

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
February 15, 2022**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Akins called the Council Business Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Jensen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Councilor DuQuenne, Graham, Hyatt, Jensen, Moran, and Seffinger were present.

IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Hyatt read the Land Acknowledgement.

Councilor DuQuenne spoke to dynamics that occurred during the Study Session the night before.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Business Meeting of February 1, 2022

Councilor Hyatt/Graham moved to approve the Minutes. Voice Vote: All AYES. Motion passed Unanimously.

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

1. Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission Resolution Update

DuQuenne thanked Staff Liaison Ann Seltzer and introduced Co-Chairs Emily Simon and Commissioner Anyania Muse.

Ms. Simon provided background on how the Commission came together. She explained how equality, diversity, and inclusion (ED&I) should occur daily. She spoke to the importance of the City modeling proper behavior procedures and policies to create equity. She spoke that the City also needs to change the culture to where the black community feels safe in town.

Ms. Muse explained the work an ED&I and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Manager did. Ensuring equity, diversity and inclusion entailed having a continuous set of norms and procedures.

She explained that building an equity office would require an analysis of need and the organizational structure. She recommended the City hire a DEI Manager; she explained that this position could be under the office of the Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, or the Human Resources Department. She went over planning options to build strategy and success.

Funding was discussed.

She spoke that this is not a position where the City would be hiring someone to only deal with black issues; it is a position for someone who has the capacity to engage in a conversation of what real inclusion looks like.

Simon discussed DEI Manager duties. She spoke that the Commission is more than willing to help with the process in making this position become a successful reality.

Graham confirmed the recommendations were hiring a DEI Manager, providing conciliatory services, and establishing culturally competent calendars. Ms. Muse cautioned to carefully consider the impact conciliatory services could have regarding staff support.

Seffinger appreciated the work the Commission had done and wanted to know how the City would fund the recommendations.

Simon and Muse spoke to conciliatory services being open to the city or citywide and working with community partners to develop training. The Commission was training on active listening as well as researching partnering with other cities and agencies in the valley. If the City pursued conciliatory services, they needed to focus on what outcomes they wanted to achieve as well as budget.

Council discussed the budgetary element to hire a DEI Manager and next steps.

Seffinger confirmed that diversity, equity, and inclusion would encompass age discrimination, poverty levels, and non-college degreed people. Muse explained how equity included everyone. Any public problem exacerbated by race, gender, and sexual orientation.

Simon thanked Council and Staff.

2. Quarterly Financial Report

Interim Finance Director Alison Chan gave a Staff Report.

Moran questioned the Executive Summary. Chan went over the Executive Summary.

Items discussed regarding the Executive Summary were:

- Reporting Grants received
- Cost of Living Allowances for all employees
- Contract Negotiation Process
- Budget Forecast
- Collection Rate on Property Taxes
- Real Estate Purchases

MINUTES OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

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

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

Richard Barth-Ashland-Currently was the chair for the Climate Policy Commission but was not speaking in that capacity tonight. He spoke to an incident where several commission

representatives had a discussion that may have violated public meeting law. He explained how the discussion did not pertain to public meeting law.

VIII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Joe Lessard provided a report that included opening the inclement weather shelter, possible hybrid council meetings and that he would be out of the office the following week.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of an Airport Emergency Plan for the Ashland Municipal Airport**
- 2. Appointment of Doug Knauer to the Planning Commission**
- 3. Council Liaison Appointments**

Councilor Hyatt pulled Consent Agenda Item #3 for discussion.

Hyatt/Seffinger moved to approve Consent Agenda items #1 and #2.

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

Councilor Hyatt asked for clarification on who was the liaison for the Forest Lands Commission. It was determined Mayor Akins would be the liaison for this commission.

Hyatt/Moran moved to approve Consent Agenda item #3 as amended.

Voice Vote: All AYES. Motion passed Unanimously

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

XII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

XIII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

1. Supplemental Budget and Resolution

Interim Finance Director Alison Chan asked if Council wanted these types of resolutions in the Consent Agenda or separate. DuQuenne wanted to keep them separate. Ms. Chan explained this Resolution was for several grants the Parks and Recreation Department had received.

Jensen/Moran moved to adopt Resolution 2022-XX authorizing a 2021-23 Supplemental Budget, Resolution number to be determined. DISCUSSION: Moran agreed with DuQuenne on keeping Resolutions like this separate from the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor DuQuenne, Seffinger, Moran, Jensen, Hyatt, and Graham: YES. Motion Passed Unanimously.

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

City Manager Joe Lessard reviewed the Look Ahead with Council.

XV. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

**Graham/DuQuenne moved to adjourn the Business Meeting at 8:08 PM
Voice Vote: All AYES. Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Executive Assistant Dana Smith

Attest:

Mayor Akins

***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.

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).