

CITY OF ASHLAND

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Held Electronically; View on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (Charter Communications) or live stream via 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 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, February 28th 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)]

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Hyatt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

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

IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Land Acknowledgement

Councilor DuQuenne read the Land Acknowledgment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Study Session of February 14, 2022
2. Business Meeting of February 15, 2022

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

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

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](#)
[Transportation](#)

[Public Arts](#)
[Tree](#)

[Social Equity & Racial Justice](#)
[Wildfire Safety](#)

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

Linda Peterson Adams – Ashland – Spoke regarding Traffic Calming (*see attached*).

VIII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Joe Lessard gave a report. Items discussed were:

- Emergency Shelter
- March 19th Mask Mandate lifting
- Efforts to fill Human Resources Position

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of a Safe Routes to School Grant Application
2. Liquor License Approval for Stop n Shop

Hyatt/Moran moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Moran, DuQuenne, Graham and Jensen: YES. Motion passed unanimously.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Approval of Personal Services Contract for the North Mountain Avenue Rehabilitation Engineering Design

Public Works Director Scott Fleury gave a brief Staff Report.

Council discussed the timeline.

Council discussed the SDC allocation.

Graham/DuQuenne moved to approve a contract for professional engineering and design services with DOWL for an amount not to exceed \$945,493.81. Discussion: Graham spoke that she is excited to see this coming about and that it is important to maintain these streets. She spoke in appreciation of Staff. DuQuenne thanked Mr. Fleury.

Seffinger joined the meeting at 6:24 PM.

Roll Call Vote: Jensen, DuQuenne, Seffinger abstained from the vote. Moran, Graham and Hyatt: YES. Motion passed 5-1.

2. Purchase of Mountain Avenue Substation

Thomas McBartlett Director of Electric gave a brief Staff Report.

Jensen/Hyatt moved to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with BPA for the purchase of Mountain Avenue substation at a price of \$895,109. Discussion: Jensen thanked McBartlett. Hyatt thanked Staff for their work. Graham thanked McBartlett and Staff. Seffinger spoke in support of the project and the importance to provide the best service to the citizens. **Roll Call Vote: Moran, Hyatt, Graham, Seffinger, Jensen and DuQuenne: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

Jensen spoke regarding the vote where Seffinger abstained.

Mayor Akins spoke that Assistant Attorney Mr. McGeary was looking into this issue.

3. Approval of Special Procurement - Transformers

Mr. McBartlett gave a brief Staff Report.

Seffinger/ Jensen moved to approve this Class Special Procurement. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Jensen, Seffinger, Hyatt and Graham: YES. DuQuenne and Moran: NO. Motion passed 4-2.

Mayor Akins spoke regarding abstaining votes.

Moran/DuQuenne moved to suspend the rules to allow Ms. Shawkat to speak for Public Forum.

Public Forum Continued:

Louise Shawkat – Ashland – Spoke regarding the importance of water conservation and climate change. Ms. Shawkat urged Council seek action on water conservation and climate change.

XIII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

Moran/Hyatt moved to adjourn the Council Business Meeting. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council Business Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

City Recorder Melissa Huhtala

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).

"Thanks for having me,

From small towns to large cities, communities nationwide are asserting their values for safety, for health, for climate action and to see these values reflected in the transportation system. Whether it be the works of Strong Towns, Complete Streets, the Vision Zero Network, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Safe Routes to Schools or Sustainable Communities, these educational campaigns, combine with governments for changes to land use codes and to transportation infrastructure planning, funding and implementation that all contribute to making our communities safer, healthier, greener and more equitable for all of the people who use our transportation system no matter how they move from one place to another.

These are the goals and priorities of our community as well. By proceeding with Capital Improvement Projects like Bicycle Boulevards and the North Mountain Rehabilitation, and with citizen participation and engagement in the Transportation System Plan update along with incorporating the goals of the Climate and Energy Action Plan as mandated by ordinance 3145, this leads to developing a resilient Ashland, an Ashland where all ages and abilities can walk and roll safely.

I hear the plaintive question, But what can I do? As Senator Jeff Golden recommends in his newsletter, simply do what you can do. He is referencing the Helen Keller quote "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do something that I can do."

The City has multiple programs available to help citizens "DO". The newly updated Traffic Calming Program is one of these. If you have concerns about speeding or other safety issues in your neighborhood, consider joining with your neighbors to petition and apply for consideration to reduce the impact of traffic on the livability and safety of your neighborhood. Best to Google Pilot Traffic Calming Ashland for the quickest way to find more information on this program.

A good source for wildfire preparation is found at fireadaptedashland.org. Do you know your zone?

For programs on Climate action such as adapting your home, or finding incentives for energy efficiency (and much more) ashlandor.org climate-energy will get you there.

And if you are driving through Ashland, please remember to slow down, 20 is plenty, buckle up, stow your phone, never drive impaired and be particularly watchful for our vulnerable walkers and rollers. This is, as the signs say, Pedestrian Friendly Ashland. Do what you can do to help make that a reality, not a jingle."

Linda Peterson Adams