

CITY OF ASHLAND

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Held Electronically; View on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (Charter Communications) or live stream via rytv.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 Monday, November 15th 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. (D)(3)).

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Jensen led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hyatt suggested to add an item to the Agenda to reconsider her motion regarding establishment of a process to approve trails. She spoke that information has come forward in the last two weeks regarding that motion.

Hyatt/Jensen moved to add reconsideration to a motion regarding establishment of a process to approve trails to the Agenda. Discussion. Jensen spoke that it is necessary. He spoke that he has been asked to join the efforts as Council Liaison on the Ad-Hoc Commission. **Roll Call Vote: Jensen, DuQuenne, Seffinger, Moran, Hyatt and Graham: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

Hyatt/Jensen moved to reconsider and rescind the motion from November 2nd 2021 regarding an establishment of a process to approve trails. Discussion: Jensen spoke that as liaison he will commit to keep all up to speed ad-hoc effort. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Moran, DuQuenne, Seffinger and Jensen: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Study Session Meeting of November 1, 2021
2. Business Meeting of November 2, 2021

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

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

1. Housing and Human Services Commission Annual Report
Housing Program Specialist Linda Reid presented Council with the Annual Report. Reid introduced Housing and Human Services Commission Chair Rich Rohde. Rohde gave a brief update regarding housing.
Council thanked Staff and Commissioners.

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]
Written Public Testimony - George Kramer (see attached)
Louise Shawkat – Ashland – Spoke regarding Climate Change (*see attached*).
David Runkel- Ashland – Spoke regarding budget and recommendations to cut revenues. He urged Council to look into options.
Linda Peterson Adams – Ashland – Spoke regarding the importance of Commissions.

VIII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval for Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
2. Approval of Andra Hollenbeck to the Climate Policy Commission
3. Approval of Caitlin Guthrie to the Climate Policy Commission
4. Approval of Kate Kennedy to the Conservation & Climate Outreach Commission

Mayor Akins removed this item to a later date.

Graham/Hyatt moved to approve items 1,2 & 3 of the consent agenda. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote. Jensen, Hyatt, Graham, DuQuenne, Seffinger and Moran: 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. Quarterly FY2022 Financial Report & Budget Amendment

Finance Director Alison Chan gave a brief Staff report.

2. Revised Biennium Revenue and Expenditure Projections

Chan gave a staff report and went over a PowerPoint (*see attached*).

Items discussed were:

- Budget Document.
- General Fund Forecast.
- Expenditure Detail
- Revised Forecast

Council discussed:

- PERS
- Contingencies
- Budget vs Forecasting
- Grants

3. Revenue Options Discussion

Interim City Manager Gary Milliman gave a Brief Staff report. He went over revenue options.

Council discussed options

Graham/Seffinger moved to direct staff to analyze the revenue options and prioritize what is possible for Ashland along with some initial estimates on how much revenue these options can bring the community and bring back to Council. Discussion: Graham spoke in support of the motion. She spoke to the importance of revenue enhancement potential. Seffinger spoke in support of the motion. She spoke to the importance in looking into our emergencies such as climate change. Jensen spoke that there is not going to be significant cuts without a significant reduction in services. He spoke for the need for revenue enhancements. Moran spoke that there are a lot of areas that the City can find significant cuts. He spoke that he does not want to burden citizens anymore and to look into other things. Hyatt spoke that this vote is to ensure that we have both sides of the equation and to give Staff direction. She spoke in support of the motion. DuQuenne spoke to look at the complete breath of this and to look at all the options. **Roll Call Vote: Seffinger, Jensen, Moran, Hyatt: YES. Councilor Moran and DuQuenne: NO. Motion passed 4-2.**

4. Lease Agreement Extension – Briscoe School

Milliman gave a brief Staff report.

Council discussed options.

Hyatt/Jensen Motion to authorize the City Manager Pro Tem to execute a Lease Amendment between the Oregon Child Development Coalition and the City of Ashland extending the term of the lease through June 30, 2022. Discussion: Hyatt spoke in support of the motion. **Roll Call Vote: DuQuenne, Jensen, Seffinger, Moran, Hyatt and Graham: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Status Report on Pioneer Hall and Community Center

Public Works Director Scott Fleury gave a staff report.

Council discussed options and timelines.

Council discussed the private partnership proposal with Allan Sandler.

Council discussed putting forward an RFP and deadline. Fleury spoke that the deadline is December 7th at 2 PM but explained that there is flexibility to this deadline.

Council discussed the Ad-Hoc Commission recommendations.

Due to time constraints this Item was not complete and moved to the next Council Meeting.

XIII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM

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).

16-November-2021

Madame Mayor and Members of the City Council

Three years ago I appeared before Council, along with others, and offered my time and expertise to craft a community-based solution to the reported issues that had led the city to close both the Pioneer Log Cabin and the Winburn Way Community Center. Council, and staff, ignored that request, claiming that the City was obligated by state law to follow contracting processes, RFPs etc. and couldn't just work with community members.

Let's be honest and point out that the closure of those buildings and the city's lack of interest in solving the issues around them had more to do with some of the council and the then-Mayor being interested in drumming up support for what I have called the Deferred Maintenance Bond. Council, based on what can only be characterized as "thin air," allocated a million dollars to repair these buildings, largely in search of round numbers and an effort to pad funding for a new city hall. Before that bond was put forward, I again offered to help the city find a lower cost solution and I, again, was rebuffed. The voters wisely rejected the bond by nearly 70%.

You and staff then ignored the buildings for over a year, finally coming back with a proposal of \$830,000 (the \$170K reduced cost never being explained) to do the same work. Based entirely on the swing vote of Council Seffinger, you rejected that contract award. Staff threw up its hands and put it off to council to craft a solution, apparently being unable to offer anything that didn't involve hiring out the project themselves.

Council did craft a solution. Councilors Seffinger and Moran invited me, local architect Chris Brown and local builder Gil Livni, to form an "Ad Hoc" Committee, a committee being the only mechanism that met the city's rigid contracting processes, to find "the lowest-cost solution" to reopen the buildings. All six of you voted to support that process, three of you having run out of other options.

The Ad Hoc discovered, as I am sure anyone that had bothered knew all along, that the major "structural issue" at the Winburn Way was essentially a lie and that the Pioneer Log Cabin was actually open, despite not one nickel having been spent to solve the issues that resulted in it being shuttered three years earlier. At Winburn Way, yes, the north wall was out of plane, but it hadn't moved since that issue was repaired over three decades ago. The issue with the snow load was somewhat spurious, but even it too could be addressed with an internal moment frame, if some face-saving expenditure was needed.

Despite the Ad Hoc's efforts, saving you \$80,000 in design costs, and more than \$600,000 in construction, it still required a tie-breaking vote by the Mayor to approve the Ad Hoc recommendations and direct staff to proceed. Councilors Hyatt, Jensen and Graham, apparently, couldn't support saving money and actually reopening these buildings quickly as they had directed the Ad Hoc to pursue.

Neither, apparently, could staff. Again retreating behind process, contracting moved at glacial speed. The City was incapable of even removing the built-up leaf debris behind the building without cumbersome process. The Building Department, despite its statements during the Ad Hoc and a complete lack of paperwork as to why the building was actually closed, again

became concerned about the roof (despite the code-compliant solution to address that), and the Planning Department decided that building a short retaining wall and concrete pad to maintain separation between dirt/debris and the wooden foundation was subject to review under Ashland's Hillside Ordinance. Your public works department apparently forgot that the reason for the wall was not to stabilize the hillside, but rather to keep debris from directly contacting the building and make seasonal leaf removal easier. And that's not to mention resurgent concerns about improved ability to put on plays or a commercial kitchen from the Parks Department, who forgot to budget anything to actually manage these structures in 2022.

Now, having continued to drag your feet, some councilors, apparently, are in support of simply off-loading all responsibility for these buildings to a friendly developer who proposes to solve all your problems and take over management for twenty years. This strange proposal is of sufficient interest to your staff that it has risen to council level virtually overnight.

What the heck is wrong with you?

What happened your vaunted process, the contracting constraints against community support, the RPFs, and state law? Is seems the city is only capable of moving quickly when it involves shunting responsibility?

This developer may be well intentioned but has zero track record in sensitive restoration effort. Who decided that a day care center is the proper use for the building? What happens to the numerous community users that have waited for the return of this much valued meeting space while the city has twiddled its thumbs? How can you even momentarily consider this proposal without following some process beyond a "Hey, we've got a live one on the phone?" Will you be following similar paths for other city-owned properties?

I am frustrated that I wasted my time trying to help the city solve this problem in a simple and economical manner. I thought we had an opportunity to set a new precedent for community participation in cost-effective solutions to city issues. Clearly you are not interested in that (well, unless you can entirely avoid any management responsibility for the next 20 years in the process). Clearly your staff has better things to do that work expeditiously to reopen these buildings. Are you truly so incapable of managing a simple problem like reopening a beloved community-owned building that never should have been closed in the first place unless a pretend White Knight arrives to take the decision out of your hands?

This is a dumb proposal. It fails your own stated processes; it's probably counter to the current property zoning (I doubt anyone has even checked) and it's just plain bad for the community. It should never have made it to council level. You should reject it out of hand. The city has more than ample funding in the bank to fix these buildings. You have a plan to do so, even if staff is going require that plan go through the Hillside Ordinance just because it can. Stop dragging your feet and do what a majority of you have already agreed to do.

/George Kramer

I'd like to refer to the last two council meetings. It is obvious to me that climate change is not high on your todo list.

Joanna Macy, an environmental activist, author, and scholar of Buddhism, general systems theory, and deep ecology.

has a terrific exercise....about the 7th generation. This exercise assumes there will be humans living on earth 200 yrs from now. The 7th generation person who has a cultural memory of what was happening in 2021 talks with their ancestor-who would be you or me. This 7th generationer would question me- or you and say that " during your time on earth it was obvious that species were dying, that island countries were disappearing, that cultures were being lost, deaths were occurring due to climate disasters and what was I or you thinking while this was going on, that we allowed this to happen-to continue? That we discounted the importance of doing just one small effort-that many small actions can make a difference and we didn't work hard enough to avoid the climate change disasters that occurred.

My examples: refusing to sign a letter joining Race to Zero with no financial cost, and because of fear that we couldn't meet its standards which included reduction of cumulative and consumption emissions.

And refusing to glean the spirit of the TSP transportation system plan: it would be asking the public what they would like to see in the transportation update as the current TSP is out of date-so much has changed during the past 10 years. Fearmongering was apparent-stating that the TSP was a method to take cars away from people, that we would have to walk everywhere-even from Phoenix and Talent to Ashland, and that only electric vehicles would be allowed in Ashland. Forgetting that GHG emissions from transportation is 40% of Oregon's total GHG emissions.

Forgetting we are destined to be an area of drought and you are thinking of giving away our waste water.

What would your answer be to the 7th generation person? Would the answer be: I preferred to make no effort to affect change, I turned a blind eye-and let the chips fall where they may.

The final five minutes of the last council meeting was a short clip on how well the AHS girls soccer team did this year: a proud parent, a proud citizenry-but assuming this child has children of her own, how will you all answer your grandchildren's question when she asks what were you doing while the world as we know it was crumbling?

Louise Shawkat

City of Ashland

Alison Chan
Interim Finance Director

NOVEMBER, 2021

Budget document

General Fund Forecast - presented on page 254 of the budget document						
		FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
		Proposed	Proposed	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Revenue		36,224,348	33,196,460	34,716,133	36,472,289	37,817,191
Expenditure *		38,800,866	36,804,210	38,711,841	40,311,480	41,710,540
revenue less expenditure		(2,576,518)	(3,607,750)	(3,995,708)	(3,839,191)	(3,893,349)
Endng Fund Balance		9,549,799	5,942,049	1,946,341	(1,892,850)	(5,786,199)
*less contingency						

Expenditure Detail

General Fund Forecast - presented during the budget process						
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
	Estimated	Proposed	Proposed	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Revenues		36,224,348	33,196,460	34,716,133	36,472,289	37,817,191
Expenditures						
Admin, HR, Court, Legal		3,499,053	3,488,516	3,636,778	3,791,341	3,952,473
IT		1,457,578	1,395,964	1,455,292	1,517,142	1,581,621
Parks contribution		5,552,939	3,539,072	3,510,785	3,617,605	3,585,340
Finance		2,887,875	2,955,807	3,081,429	3,212,390	3,190,035
City Recorder		175,787	180,004	187,654	195,629	203,944
Police		7,751,922	8,000,987	8,353,030	8,720,564	9,104,268
Fire		10,577,810	10,461,557	10,921,866	11,402,428	11,904,134
PW-support, cemetry, facilites		3,936,879	4,160,707	4,337,537	4,521,882	4,714,062
Com Dev		2,036,652	2,030,828	2,117,138	2,207,117	2,300,919
Other System-wide Adjustments		(195,358)	(512,890)			
Transfer out		500	500	500	500	500
Total Expenditure		37,681,637	35,701,052	37,602,009	39,186,598	40,537,296
Revenue less Expenditures		(1,457,289)	(2,504,592)	(2,885,876)	(2,714,309)	(2,720,105)
Contingency		(1,119,229)	(1,103,158)	(1,109,832)	(1,124,882)	(1,173,244)
		(2,576,518)	(3,607,750)	(3,995,708)	(3,839,191)	(3,893,349)
	12,126,317	9,549,799	5,942,049	1,946,341	(1,892,850)	(5,786,199)

Revised Forecast

General Fund Revised Forecast							
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	
		Adopted	Adopted	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
Revenues		37,077,651	34,896,476	34,840,522	35,827,750	36,843,146	removed Fire grant revenue
Expenditures							
Admin, HR, Court, Legal		3,542,684	3,485,132	3,633,250	3,787,663	3,948,639	
IT		1,479,911	1,375,104	1,433,546	1,494,472	1,557,987	
Parks contribution		5,553,439	3,547,497	4,219,516	4,398,845	4,585,796	add 500,000 contribution to Parks
Finance		2,877,995	2,900,302	3,023,565	3,152,066	3,286,029	
City Recorder		173,192	175,183	182,628	190,390	198,482	
Police		7,999,399	7,944,996	8,294,576	8,659,537	9,040,557	
Fire		10,467,121	10,103,144	9,503,682	9,921,844	10,358,406	removed expenses for Fire grant
PW-support, cemetry, facilites		3,483,523	3,528,114	3,678,059	3,834,376	3,997,337	
Com Dev		2,185,963	2,063,573	2,151,275	2,242,704	2,338,019	
Total Expenditure		37,763,227	35,123,045	36,120,097	37,681,898	39,311,251	
Revenue less Expenditures		(685,576)	(226,569)	(1,279,574)	(1,854,148)	(2,468,105)	
Ending Fund Balance	12,569,191	11,883,615	11,657,046	10,377,472	8,523,324	6,055,219	