



## CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Monday, December 6, 2021

Held Electronically

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, December 6th 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' Hyatt, DuQuenne, Moran, Seffinger, Jensen and Graham were present.**

1. Public Input (15 minutes, maximum)

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

2. Long-Term Financial Planning Schedule

Interim City Manager Gary Milliman gave a brief Staff Report.

It was discussed to bring this item back to Council at a future date. Mr. Milliman spoke to the importance to fully engage the Public and not rush the process.

He spoke suggesting a new schedule and went over the options.

Parks and Recreation Director Michael Black spoke that the parks commission will be reviewing this at their next meeting and will bring back feedback to the Council.

Council discussed the possible proposed Levy timeline.

Moran questioned if there is a list of properties of what the Parks Department manages for the City. Black spoke that there is a map on the City website. He spoke that it is being updated and will send out a link and PDF to Council.

Council discussed donated land.

Councilor Graham spoke that she would share a calendar she has created regarding the General Fund.

Finance Director Alison Chan spoke that it takes time to put a Budget together before even having a discussion. She spoke to the importance to keep moving forward and timely.

Council discussed timelines.

3. Look Ahead

Council discussed the Look Ahead.

Mayor Akins spoke that an offer went out to a candidate for the City Manager position. Council discussed to have a Special Meeting to discuss this on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

4. Adjournment

The Study Session was adjourned at 7:12 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).*

Communication to the public about the process by which the Council makes policy decisions is critical to the democratic process. Decisions made by Council, while they eventually take place by vote in this Electronic Chamber, happen here. But they don't start here.

Citizens want to be able to contribute their ideas, concerns and questions and they need to be able to know how to do that in a way that they will be heard and answered with a reasoned response.

Through Ashland Municipal Code, the Council and the public is supported by a legion of appointed volunteers in a number of Commissions to advise the Council on everything from a public art installation to the building of entire neighborhoods. Commissions do much more than simply read a report to Council once a year.

Commissions are composed of individuals from our Community who volunteer their expertise, time and love of this exceptional place we live in. They contribute countless hours meeting, having robust discussions, checking social media, analyzing data, reading reports, researching, collaborating and, most importantly, opening our meetings to the community to give us input on priorities that they want to be considered by Council. Commissions are the first community engagement stop whereby plans are prepared for further policy action.

Each Commission is supported by our highly diligent and thoughtful Staff, who with the expertise of their Department positions, help commissions take the direction they have been given by Council to gain public input to further the process toward action.

Whether it be ordinances on home hardening by the Wildfire Commission, providing incentives for electrification from the Climate Policy Commission, deciding allocation amounts for the distribution of Community Development Block Grants from Housing and Human Services Commission or engaging the community in the discussions of roadway priorities from the Transportation Commission, or the protection of a Fremont Cottonwood by the Tree Commission. All of these have undergone a very public and important step of consideration.

The Communication cycle here is essential to assure public engagement with the process. Anyone can apply to be a Commission member and all Commissions welcome all citizen input into Commission work.

Keep those cards and letters coming. Commissioners are waiting and willing to listen, learn and discuss topics of your concern.