

6/5/23

This Council has stated for a number of years that affordable housing is a high priority.

This has been reflected in the City's stated goals as well as the surveys paid for by the City. In these surveys the closing of the golf Course was put forth as an option for cost cutting, and was a popular choice.

During the budget process, there was a motion to add an amendment to the budget that would do just that –close the Golf Course and save over \$900k. There was also discussion about building affordable housing in that space.

I believe that this option needs to be revisited with an open mind and a collaborative effort to build affordable housing.

We all want Ashland to be a welcoming, livable, diverse community – not just retired white folks – but working people who are able to live here and be part of the community.

It is time to make affordable housing a reality even if it means making hard choices. Please ... I ask you now to do your job with no more excuses or delays.

Leda Shapiro  
Ashland