

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Held Electronically; View on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (Charter Communications) or live stream via rvtv.sou.edu select RVTV Prime.

Written and oral testimony will be accepted for public input. For written testimony, email public-testimony@ashland.or.us using the subject line: Ashland City Council Public Testimony. For oral testimony, fill out a Speaker Request Form at ashland.or.us/speakerrequest and return to the City Recorder. The deadline for submitting written testimony or speaker request forms will be on Tuesday, October 4th at 10 a.m. and must comply with Council Rules to be accepted.

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.]

6:00 PM REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Akins called the Business Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Jensen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Councilors' Hyatt, Graham, Moran, DuQuenne, Seffinger and Jensen were present.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

DuQuenne read the Land Acknowledgment (*see attached*).

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Study Session Meeting of September 20, 2021
2. Business Meeting of September 21, 2021

Hyatt/Moran moved to approve the Minutes. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

1. Proclamation for Indigenous Peoples' Day

Mayor Akins read the Proclamation into the record (*see attached*).

2. Public Arts Commission Annual Report

Aaron Anderson introduced the Ashland Public Arts Commission Chair Jennifer Longshore. Longshore presented Council with the Public Arts Annual Report (*see attached*).

Council thanked the Public Arts Commission for their work.

3. National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit Update

Public Works Director Scott Fleury gave a brief staff report and introduced Rogue Valley Sewer Services Manager Carl Tappert and City of Medford Water Reclamation Division Manager Dustin Hagemann.

Mr. Tappert explained who the decision makers are.

Mr. Tappert spoke regarding connection options and costs.

Public Input

Dan Van Dyke – Ashland – Spoke giving information regarding positive signs for fish in Bear Creek. He spoke that he believes this is tied to the upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant in the 1990s. He explained that having the plant meet water quality requirements and release water in upper Bear Creek is important and helps to mitigate heavy use of Ashland Creek.

Council discussed having a rate study and cost.

Council discussed next steps.

Moran/Hyatt moved to direct Staff to bring a plan and budget estimate back to Council in 2 weeks. Discussion: Moran spoke in support of the motion. Hyatt spoke that it is important to explore the finances of this issue and spoke in support of the motion. Seffinger spoke to look into outsourcing. Council gave consensus for Staff to look into outsourcing. Graham suggested having an environmental assessment and information on bonding. She suggested information on impacts for individual rate payers. Jensen spoke that he will not support the motion. He spoke that this is not a General Fund issue. DuQuenne spoke in support of the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, DuQuenne, Graham and Moran: YES. Jensen and Seffinger: NO. Motion passed 4-2.**

VI. MINUTES OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

Airport	Budget	Conservation & Climate Outreach
Historic	Housing and Human Svcs.	Parks & Recreation
Forest Lands	Climate Policy	Community Center & Pioneer Hall Ad Hoc
Planning	Public Arts	Social Equity & Racial Justice
Transportation	Tree	Wildfire Safety

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

Business from the audience not included on the agenda. The Mayor will set time limits to enable all people wishing to speak to complete their testimony. [15 minutes maximum]

VIII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Interim City Manager Gary Milliman gave an update on the City Manager and Finance Director search.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Annual Liquor License Renewals

Graham/Hyatt moved to approve Item 1. Discussion: None. **All Ayes Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Special Procurement Request for Approval for Contract to Grayback Forestry, Inc.

DuQuenne pulled this item.

Mayor Akins declared a conflict of interest for this item.

Hyatt/DuQuenne moved to request Mayor Akins to recuse herself from this item. Discussion: None. **Voice Vote. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

DuQuenne spoke to this item.

Jensen/Hyatt moved to approve Item Number 2 of the Consent Agenda. Discussion: None. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, DuQuenne, Moran, Jensen, Graham and Seffinger: YES. 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 conclude at 8:00 p.m. and are 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.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Appointment of City Attorney

Milliman gave a brief Staff report.

Seffinger/DuQuenne moved to approve Katrina Brown's appointment as City Attorney and authorize the Mayor and City Manager Pro Tem to sign the associated employment agreement. Discussion: Seffinger spoke in support of the motion. DuQuenne spoke in support of the motion. Graham thanked Katrina Brown for her work so far and spoke in support of the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, DuQuenne, Jensen, Moran and Seffinger: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Wastewater Treatment Plant Alternatives

Public Works Director Scott Fleury introduced Public Works Senior Project Manager Kaylea Kathol.

Kathol presented Council with an update of the Wastewater Treatment plant.

3. Talent Irrigation District Fees

Milliman gave a brief Staff report.

Council discussed options.

Jensen/Seffinger moved to continue with the current rate structure and existing Resolution as guidance to the Interim City Manager to proceed as we have been. Discussion: Hyatt spoke in support of the Finance Director and the motion. DuQuenne thanked the Finance Department.

Roll Call Vote: Jensen, DuQuenne, Hyatt, Graham, Moran and Seffinger: YES. Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

1. First Reading of an Ordinance Relating to Transient Lodging Tax Amending AMC 4.24.020

Interim City Attorney Katrina Brown gave a brief Staff report.

Hyatt/Jensen moved to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 3202 and advance it to Second Reading for enactment. Discussion: None. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, DuQuenne, Jensen, Moran and Seffinger: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Council discussed extending Study Session Meeting times and adding extra Study Sessions.

Hyatt gave a brief update regarding the Planning Commission.

XV. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

Hyatt/Moran moved to adjourn the Business Meeting. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

City Recorder Melissa Huhtala

Attest:

Mayor Akins

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

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and honor the aboriginal people on whose ancestral homelands we work—the Ikirakutsum Band of the Shasta Nation, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today. We honor the first stewards in the Rogue Valley and the lands we love and depend on: Tribes with ancestral lands in and surrounding the geography of the Ashland Watershed include the original past, present and future indigenous inhabitants of the Shasta, Takelma, and Athabaskan people. We also recognize and acknowledge the Shasta village of K'wakhakha—“Where the Crow lights”—that is now the Ashland City Plaza.

2021 Public Arts Commission Annual Report to City Council

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Public Arts Commission. I'd like to report briefly on the projects we have under development, and also give you an idea of our goals for the coming year. I want to acknowledge and thank the volunteers serving on the commission both past and present. It is a pleasure to announce that after a few months of membership transition, the PAC is back to capacity and able to move more efficiently in decision making processes and governance. I want to acknowledge the efforts of Andy Stallman who graciously and tirelessly kept the projects and goals of the PAC on track during this most difficult year of local and global turmoil.

2021 continues to challenge all of us in unexpected ways. Like every entity and business affected by the coronavirus, drought, and the unrelenting effects of wildfires, we are faced with the task of trying to do more with less. Our funding, as mandated through the Transient Occupancy Tax, is significantly less than in previous years, but fortunately, the projects underway are paid for through our portions saved from healthier years, and we are presently able to continue our work towards enriching public art in Ashland.

After years of planning, the "Marking Ashland Places" project for Ashland's Railroad District is in its final stages. The PAC and Historic Commission have partnered on this project for several years with the purpose of providing a connection to the history of Ashland on today's landscape using site markers and artwork honoring specific places, events, and people throughout Ashland's 4 Historic Districts.

Five bronze medallions are currently being manufactured for this project and will be set into the sidewalks within the Railroad District. They depict some of the more iconic buildings captured in Terry Skibby's extensive collection of historic photos, as well as honoring a well-respected Chinese man and his family who were instrumental in the development and subsequent popularity of the Railroad District. We anticipate installation along A street and 4th street within a few months following production.

In partnership with these medallions will be the installation of a Railroad-themed piece of artwork honoring this transformative period in Ashland's history. It will be placed within Railroad Park at the bottom of 7th street, close to the walking and biking path. The Call for Artists went out at the end of 2020 and projects were reviewed thoroughly by a selection panel in early 2021. Their recommendation was to endorse the proposal submitted by Oregon artists, Jennifer Corio and David Frei. The PAC and the Ashland City Council both enthusiastically endorsed the selection.

Artist's Jennifer Corio and David Frei have consulted with their structural engineer and are in the early phases of fabrication. We anticipate that this sculpture will be installed in 2022. We look forward to working with the Historic Commission, APRC and other departments to plan a celebratory community event which commemorates these additions to the Ashland landscape.

The PAC showcased the newly created video presentation titled “The Power of Public Art” through Zoom in June. By using fantastic images of public art throughout the world, and thoughtful, informative narratives, this wonderful presentation illustrates how public art can:

- 1) ignite the viewer’s imagination and stimulate thought about our place in society
- 2) allow the viewer to physically engage with the artwork and enjoy a larger space in unique ways
- 3) celebrate the local spirit and history captured within the artwork while reinforcing civic pride
- 4) fuse an iconic image with a monumental event or a well-known cultural site

The commission has already begun to offer this presentation to various community groups and organizations in Ashland, around the valley, and virtually beyond. I would like to give special thanks to those who worked tirelessly to create this presentation: Councilor - Stephen Jensen; Associate Planner and Staff Liaison - Aaron Anderson; past commissioners - Andy Stallman, Sandy Friend, Tom Furmark, Allison Renwick, and Dana Bussel; Actor – Anthony Heald; Audio Engineer – Josh Harvath; and Promotor - Peter Finkle.

In July, the BIPOC Celebration Mural was approved by both the PAC and the Ashland City Council. This 171foot mural is currently being installed at Ashland High School along South Mountain Avenue. It aims to not only remind our community of the senseless death of Aidan Ellison and encourage Ashland citizens to do better, but also honors the work of influential BIPOC community members and celebrates their legacies.

This mural is being produced by a variety of community members whose goal is to help bring conversations to the surface and make clear that both Ashland and Ashland High School are places to honor the necessity of inclusivity. Its placement in our community will remind Ashland of its antiracist responsibilities and create a more inviting and inclusive space for BIPOC. The mural should be complete this fall and a dedication celebration is scheduled for November 23, 2021, which is also the anniversary of Aidan Ellison’s death.

Many members of the PAC have served on the commission for less than six months. We will be coming together in the next few months to structure a new strategic plan. We remain committed to promoting art in Ashland and building strong connections within our community. Furthermore, the PAC is dedicated to fostering relationships with other commissions, celebrating the history of Ashland and highlighting its diverse communities.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support and confidence in our work. The opportunity to be of service to our community is a great pleasure for all of us.