

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 15, 2022

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 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, March 14th at 10 a.m. and must comply with Council Rules to be accepted.

For written testimony, email public-testimony@ashland.or.us using the subject line: Ashland

6:00 PM REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING*

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Moran led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

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

IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Land Acknowledgement**

Hyatt read the Land Acknowledgment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Study Session of February 28, 2022
2. Business Meeting of March 1, 2022

Seffinger/Hyatt moved to approve the Minutes. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of Boards, Commissions and Committees***

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

1. Tree Commission Update and Proclamation

This Item was moved to a future agenda.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

Miriam Reed – Ashland – Spoke regarding cell towers and the high level of electromagnetic frequencies (EMS). She spoke that this can kill and affect everyone. She spoke that 1/3 of our population is aware of EMF's. She spoke in concern of health of our lives and our children. She suggested to update the Ordinance's on this issue. Ms. Reed suggested that Council put moratorium of construction until Ordinances are considered.

Kelly Marcotulli – Ashland – Spoke regarding solutions to rewrite Ashland's telecommunications Ordinances. She suggested to hire an experienced attorney to work on the Ordinance. Second get help from Oregon for Safer Technology to help pay for legal expenses. She suggested for Oregon for Safer Technology to write up a draft proposal of beneficial and protective telecommunications Ordinances. She spoke that we cannot ignore the science any longer. She encouraged Council to now allow 5G.

Cynthia Moscaritolo – Ashland – Spoke regarding opposition of the cell towers. She spoke in concern of the students who could be affected. She suggested that Council do something about this situation. She spoke that Council should not put the cell tower up.

Linda Peterson Adams – Ashland- Read a statement into the record recording climate change and the common good.

VIII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Joseph Lessard gave the City Manager Report. Items discussed were:

- Software updates.
- April 4th Study Session Form of Government training.
- March 21st the City will be allowing normal business access to the offices. On the City website under "Hot Topics" you can see the hours for each department.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Ashland Food Co-op (AFC) banner across Main Street commemorating their 50th Anniversary and Earth Day

Hyatt/Moran moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Discussion: Seffinger spoke to the importance of this motion. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Authorization to Apply for Vehicle Barrier Grant
This item has been removed until a future agenda.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Parks Commission vacancy election

Mr. Lessard gave a brief Staff Report.

City Attorney Katrina Brown went over the process as presented in the Council Packet.

Council discussed the process.

Parks & Recreation Commissioner Rick Landt gave an overview of the process that parks went through to select an applicant.

Council discussed the candidates.

Council discussed if it would be a conflict of interest if a member of the Budget Committee could be a Commissioner. Brown spoke it could be a possibility. Landt spoke that if Jim Bachman was appointed, he would resign from the Budget Committee.

Council discussed the process to proceed with a vote.

Graham/Seffinger moved that Ashland City Council appoint Jim Bachman to the vacant position on the Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission. This appointment requires that Mr. Bachman resign from the Budget Committee; should he chose not to do that then Council would appoint the number two recommended applicant from the Parks Commission. Discussion: Graham spoke regarding the vetting process. She spoke in support of the motion. Seffinger spoke to the importance to respect elected officials. Staff and Council discussed the difference between election and appointment process.
Graham withdrew her motion.

Council discussed whether or not to vote on all candidates or the top 3 as suggested.

Hyatt/Seffinger moved that for the election process we maintain a poll of the ranked 3 candidates put forward by the Parks Commission. Discussion: None. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, DuQuenne, Seffinger and Moran: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

The candidates on the ballot to be voted on:

Jim Bachman
Kerry KenCairn
Eric Hanssen

Votes were sent to the City Recorder via zoom chat. The City Recorder called the City Attorney Katrina Brown to verify each vote.

Graham, Hyatt and Seffinger voted for Jim Bachman. DuQuenne and Moran voted for Eric Hansen.

XIII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

1. Ordinance Amending AMC 2.27.010 Relating to Membership on the Climate Policy Commission

Graham gave a brief Staff Report.

Hyatt/DuQuenne moved to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 3207 and advance it to Second Reading for enactment. Discussion: None. **Roll Call Vote: Moran, Seffinger, Graham, Hyatt and DuQuenne: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Resolution No. 2022-04 Adoption of Revisions to Miscellaneous Fees & Charges for FY 2022 and Repealing Resolution 2021-21

Interim Finance Director Alison Chan gave a brief Staff Report.

DuQuenne/Moran moved to amend the exhibit to omit the section regarding Calle Guanajuato. Discussion: DuQuenne spoke regarding separating the two items. She spoke that she does not feel it is appropriate to add a fee to the restaurants and artists. She spoke that that the Golf Course the restaurants and artists have a hard enough time to get by and does not want to support another fee. Moran spoke in agreement with DuQuenne. Hyatt questioned when the last times the fees were raised on the Calle and why the 7% verses the 5.5% ?. Parks Deputy Director Rachel Dials spoke that the last time fees were raised was 2017. She spoke that the percentages are based on the CPI.

Hyatt questioned if these fee increases were included in the 2022-2023 Biennium Budget. Ms. Dials answered that they were not; she went over the process that the Parks Commission went through. She spoke that during the pandemic they have worked hard to cut fees and decrease fees.

Roll Call Vote: Moran, Seffinger and DuQuenne: YES. Hyatt and Graham: NO. Motion passes 3-2.

Moran questioned how much revenue would the fee increase be for the Golf Course. Ms. Dials answered an estimated \$15,000 additional revenue.

Hyatt/DuQuenne moved approval of the resolution titled, A Resolution Adopting a Miscellaneous Fees & Charges Document and Repealing Prior Fee Resolution 2021-21 as amended. Discussion: None. **Roll Call Vote: Moran, Graham, Hyatt, Seffinger and DuQuenne: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Rogue Recology CPI Adjustment

Ms. Chan gave a brief Staff Report.

Recology General Manager Gary Blake gave an update.

Council discussed the franchise agreement and CPI.

Council discussed what would happen if the CPI adjustment was not approved. Mr. Blake explained that the job would still get done but this is a way to feather increases instead of having a shocking increase in future years.

Graham/Hyatt moved to approve a resolution titled, “A resolution modifying solid waste franchise rates and fees” as presented. Discussion: Graham spoke that these are hard conversations to have. She spoke that staying in alignment with what is going on in the Valley. She spoke to the importance to stay close to the cost increases and the elements of the contract and not get to the point where we have to have large increase. Hyatt agreed with Graham. She spoke that she does not feel good about any rate increase but explained the importance to balance the decision with the goals of our community which is the recycling program. She spoke that doing this now will be better than confronting our community with a double-digit increase. **Roll Call Vote: Moran NO. City Recorder called out for Seffinger. Seffinger was no longer on Zoom.**

Roll Call Continued Graham & Hyatt: YES. DuQuenne NO. Mayor Akins: NO. Motion Fails 2-3.

4. Supplemental Budget and Resolution
Ms. Chan gave a brief Staff Report.

Wildfire Division Chief Chris Chambers gave a brief update and spoke in support of the Supplemental Budget.

Hyatt/Moran moved to adopt Resolution 2022-03 adopting a supplemental budget and amending the City’s 2021-2023 Biennium Budget. Discussion: Hyatt thanked Chambers team and their hard work. Moran spoke in agreement with Hyatt and thanked Ms. Chan for her work on this item. **Roll Call Vote: DuQuenne, Moran, Hyatt and Graham: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

Graham/Moran moved to adjourn the Business Meeting.

The Council Business Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

City Recorder Melissa Huhtala

Attest:

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).