

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES
Tuesday, July 6, 2021

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: July 6 Business Meeting Testimony.

For oral testimony, fill out a Speaker Request Form at ashland.or.us/speakerrequest and return it to the City Recorder. The deadline for submitting written testimony or speaker request forms will be on Tuesday, July 6 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.E.]

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 Hyatt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

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

IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jensen read the 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”.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Business Meeting of May 18, 2021
2. Study Session of June 14, 2021
3. Business Meeting of June 15, 2021

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

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

1. Proclamation Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Soroptimist International of Ashland

Mayor Akins read the Proclamation into the record (*see attached*).

2. Update on Fire Season

Interim City Manager Adam Hanks gave a Staff report and introduced Interim Fire Chief Ralph Sartain. Chief Sartain gave an update on Fire Season.

3. COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Discussion and Reopening Plan

Hanks gave a Staff report.

Council discussed Commissions meeting virtually and in person.

Hanks explained that City Council Meetings will begin meeting in person July 19th.

Hanks explained that City Hall and Community Development Departments will be open to the public beginning July 12th from 9 AM – 1 PM.

Jensen/Graham moved approval of the proposed Declaration of Emergency Extension through August 17, 2021. Discussion: Jensen spoke that this is a good thing to do and would do no harm to extend. Graham spoke in agreement with Jensen. **Roll Call Vote: Graham, Jensen, Seffinger, Hyatt, Moran and DuQuenne: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

VII. MINUTES OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

[Airport](#)

[Budget](#)

[Conservation](#)

[Historic](#)

[Housing and Human Svcs.](#)

[Parks & Recreation](#)

[Forest Lands](#)

[Climate Policy](#)

[Cost Review](#)

[Planning](#)

[Public Arts](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Tree](#)

[Wildfire Mitigation](#)

VIII. 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]

See note above for how to submit testimony for Public Forum.

SEE ATTACHED SUBMITTED WRITTEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY.

Susan Hall- Ashland – Spoke in appreciation to City Recorder and City Manager. She spoke regarding statements made regarding Code of Conduct and submitted a statement into the record (*see attached*).

Irene Kai – Ashland – Thanked Staff for their hard work. She spoke regarding her background and spoke that she chose to live in Ashland 24 years ago. She spoke to the importance to keep the City running efficiently. She spoke that leadership takes courage.

Paula Brown – Ashland –She spoke to her background working with the City. She spoke to her disappointment to the Mayor’s leadership which has contributed to a toxic work environment in City Hall and stated reasons why.

Dan Belenky – Ashland – Spoke regarding electric energy. He spoke regarding nuclear power.

Noel Chatroux – Ashland – Spoke regarding the global warming fight. He spoke to the importance of storing energy and nuclear power. He suggested to have a new Ordinance

regarding this topic (*see attached*).

Mike Gardiner – Ashland – Spoke regarding the 2021-23 Biennium Budget. He spoke representing the Ashland Parks & Recreation Board of Commissioners. He spoke that the City needs to act now with regards to the General Fund and Food and Beverage Tax. He spoke that there should be no hesitation to start work on this budget and move forward.

IX. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Hanks went over the City Manager Report (*see attached*).

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Liquor License for Nama
2. Approval of Liquor License for Caldera

Hyatt/Moran moved to approve Item # 1&2. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Personal Services Contract with Douglas McGeary for Legal Services
Graham pulled this Item.

Council discussed the scope of work regarding 5G.

Graham/Hyatt moved to approve the personal services contract with Douglas McGeary and to authorize the City Manager Pro Tem to sign the contract. Discussion: None. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. 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.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Mayors Proposed Recruitment and Selection Process for City Attorney

Hanks gave a brief Staff report.

Council discussed the timeline.

Council discussed the process.

Seffinger/Moran moved to approve the selection process as proposed by the Mayor. Discussion: Seffinger spoke that this process is flexible and one that would be a trust building process. Jensen spoke for clarification on the motion and process. He spoke regarding having a hard time having a sub-committee. Graham spoke that HR professionals are the best to begin this process but can’t support creating a Council Sub-Committee. She suggested to have HR bring Council bring the finalist pool and then have the Council decide together. Hanks clarified that the intent for the sub-committee is a process committee not a selection committee. **Roll Call Vote: Jensen, Graham, Seffinger, Moran, DuQuenne and Hyatt: YES. Motion passed**

unanimously.

XIII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Approval to Utilize an Interstate Cooperative Procurement to Purchase Two Each Life-Line Type 1 Ford F450 Ambulances

Hanks gave a brief Staff report and introduced Interim Fire Chief Ralph Sartain.

Chief Sartain gave a brief Staff report.

Council discussed the costs and other options.

Seffinger/Hyatt moved to approve the award of a public contract to Hughes Fire Equipment for two each Life-Line Type 1 Ford F450 Ambulances. Discussion: Seffinger spoke to the importance of safety for the Community. She spoke that the Community wants to be sure we are doing the best we can in emergency situations. Hyatt spoke that the City has been fortunate to have information coming to us during emergency situations. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Moran, Seffinger, Jensen and DuQuenne: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Akins moved Item XV. **Confirmation of Mayoral Appointment of Ralph Sartain as Fire Chief to New and Miscellaneous Business.**

2. Confirmation of Mayoral Appointment of Ralph Sartain as Fire Chief

Hanks gave a brief Staff report and spoke in support of Chief Sartain. Mayor Akins also spoke in support of Chief Sartain. She spoke that Fire Staff also spoke in support of Chief Sartain.

Jensen/Hyatt moved to approve Ralph Sartain's appointment as Fire Chief and authorize the City Manager Pro Tem to sign the related employment agreement. Discussion: Graham spoke in appreciation of Chief Sartain. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Seffinger, Moran, DuQuenne and Jensen: YES. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

1. Mayoral City Manager Recruitment Plan

Hanks gave a Staff report.

RVCOG Executive Director Ann Marie Alfrey gave a brief overview of the recruitment and hiring process that they would provide.

Council discussed cost.

Council discussed the timeframe.

Council discussed the options of having RVCOG vs internal HR.

Graham/Jensen moved to direct Staff to negotiate and execute a contract with a qualified and available recruitment consultant firm, consistent and compliant with public contracting laws with a total cost not to exceed \$25,000 with the intention to initiate the recruitment process August 1, 2021. Discussion: Graham spoke that there is no reason to go outside the City HR Department. She spoke that it is imperative to have recruitment firm on board. She spoke that RVCOG is a great partner but we are big enough and have our own full service in house. Jensen spoke in agreement with Graham. He spoke to the importance of a

professional recruiting firm. Moran spoke that it is a no brainer to go with RVCOG and money well spent. He spoke to the importance of getting the best person we can. Mayor Akins noted that HR currently has the task to search for a City Attorney and Finance Director. Hyatt spoke that RVCOG is great as is our internal HR. Hyatt spoke regarding proactive outreach. DuQuenne spoke that she felt confident in RVCOG and the timeline. She echoed that City Staff has a lot on their plate. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Jensen and Seffinger: YES. DuQuenne and Moran: NO. Motion passed 4-2.**

Council discussed the minimum requirements for City Manager.

Hyatt/Seffinger moved to confirm the educational requirement to be a Bachelor's degree, with major course work in Public Administration, Business Administration, Finance, or a closely related field and Master's Degree preferred. And; moved to clarify the prior experience qualification for the City Manager position as 10 years' progressive government experience or in an organization of similar complexity and 3-5 years of executive leadership experience such as: City Manager, Deputy City manager, Assistant City Manager or Senior Level Public Administrator. And; with education and experience resolved to reinitiate the recruitment as soon as administratively feasible but no later August 1st. Jensen, Hyatt, Moran, Seffinger and Graham: YES. DuQuenne: NO. Motion passed 5-1.

XIV. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

1. Confirmation of Mayoral Appointment of Ralph Sartain as Fire Chief

Item was moved to New and Miscellaneous Business (see above).

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

XVI. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 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).

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Soroptimist organization, founded on October 3, 1921, works to economically empower women and girls through access to education, and

WHEREAS, Soroptimist International of Ashland was formed in 1946, and

WHEREAS, Soroptimist International of Ashland has been an integral part of the Ashland community for the past 75 years, and

WHEREAS, Soroptimist International of Ashland has improved the lives of Ashland's women and girls by:

- Annually disbursing Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards® to local women to help them with the education and training they need to improve their employment prospects and economic standing
- Awarding scholarships to young women graduating from Ashland and Phoenix High Schools and scholarships for young women attending Southern Oregon University
- Sponsoring Soroptimist Strong Girls Strong Women at Helman Elementary School for over ten years, providing Lunch Buddy mentors, STEM and career education
- Making grants to local health care organizations to support women's health

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Julie Akins, Mayor of Ashland do hereby proclaim, June 12, 2021, Soroptimist International of Ashland Day throughout Ashland and October 3, 2021 as Soroptimist International Day.

Julie Akins, Mayor

Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder

WRITTEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR JULY 6th

Public Testimony #1

It has come to my attention via comments on social media that Nixle may not be as reliable as citizens' expectations. Several people have mentioned that in other communities it did not work when needed, even with back up systems. These sorts of comments exacerbate the existing anxiety about fire safety. To allay this, I suggest that Nixle be tested weekly with all citizens involved. If nothing else, just to show us all that it does work and will be there for us when we need it. Many thanks.

Cheryl French
Ashland

Public Testimony #2

These Ashland City Council members have proven that they don't care about service for the community of Ashland and will not follow a code of conduct. They should resign immediately:

Paula Hyatt

Tonya Graham

Stefani Seffinger

Stephen Jensen

There is no hope for them suddenly seeing the Light. They have toxic personalities and will not change. They are projecting their own deficiencies.

They must vacate their positions.

Regina Windham

Ashland, Oregon

Public Testimony #3

Mayor and Councilors,

My thanks to Councilor Hyatt for making it possible to begin the all important discussion regarding how the City of Ashland's governing body conducts the business necessary to move the community forward and through the difficult choices we need to make.

And thanks to Councilor Graham for suggesting SOURCE conduct a survey of City Staff.

The June 29th Special Meeting, as Councilor Hyatt stated, was a beginning. You were able to approve a process to hire two critical interim positions necessary to conduct the City's business

Councilors Jensen and Graham presented evidence of unethical and improper actions by the Mayor and Councilors Moran and DuQuenne. Councilor DuQuenne, as she did in a previous meeting, apologized for those actions. Councilor Moran did not. His tone, criticism of staff, his misunderstanding of the process involved with Capital Improvement Projects and the protocols necessary to follow in regards requests for information from staff, stand as evidence of his abrogation of AMC 2.040.080 that he read.

Mayor Akins also did not respond with an apology. Her answers were defensive, disingenuous and short-tempered. She attempted to cut explication, coming in and out of the meeting by turning her video on and off. Her answers suggested that all was "speculation", that statements made by Wendi Brown were "just not true" or others, "fiction". Mayor Akins continues to deny the evidence presented on social media, fomenting discord and applauding posts from others that are misinformed, conspiratorial and incendiary.

In consideration of Councilor Seffinger's important desire to develop trust so that the business of Council can be accomplished, one of Mayor Akins statements is worth pointing out: "Personal trust is not necessary to do a job."(Next Door Neighbor).

As the Council prepares to come together with the community in establishing priorities through our common goal of having an Ashland that "maintains our small town character, even as we grow", we need that trust.

As citizens we need to know that our elected representatives proceed from a place of trust, making policy that directs our staff with respect. Councilor Graham's suggestion that we have Southern Oregon University Research Center conduct an anonymous survey of Staff would help discover one piece to establish that trust and end speculation.

In the meantime, the hard work of governing is to be done. I thank you all for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Linda Peterson Adams

Public Testimony #4

To Mayor Akins,

I was greatly concerned by the information brought forward at the June 29th Special Council meeting. The voters put you into office expecting the job would continue being done responsibly and with integrity. Truth matters. Honesty and civility are obvious pre-requisites. As Councilor Hyatt said: the citizens of Ashland depend on this Council to work productively together and with city staff; without that, this community is at great risk of harm.

As former Chair of the Public Art Commission, I witnessed first-hand, the statements made by you reflecting our position after I made my report to council last fall. They were inaccurate, and

grossly misrepresented not only our purview, but how we intended to use our funding. When I brought this to your attention and twice asked for a correction in the same manner in which you made them, you responded instead with false assumptions about my intent and character. My term came up for renewal last April, and volunteering under your leadership played a significant part in my decision to leave. I am very concerned that this reflects a pattern that is impacting other city staff and volunteers.

In the past six months I have seen a level of mistrust and chaos in Ashland's government unmatched by anything in the 45 years I've lived here. Change is needed ... it is required. As mayor, you have the opportunity to encourage, support and appreciate the hard work of staff, volunteers, and your councilors. If you are unable to facilitate this constructively, resign and let those with compassion and civility restore the city's functionality. Do not force a recall election; the funding for that is desperately needed elsewhere. We cannot afford to continue in this toxic environment for the remainder of your term.

Andy Stallman

Public Testimony #5

Madam Mayor and Esteemed Councilors:

I have sent this to you previously. I am resending it so that it will become a part of the official record.

The Council has a serious problem. Here is the solution that you must take to resolve this problem, and prevent it from reoccurring.

The problem: Two members of the Council have clearly violated the recently adopted Code of Conduct and the AMC, one of them repeatedly.

The solution: Those members must be censured.

The Code of Conduct:

"The mayor and city councilors will follow these rules of conduct:

RESPECT

- Respect the role of the Mayor as presiding officer.
- Practice respect, professionalism, and decorum during discussion and debate. Assume good intentions and refrain from impugning motives or professional competency of any meeting participant, including City staff, presenters, and the public.
- Avoid negative personal comments and casting of aspersion either directly or indirectly. One may speak in opposition but do so without personal rancor. Refrain from derogatory or misleading statements about each other, City staff, contractors, and other stakeholders in all public venues."

"VIOLATIONS OF CODE OF CONDUCT

Because of the importance of maintaining a healthy working relationship within the Council, it is essential that potential breaches of this Code be addressed in a public and timely fashion at the next Council meeting."

The Ashland Municipal Code:

From AMC 2.04.080 D.

"The Mayor and Council members should strive not to criticize any person in a public meeting or in public electronic mail messages."

The Violations:

1- In an article in the 6/16/21 Ashland Tidings, Stephen Jensen was quoted: "This resignation can be laid squarely at the feet of our mayor and two councilors, who have demonstrated a stunning level of dishonesty, personal attacks and inability to come close to anything resembling responsible municipal governance," said Councilor Stephen Jensen. "Having the city attorney resign because of this kind of behavior was tragic in itself — to have both the city attorney and a very able city manager resign is beyond understanding."

2- Stephen Jensen commented for publication as reported in the 6/19/21 Ashland Tidings: "Councilor Stephen Jensen claimed Mayor Julie Akins and two city councilors are at fault for critical staff members jumping ship, which all three refuted in a joint statement. Jensen said dishonesty, aspersion toward staff members and irresponsible municipal governance put Hanks' resignation "squarely" at their feet."

3- Tonya Graham was quoted in the 6/19/21 Ashland Tidings: "City government in Ashland is in crisis due to the behavior of our mayor and two councilors, who have together created a toxic working environment for our staff," Graham said.

The Mandated Response:

AMC Section 2.04.115 Representations

"A Council member is free to express personal views on any issue in any forum as long as any statements he or she makes about the positions of the full City Council and the positions of other individual Council members are accurate and objective. Upon two-thirds vote of the entire Council, a Council member may be censured for noncompliance with this requirement."

Less than a month after the Code of Conduct was unanimously approved by Council, these two Councilors have directly violated the code that they helped formulate. And not just a little, but in full force. They must be held accountable.

Please do not attempt to portray the statements made by Councilors Graham and Jensen as "accurate and objective". They clearly are not. They are personal attacks which have no basis in fact. They are pure political theater. They are explicit, direct violations of the Code of Conduct, and must be addressed as specified in the AMC.

The Council adopted the Code of Conduct in a Special Meeting on 5/13/21 expressly in order to put a halt to this kind of discourse and behavior. To ignore these clear violations of the intent and letter of the Code of Conduct and the AMC will be a clear failure to abide by the rules established by Council, and the AMC. To ignore these violations and not uphold the AMC would be a direct violation of your oath of office. You are legally obligated to censure these two Councilors for their violations of the Code of Conduct and the AMC.

A final quote from the Code of Conduct: "Failure to abide by this code could place the city of Ashland at legal and financial risk, jeopardize the productivity and efficiency of the Council, and harm the working environment of staff who are tasked with ensuring the effective and safe operation of the city." The violations noted above are having that effect. They must end.

Please do your duty. Don't make the Code of Conduct a meaningless, hypocritical, political exercise. Stop these attacks by sanctioning these violators who are crippling the work of the Council. Get back to doing the work you were elected to do for the good of the City and all of its residents. You have an awesome responsibility, and no time to lose.

Thank you for your service, and your consideration.

Dean Silver

Public Testimony #6

Madam Mayor and Esteemed Councilors:

STOP IT! This is not the Hunger Games. We elected you to conduct the business of the city, not to attack each other, play blame games, and jockey for political position.

The illegal hijacking of the Special Meeting of 6/29/21 was a disgrace. That meeting will live in infamy in the history of Ashland, and will not soon be forgotten. In November, 2022, the voters will weigh in on what happened then and happens in the future. Let that never happen again.

The Bloc of Four has a supermajority on the council. In theory, that means that voting bloc can do anything on the basis of those four votes; not just in theory, but now as evidenced by 6/29, in practice as well. Apparently there is no limit to the depravity of the use of that power. But make no mistake, anyone who ever again makes a mockery of the democratic process in our city will pay the price politically.

It's obvious that even though Clrs. Jensen and Graham continue to violate the code of conduct and the AMC, there will be no repercussions. The Council is its own court, and with the supermajority judging itself, there will never be accountability. Therefore, I no longer expect to see any accountability until the composition of the Council has changed, if ever. The authors of

the Charter and the Code never envisioned such a situation, and so they did not address it. I no longer ask for accountability as I have in the past, since there is no use wishing for an impossibility.

Stop defending yourselves by attacking your colleagues. No one will be censured. No one will be resigning. No one will be recalled. Stop trying to make any of that happen, directly or indirectly.

So here's a constructive suggestion: stipulate that every Councilor and the Mayor have at some time, in some way, to some degree, violated the Code of Conduct. Then move on. Get to work on the City's many issues and stop attacking one another. There is nothing to be gained by this, no matter how you look at it.

In exactly one month we will be without a City Manager AND an Assistant City Manager AND a Finance Director AND a qualified City Attorney. Filling those positions must be your highest priority. At the same time, you must continue your normal duties as the Council, appropriating funds, giving direction to staff, voting on Resolutions and Ordinances, approving licenses, making appointments, etc. It's a heavy load, but I know you can do it if you choose to.

It is time to end this ridiculous infighting. Just drop it. Get on with the business of the City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dean Silver

Public Testimony #7

Firefighting resources are currently limited in the Northwest and the urgency of evacuation information should be obvious. Nixle has not proven to be an effective solution if there is a disruption of the cellular or power grid system. Real world testing in Ashland has been essentially overlooked even under ideal Internet and uninterrupted power conditions. We need to have a regularly tested system down to the "last mile" with citizen level preparation.

Oakland, CA. has found a tested and effective alternative that we need to explore ASAP.

Emergency Sirens -

At noon on the first Wednesday of every month, Oakland tests the emergency siren warning system. The test is a 30-second slow wail tone.

other times-

If you hear a 3-minute steady tone, you should shelter in place.

If you hear a 3-minute fast wail tone, there is a fire.

Details: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/fire-emergency-preparedness>

Background of our unproven Nixle system:

1. Everbridge acquires Nixle in 2016:

<https://www.everbridge.com/blog/everbridge-acquires-nixle/>

2. Nixle continues to have more bad reviews than good reviews:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.everbridge.mobile.iv.recipient>

3. per Ashland "Nixle is the top way you will receive evacuation notifications":

<https://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=18124>

2021 July, 6th Meeting reference:

https://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/070621_Post_Almeda_Fire_Season_Update_CC.pdf

Time line reference for recent community fire :

"The whole village of Lytton went up in I would say 10 minutes," she said.

Meanwhile, a woman who escaped the fire, said she didn't even have time to put shoes on before fleeing.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/07/02/1012698892/canada-hunts-for-survivors-of-a-fire-that-destroyed-a-small-town>

Thank You for considering these factors,

Jim Chamberlain

Public Forum : Ashland City Council Business Meeting 7/6/21
From Susan Hall RN

Tonight , I want to address the conduct of Councilor Jensen as it relates to the recently adopted Ashland City Council Code of Conduct. I will also critique the behaviors of Councilors Graham and Hyatt. Please place this testimony on the record for tonight's meeting.

To define Councilor Jensen's behavior since the Council adopted a Code of Conduct as egregious is an understatement. Councilor Jensen first stated he wanted to " lower the temperature" of the sometimes volatile City Council meetings. That sounded very promising. However, after City Attorney Lohman retired and the interim City Manager, Adam Hanks resigned, Counselor Jensen's tune changed.

On June 16, 2021, the local paper (Ashlandtidings.com) reported Councilor Jensen had stated:

" This resignation can be laid squarely at the feet of our mayor and two councilors, who have demonstrated stunning levels of dishonesty , personal attacks and inability to come close to anything resembling responsible municipal governance. Having the city attorney resign because of this kind of behavior was tragic in itself—to have both the city attorney and a very able city manager resign is beyond understanding."

Councilor Jensen's statement created divisiveness that contributed to the City Council's destabilization and ineffectiveness. This type of behavior is exactly what the Code of Conduct admonishes against.
NOW

Fast forward to The Special City Council Meeting of 6/29/21.

Councilor Jensen and his Council collaborators , Ms. Graham and Ms. Hyatt instigated what amounted to a "hostile takeover" of the Council meeting. Rather than supporting Mayor Akin's and Interim City Manager Adam Hank's efforts to fashion a recruitment plan for hiring vital missing staff, these three derailed the ongoing Council work which was proceeding on behalf of the people of Ashland.

Councilor Jensen's monolog attacking Mayor Akins, and fellow Councilors Moran & DeQuenne made a mockery of his stated devotion to work for Ashland's benefit. Simultaneously, Councilors Graham & Hyatt dominated the remaining meeting time in a rogue fashion and disregarded the 6:30 end time.

Shame on all three of you!

The hypocrisy has not been lost on us.

As Mr.Jensen is so fond of doingI offer this definition

Hypocrisy (noun):

" The practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform."

In my opinion, Councilors Jensen, Graham& Hyatt have each blatantly transgressed the standard of behavior acceptable for an Ashland City Councilor. Their collective divisiveness is destructive to Ashland. I request all three Councilors be held responsible for their behavior in accordance with the City Council's Code of Conduct.

Susan Hall RN
Ashland

070621 testimony to Ashland City Council

Dear City Council, Mayor, and City staff,

My wife and I have raised two daughters in Ashland, who are now medical doctors, and I have worked as a psychotherapist for 22 years. I love this town and region.

I have looked for the last year for a way to contribute effectively to righting the course of human-caused global warming. It is obviously relevant to life on Earth in general, and Ashland and Southern Oregon in particular. We have to urgently stop adding greenhouse gases to our atmosphere. This means weaning ourselves from fossil fuels. So what are the clean alternatives?

Wind, solar, hydroelectric, and nuclear.

Renewables are very appealing, but as a stand alone, they have limitations that are nowhere near solved: they are intermittent, relying on sunlight and wind, which come and go. Our need for energy doesn't follow the sun or the wind. And battery storage is not realistically doable at the scale needed. So they need back up energy production, which right now is supplied mostly by dirty fossil fuel power plants. Renewables also take enormous land areas, which has its own environmental costs.

Hydro has been a godsend in areas like the Pacific NorthWest, but it's gone as far as it'll go, there are hardly any sites left to develop, and the need to build up our electrical energy production is staggering. Not only do we need to replace the fossils fuel plants (coal, methane, gasoline powered), but we need to build much more capacity in order to meet the exploding demand of the developing world.

The only proven and clean way to build that capacity in the short time we have is through nuclear power.

I grew up in France and saw first hand the build up of that country's nuclear electricity generation in the 70's and early 80's. I was a college student, just a hundred miles from the first nuclear power plant, as protests were going on. People were alarmed by the risk of radioactive leaks, the storage and transportation of radioactive waste, and the costs. Science prevailed over emotions, and France decarbonized its grid and now emits less than a tenth of the world average of carbon dioxide per kilowatt-hour, and their electricity is much cheaper than neighboring Germany. France accomplished this in just 15 years. Sweden did something similar in 20 years. This is the scale and speed of clean electrical power development we need now for our whole planet.

This is the only realistic solution to the global climate crisis.

And this is why I urge you to support the re-write of the Ashland's 1982 Nuclear Free Zone proclamation to clarify that we endorse the peaceful use of nuclear power.



City Manager's Report

Adam Hanks, City Manager Pro Tem

July 6, 2021

The City Manager's Report showcases current events facing the City externally and internally since the last Council meeting, while highlighting City accomplishments.

TAP Funding

The recently engrossed House Bill 3127 including a direct funding award of \$3,000,000 for resiliency improvements to the Talent-Ashland-Phoenix (TAP) system. These improvements include updating/adding emergency backup power to booster pump stations, pump upgrades to meet peak/fire demand requirements, seismic building improvements, a non-peak/emergency connection from Ashland to Talent and Phoenix that would provide a gravity feed to both communities for non-peak and emergency related and programming updates associated with the booster pump station improvements. Staff will be prepared to move forward with a supplemental budget request to Council once the process for obtaining the funding is outlined. City of Ashland staff will be the lead for the system improvements and will coordinate throughout the project phases with Talent and Phoenix to ensure our solid partnership continues.

Looking Ahead

This is a draft of the next Council meetings agenda and is subject to change.

July 19 - Study Session

- Review of Budget Study Sessions

July 20 - Business Meeting

- Annual Report by the Wildfire Safety Commission
- Ashland Chamber of Commerce Update
- Approval of Two Contracts with Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon
- Process for Commission Appointments
- Social Equity and Racial Justice Resolution Council Discussion and Actions

For the full look ahead and descriptions of each item, go to [ashland.or.us/lookahead](https://www.ashland.or.us/lookahead).

July City Source

The July City Source includes:

- How to prepare for an [evacuation](#);
- Utility rate increase information;
- How to join the Airport and Other Commissions;
- Recycling Tips and Tricks from Recology; and
- City events in August

Go to [ashland.or.us/citysource](https://www.ashland.or.us/citysource) for the latest and past editions.