

WELCOME

We're glad you are here!

This Orientation Guide is provided as a resource to start your time as an Elected City Councilor off on a positive note. City of Ashland staff are pleased to welcome you as part of the governing body. The City and community rely on individuals to become involved in the local municipal government process. Our job is to make you successful and support you as you navigate challenging policy decisions, enact local laws, levy taxes, and act in the best interest of those electing you to public office.

Because municipal government continues to become more complex, with additional services and requirements imposed by higher government levels, the demands on newly elected officials' knowledge and expertise have increased significantly. Both the state and federal governments continue to expand rules, regulations, and guidelines in land use, water, and air pollution, drinking water standards, ambulance services, public employee relations, and open meetings and records requirements. New officials must become familiar with these requirements, as well as the more traditional municipal activities.

There has not been a time in recent history where the City has faced so many challenges at once. At the top of the list: Emergency Preparedness/Community Resiliency, addressing homelessness, providing affordable housing options, and economic recovery from COVID-19 and the Alameda Fire. City financial resources are strained and will require some creative solutions, all while navigating the change from Mayor/Administrator to a Council/City Manager form of government.

As you represent your constituents, you perform a valuable service addressing community issues and needs that will shape Ashland's future. Public service carries responsibilities, which, hopefully, this guide will help you meet without feeling overwhelmed. City officials look forward to your contribution as we all work together to provide efficient municipal services responsive to local needs and expectations.

We look forward to a collaborative working relationship that will serve the citizens of Ashland.

Adam Hanks,

Interim City Administrator