

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
DRAFT MINUTES BUSINESS MEETING  
Tuesday, July 5, 2022**

View on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (Charter Communications) or live stream via [rvtv.sou.edu](http://rvtv.sou.edu) select RVTV Prime.

**HELD HYBRID (Limited In-Person Social Distancing Seating and Zoom Meeting Access)**  
The Special Business Meeting will be held in Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street.

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.

**6:00 PM Regular Business Meeting\***

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

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

**IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Land Acknowledgement\*\*

Moran read the land acknowledgement.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**VI. Minutes of Boards, Commissions and Committees\*\*\***

- 1. Study Session June 6, 2022**
- 2. Study Session May 16, 2022**

**Hyatt/Jensen moved to approve the minutes. Discussion: None. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

- VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS**  
**VIII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Mike Gardiner – Ashland – Spoke regarding the nature walks. He also gave an update on the Japanese Garden.

Linda Peterson Adams – Ashland – read a statement into the record (*see attached*).

## IX. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Joe Lessard presented the Manager Report.

Items discussed were:

- Look Ahead
- Election calendar
- Committees/Commissions process

**Graham/Jensen moved to put a forensic audit discussion on the agenda. Discussion:** Graham explained the reason for this motion and what a Forensic Audit is. **Roll Call Vote: Graham, Hyatt, Jensen and Seffinger: YES. DuQuenne and Moran: NO. Motion passed 4-2.**

DuQuenne questioned the status of the Community Center. Lessard spoke that he would bring this back the status to Council.

## X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Letter of Support – Oregon Department of Transportation America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Application

**Voice Vote: DuQuenne, Moran, Seffinger, Hyatt, Jensen and Graham: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

## XI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

## XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## XII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Designation of Acting City Attorney

Council discussed the recruitment process.

**Jensen/Graham I move to confirm the appointment of Doug McGeary as Interim City Attorney and grant the City Manager the authority to negotiate and sign the Interim City Attorney's contract. Discussion:** Jensen spoke in support of Mr. McGeary. Graham thanked Katrina Brown for her work. **Roll Call Vote: Graham, Hyatt, DuQuenne, Jensen, Seffinger and Moran: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. November 8<sup>th</sup> Election Referendums/Initiatives

Council discussed suspension of rules.

Lessard explained the ballot options.

### **Public Forum**

Sue Wilson – Ashland – spoke regarding Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission.

Clarinda Merripen -Black Sheep Owner – Ashland – Spoke regarding the Food and Beverage Tax. She encouraged Council and Staff to increase taxes in other ways. She spoke to the importance of keeping restaurants open.

Council discussed the potential initiatives and referendums and the process.

**Jensen/Seffinger moved to direct Staff to bring to the July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 clarity and appropriate Resolution language to place a Food and Beverage dual referendum on the November ballot that combines the Citizens initiative with the City Manager’s referendum into either/or choice for voters. Discussion:** Seffinger spoke to the history of this issue and the importance of hearing the voice of the Community. Jensen gave clarity that this is a motion to get feedback and clarification. Graham spoke in support of more time and to give the citizens options and spoke in support of the motion. Hyatt spoke in support of the motion. She spoke in appreciation of Staff. Moran questioned the process. Lessard explained the process. Seffinger called for the questions: **Roll Call Vote: Moran, Hyatt, Graham and DuQuenne: NO. Councilor Seffinger and Jensen: YES. Motion fails 2-4.**

**Discussion continued:** Council discussed the schedule of the process.

Council discussed the potential options.

**Roll Call Vote: Graham, Hyatt, Jensen and Seffinger: YES. DuQuenne and Moran: NO. Motion passed 4-2.** Council requested that the petitioner come to the next meeting to discuss the petition.

### **XIII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS**

1. Second Reading of Ordinance No.3211 Relating To Pedicab Operations and Alcoholic Beverages; Adding New AMC 10.40.050

City Attorney Katrina Brown gave a brief Staff report.

### **Public Input:**

Nate Olsen – Ashland – Thanked Council.

**Moran/DuQuenne moved to approve Second Reading of Ordinance No.3211. Discussion:** None. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Moran, Seffinger, Jensen and DuQuenne. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Council continued the discussion on November 8<sup>th</sup> Election Referendums/Initiatives regarding supervision of Staff.**

Lessard gave a Staff report.

**DuQuenne/Hyatt moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-21 referring an amendment to Article VIII-A, Section 4, of the City Charter related to the responsibilities of the City Manager, to the qualified voters of the City of Ashland for the November 8, 2022, General Election.** Discussion: DuQuenne spoke in support of the motion. Hyatt spoke regarding the process of this and the importance of looking at the Municipality in its totality. She spoke regarding insurance issues. She spoke that it is a fiduciary duty to mitigate the risk to tax payers. Moran spoke to the importance of mitigating risk and fiscal stewardship. Jensen spoke regarding the reasons our rates are going up according to CIS. Graham spoke in support of the motion. Seffinger spoke to her concerns on how Parks budget would be allocated. Lessard clarified how Parks Funds are allocated.  
**Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Jensen, Moran and DuQuenne: YES. Seffinger: NO. Motion passed 5-1.**

2. First Reading of Ordinance No. 3210 Relating to Notice of Meetings; Amending Municipal Code 2.04.020 Identification of Representatives of News Media Organizations

Lessard gave a brief Staff report.

**Hyatt/Moran moved to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 3210 and advance it to Second Reading for enactment. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Moran, Seffinger, DuQuenne and Jensen: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Councilor Graham explained the reason for this item and explained her concerns of a social media statement regarding a forensic audit by Mayor Akins. Mayor Akins spoke that she will bring this item to a future agenda appropriately if need be.

#### XV. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

**Moran/DuQuenne moved to adjourn the Business Meeting at 9:05 PM. Discussion: None. All Ayes.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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City Recorder Melissa Huhtala

Attest:

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## Mayor Akins

\*Items on the Agenda not considered due to time constraints are automatically continued to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting [AMC 2.04.030.(D)(3)]

### **\*\*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.

\*\*\*Agendas and minutes for City of Ashland's Boards and Commissions meetings may be found at the City's website, <https://www.ashland.or.us/Agendas.asp> . Use the View By box to select the Board or Commission information you are seeking.

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).