



**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Monday, May 16, 2022**

**HELD HYBRID - Council and some City Staff will be live in the Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street. Citizens and presenters will be joining via zoom  
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.**

**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: Ashland City Council Public Testimony. For oral testimony, fill out a Speaker Request Form at [ashland.or.us/speakerrequest](http://ashland.or.us/speakerrequest) and return to the City Recorder. The deadline for submitting written testimony or speaker request forms will be on Monday, May 16<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. and must comply with Council Rules to be accepted.**

**Mayor Akins called the Study Session to order at 5:30 p.m.**

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

1. Public Input (15 minutes, maximum)  
None.
2. Economic Development Round Table Business Owner Discussion

City Manager Joe Lessard gave a Staff Report.

**Business Participants were:**

Don Anway, Neuman Hotel Group  
Hiram Towle, Mt. Ashland  
Eric Weisinger, Weisinger Family Winery Retail/Restaurant  
Lisa Beam, Pie + Vine and Skout Tap House  
Anne Robison, Crown Jewel  
Will Johnson, Ashland Fly Shop Real Estate/Development  
Mark DiRienzo Light Manufacturing  
Jordan Willing, Blue Marble  
Eric Hansen, True South Solar

Items discussed were:

- What is the Sense of the Ashland Business Community Looking Forward?
- How has the pandemic and/or cost of doing business changed the business environment?
- What is the changing landscape of Ashland's tourism?

- What is the changing landscape for real estate (residential & commercial markets)?
- Where do you see growth opportunities for the local/regional economy?
- How Can We Build Economic Resilience?
- What are our risks/weaknesses going forward?
- What are our strengths/opportunities going forward?
- What can the City of Ashland do to support the local economy?

3. Look Ahead

Council Discussed the Look Ahead

4. Adjournment

**The Study Session was adjourned at: 8:00 PM**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

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**City Recorder Melissa Huhtala**

**Attest:**

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**Mayor Akins**

*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).*