chapter 3-58) shows the average true costs to the city to hire a person in the Police Department (personnel services) being roughly \$134,000 per year. (5 people x \$134k = \$670k, not \$530k). Add the service and materials cost (average cost for someone working in the police department outside of labor) of \$49,000 per-person-per-year (chapter 3-58) and the math changes dramatically. By using the



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cost assumptions outlined in the 2015-2017 budget the average actual cost to taxpayers would be approximately \$184,000 per-year-per-officer or \$921,000 total per-year. The expected (personnel services + service and material) cost outlined in the adopted 2015-2017 budget, doesn't seem to reconcile with the \$530,000 proposal by the city. Will that added cost be reflected somewhere else in the police budget? In addition how will the increase in PERS be reflected? Therefore is it possible the total cost to the city to hire these 5 new staff could be substantially higher than the outlined \$106,000 per-person-per-year cost projection estimate (\$530k/5 people = \$106k) in the add-in proposal? Would it be fair to suggest that if you add items like, more police training, police cruisers, body cameras, protective vests, and ammunition, the total true cost for the 5 new staff could be more like \$921,000 a year, not the \$530k estimated by the city?

It is not clear what went into the \$530,000 calculation. Was this all compensation and or benefits or does this include other costs? Is higher pay for more experienced officers taken into account in the numbers or does this reflect more junior officers as well? As you can see a detailed cost breakdown for expenses in the police department budget would be very helpful. What would be appreciated is some clarification as to how the \$530,000 cost projection was calculated to better understand the implications for the 2017-2019 budget.

Best Practices Used to Determine Police Staffing

At the last city council meeting a speaker described his life on the street and said that "the more you treat a person like a criminal the more he will tend to act like one". If you read the [Policy Analysis Report for the City of San Francisco Board of Supervisors](#) published on January 26, 2016 which focuses on best practices related to police staffing and funding, it states some of those same beliefs. The report highlights the "relationship between police staffing levels and crime rates remain uncertain

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and ambiguous”.

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“Additionally, falling incomes and higher unemployment trends contribute to an increase in property crime. Most would predict that crime should decrease with an increased police presence as individuals would be deterred by the greater likelihood of being caught, but at least four major studies in recent years have surveyed the criminology literature and either found no relationship or a positive relationship between police presence and crime.” Maybe our city should be more focused on reducing bureaucratic red tape and reducing prohibitive regulation allowing businesses to come here to prosper, while creating jobs and employment opportunities as a way to combat the spike in non-serious crime in town rather than spending money on hiring more police staff?

Other Options to Tackle Crime in Ashland

The majority of crime in Ashland, 80-85% in fact, is non-serious, non-sexual and non-violent. Theft is the biggest issue and is a seasonal phenomenon occurring between April and October. Data from the Ashland Police Department over the last 3 years show the uptick in crime coinciding with the influx of summer tourists and travelers. Yes, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival has grown and Southern Oregon enrollment has increased, yet over the last few years, the police cadets have been a great solution for the city to deal with the seasonal influx of tourist, travelers and this uptick in crime. The added costs for a summer cadet force is much less prohibitive and matches off exceptional well with our increased summer population. We also have a 25-30 member volunteer police force who could work more closely with the cadets and regular police staff to help. If anything the town should be focused on hiring non-uniform staff like mental health professionals to address the mental health epidemic in Southern Oregon. One thing is for sure we could be considering other options than hiring 5 additional police officers. Why should the Police Union hold the taxpayers of

Ashland hostage demanding we hire unnecessary staff, to solve a seasonal issue, when the better answer is more effective and increased use of cadets and our volunteers to strengthen policing?

I have a family with three young children and of course I want a secure and safe community for them to live. On the other hand I think it's about time our city government begins to show some respect for the Ashland taxpayer. Isn't it reasonable for the citizens to be presented with **ALL** the facts before a decision like this is made? Why the rush? Why should the onus always be put on the citizens of Ashland to ask the appropriate questions in order to understand how our money is being spent? Shouldn't the Mayor and Council ask those difficult questions for us to insure our money is being spent wisely and efficiently? I think it prudent that before making any more hasty decisions which will add over \$2ml alone to the 2017-2019 Police budget, the Mayor and City Council, start asking those sometimes uncomfortable, thought provoking questions around how our money is actually being spent.

Shaun Moran, Ashland Budget Committee

4/13/17

Editor's Note: This White Paper was ignored, never discussed by the Ashland City Council.

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