

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES**

**Tuesday, July 20, 2021
Council Chambers
1175 E. Main Street**

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.]

5:30 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council will hold an executive session before the regular business meeting to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations, pursuant ORS 192.660(2)(d).

Councilors' Hyatt, Graham, Jensen, and Seffinger were present. Councilor DuQuenne arrived at 5:50 PM and Mayor Akins arrived at 5:53 PM.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 5:58 PM

6:00 PM REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

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

IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jensen read the Land Acknowledgement- (*see attached*).

Mayor Akins moved Item XIV - Appointment of Gary Milliman to Interim City Manager to Unfinished Business.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Special Meeting of July 6, 2021

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

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

1. Annual Report by the Wildfire Safety Commission
Stephen Gange Chair gave the annual report (*see attached*).

2. Ashland Chamber of Commerce/Travel Ashland Presentation

Sales and Marketing Director Katherine Cato presented Council with the Travel Ashland updates.

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]

Michael Gardiner – Ashland – Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioner Chair spoke that he is eager to participate moving forward with options that were placed with newly adopted budget.

Kelly Marcatolli -Ashland – Spoke regarding 5G and how technology impacts climate change. (*see attached*). She spoke that fossil fuel consumption increased during the pandemic, but wireless communications increased. She spoke advocating changes to Ordinances in our City regarding 5G.

Sue M. Wilson – Ashland – Spoke that she was impressed on how Akins has worked with Council and has remained calm and a leader. She spoke that she is still waiting for Jensen and Graham to give a public apology for violations of code of conduct. She spoke that disrespecting the Mayor is disrespecting the voters. She spoke in support of Gary Milliman.

George Kramer – Ashland – Congratulated all. He spoke that is good to be able to meet again face to face. He spoke that working together is important and hopes it's a trend to move on and to build on for the future. He spoke that his is a Historian. He spoke that Communities overcome challenges. He spoke that Ashland is always changing and the importance of listening to each other and working together.

IX. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Hanks gave the Managers Report (*see attached*).

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Two Contracts with Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon
2. Feedback on State Rulemaking related to Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities from the Climate Policy Commission
3. Approval of Liquor License for Holiday Inn Express

Jensen/Graham moved to approve the Consent Agenda. 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. Mayoral Appointment of Gary Milliman to Interim City Manager

Hanks gave a brief Staff report.

Public Input:

Mark DiRierizo – Ashland – Spoke in support of Gary Milliman. He encouraged Council to vote YES unanimously for Milliman.

Hyatt/Seffinger moved to approve the Mayoral appointment of Gary Milliman as City Manager Pro Tem and authorize the Mayor to sign the related employment agreement. Discussion: Hyatt spoke that she is grateful for Milliman for stepping forward and grateful for the opportunity to move forward.

Seffinger explained that she spoke with Moran and although he was unable to attend this meeting, he wanted all to know he approves of the process and fully supports Milliman. Seffinger spoke in support of Milliman.

Graham spoke in support of Milliman. She spoke regarding the importance of process. She spoke that Staff must be including in the vetting of the process selecting the City Manager. Mayor Akins gave an overview of the process and how Staff was involved with this process. DuQuenne spoke in support of the motion. **Roll Call Vote: DuQuenne, Graham, Hyatt, Jensen and Seffinger: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Process for Commission Appointments

City Recorder Melissa Huhtala gave a brief Staff report.

Jensen/Graham moved to approve the Mayor's Commission Appointment Process with the following changes. Discussion: Jensen read the amendments into the record (*see attached*). **Roll call vote: Hyatt, Graham, Seffinger, DuQuenne and Jensen: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Social Equity and Racial Justice Resolution Council Discussion and Actions

Irene Kai – Ashland - Spoke regarding Elected & Appointed officials and the passion and care of the Community. She spoke that she came to Ashland 24 years ago and most are friendly and good at heart in Ashland for a small town. She spoke that we need to remember why we are here and keep the City running efficiently and equitably regardless of race.

Graham gave a brief overview on this topic.

Council gave consensus to bring this topic back to the September 20th Council Study Session.

XIII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

XIV. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

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

Seffinger spoke that she would not be at the August 3rd Council Meeting and wanted to express her thanks and gratitude to Adam Hanks for all his hard work.

Council discussed on how to help working to support the commemoration event for Talent and Phoenix.

Jensen spoke regarding the Public Arts Commission and the approval of the new mural. He spoke that the students did an outstanding job, and the mural is planned to be done before the school year.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

Hyatt/Gina moved The Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:00

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).

Land Acknowledgement (shorter version)

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.

WSC Report to City Council July 20, 2021

FINAL

When our commission gave your Council our annual report last year, we knew Ashland had a lot of work to do towards better adapting to wildfire threat, but we also believed our town was not at risk for the level of devastation Paradise experienced in the Camp Fire. We assumed Paradise's geography and road access limitations made that area unique.

We know better now. The Almeda Fire has been an amazing motivator.

Before I get into what we've accomplished since our last report to Council, and considering the increased importance of this work, I'd like to draw your attention to a supplementary page included in your packet that offers a 300 word brief summary of the remarkable expertise our Commission members bring to the table.

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A new home-sales centered wildfire adaption program our Commission created, and, with the assistance of City Staff, successfully negotiated with the management of Rogue Valley Association of Realtors has come together beautifully in the past year, even during Covid.

The idea driving this new program is that home sales are one of the few occasions where some combination of buyer and seller often have funds to make improvements. Our goal was to fold wildfire hardening information into each transaction, so buyers and sellers alike would receive this education, and have the option to include any needed work into negotiations.

This new program is now well under way, funded by a grant from the Realty association's national headquarters. This grant paid for the educational materials we designed together, an initial and extremely well received real estate agent training led by our Fire Department's Katie Gibble, and a more in-depth and expensive NPFA special training for 19 licensed home sales inspectors that was set up by Katie and ran a few weeks ago.

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I imagine you have seen at least some of the several dozen sandwich boards and other displays that we've placed around town, displaying posters about our spring campaign, and offering flyers tied into the 4 monthly themes of our spring campaign. April flyers covered how to harden one's home, May tackled flammable landscaping, June is evacuation awareness, and July is dedicated to preparing for smoke.

April and May's flyers led with an attempt to clear up a core misunderstanding that arose after the Almeda fire, namely that such fires are unstoppable, so why bother working on home and landscape hardening? That myth pretty much has it backwards –A major reason wind driven urban fires like Almeda are difficult to contain is because most homes and landscaping in the Rogue Valley have not yet been adapted to our new wildfire risk reality.

We're seeing considerably more interest in our Spring Campaign this year. Ashlanders have picked up several thousand flyers from each month of our campaign. Commissioner Doug Kay has also regularly offered wildfire related information each spring for the last several years, hosting a table he sets up at Ashland Farmers Markets.

But while all this is encouraging, and great first steps, how often does picking up a flyer translate into fully engaged work on one's home? We know that face-to-face engagement with property owners, at their homes, is vastly more effective. In the wake of the Almeda Fire, our Commission made this a top priority. A working group was formed to design and implement a first of its kind, volunteer-based Wildfire Risk Assessment Program (WRAP) whose goal is to perform 3,000 face-to-face property risk assessments in Ashland leading to a net reduction of wildfire risk citywide by 25% in 3 years.

Working with Ashland Fire and Rescue staff the WRAP working group developed a scope of work, found a volunteer to manage volunteer assignments, resolved liability concerns, customized a training curriculum based on Oregon State University's Citizen's Fire Academy, secured a suite of expert instructors to instruct a customized course, developed a competency certification process, and recruited 10 community volunteers to take the training which ran weekly from May 17-June 21, 2021. The volunteers should be out in the field by the anniversary of the Almeda Fire.

Our hope is that the program will be so successful that it will serve as a model for others. Two members of other communities wanting to establish a similar program audited our course.

In a similar vein towards effective evacuation within our new Zone-based system, following our Commission's recommendation, CERT volunteers have initiated the trial of a door-to-door campaign to assist in helping our most vulnerable neighborhoods to be fully informed.

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We've all heard how flammable vegetation helped fuel the Almeda Fire. Particularly on vacant lots, Ashland has abundant live and dead vegetation that offers a wildfire hazard. Currently our town lacks a clear legal enforcement mechanism for dealing with this problem. Our commission formed a Nuisance Ordinance Working Group last year to work with Fire Department staff towards a relatively simple amendment to Chapter 9.04 of the Ashland Municipal Code "Weed and Noxious Vegetation" to close this gap. We're hoping this amendment will reach your Council later this year.

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After fighting the Almeda fire, our firefighters reported being stunned by how blatantly bark mulch and wood fences contributed to rapid fire spread. To address this, our Commission is organizing a fire-department supervised burn test of all the major mulch offerings available in our valley to determine which of these are most and least flammable. We're also working on a multi-year test of a number of wood fence fire retardants.

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Our Commission was concerned to learn last year that 2 of the four water storage tanks that provide water to Ashland homes and hydrants were filled by electric pumps that lacked on site backup if they lost power in an emergency. Thanks to our Public Works Department for solving this problem, avoiding a potential for loss of water pressure during a disastrous fire.

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Led by Steve Asher, our Commission has been working for years with Pacific Power staff and administration to address lack of flammable vegetation maintenance under the high voltage lines near our city limits that feed Ashland. Pacific Power staff seemed fairly responsive until Covid and then the Almeda Fire. Currently Pacific Power seems to be leaning more towards a "turn it off on the worst red flag days" approach, apparently

largely due to budget constraints. We understand Ashland's Electrical Department staff are working with Pacific Power on these issues, and we plan to stay on this, because turning power off is far from ideal since it also can interfere with water pumping and other fire\fighting efforts in outlying areas.

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We are grateful to Council for the recent approval of the new wildfire-related building code changes for new construction and major remodels.

But as you know, the new code doesn't apply to existing housing stock and landscaping. At the rate we're going, we are deeply concerned about how long it will take before Ashland is appropriately adapted to the wildfire threat.

Our best information suggests that at the rate we're going we won't be ready when the next major fire hits.

What would it take to change this potentially tragic situation? There are a number of steps we recommended Council tackle as a priority at our April Study Session. I won't repeat any of those specifics today. But we strongly urge you to make those steps a top priority as you work through your strategic plan later this year. The Almeda fire removed any doubt in our minds, and hopefully in yours, that the consequences of inaction would dwarf COVID or even our town's current budget issues.

We know that inaction is likely to lead to one or more devastating fires in town. In California, such fires have sometimes led to citizens accepting significant new regulations and code changes that address existing homes. That's one way we could go.

To us, however, waiting until there's another major fire disaster does not make sense. There has to be a better way to bring our population on board with the needed changes. We wonder if Council would be game to consider a substantially increased collaboration with our commission to change this scenario. Making it a priority on your agenda. Not forever. Just for as long as it takes to transform Ashland into a wildfire adapted community.

However, even if we succeed in bringing most people on board conceptually, we will need funding or loans to assist those that can't afford the work. Considering the budget challenges Council has committed to resolving during the current biennium, we understand such funding is unlikely to come from the City.

Our Commission has been in preliminary talks with state level banking management towards a possible partnership with the City of Ashland, where a bank would supply the funding for low interest wildfire hardening loans, similar in some ways to the proposal you've recently discussed involving energy related loans. The goal is to give low income homeowners access to funds to do critical home hardening to make their home safer, which as you know increases the safety of their neighbors as well. We're in the process of reaching out to City Staff on this question, and if all goes as we're hoping there may be a proposal for your consideration later this year.

Questions?



# How Technology Contributes to Climate Change

What is the combined warming effect from the billions of man-made electromagnetic radiation (EMR) transmitters: cell towers, smart meters, wi-fi, smart phones, plus cloud services and data centers? Recent reports (see below) serve as a warning that it's time to reduce our technology use to better protect our planet, people and our environment.

## Headline News and Scientific Reports

- **Our phones and gadgets are endangering the planet.** "The energy used in our digital consumption is set to have a bigger impact on global warming than the entire aviation industry." The Guardian 2018 Greenpeace report
- **Tsunami of data**  
Internet, video and smart devices could use one fifth of all global electricity by 2025.  
Total Consumer Power Consumption Forecast  
Climate Home News 2017
- **The Cloud Begins With Coal**  
"... the average iPhone requires more power per year than the average refrigerator."  
Grist 2013 Digital Power Group
- **Climate Change and Technology**  
"The information technology sector is one of the largest consumers of global energy and contributors to greenhouse emissions."  
Forbes 2019
- **Why We Need a Speed Limit for the Internet.**  
"A wired connection is the most energy efficient method to access the network."  
Post Carbon Institute 2015
- **Digital sobriety can halt tech-fueled warming.**  
The Shift Project 2017
- **NASA probes find man-made bubble from radio communications shrouding the earth** NASA 2017
- **Electromagnetic Radiation as Possible Explanation for Climate Change**  
"Human generated electromagnetic radiation may contribute to global warming by diverting KELEA (kinetic energy limiting electrostatic attraction) from its presumed association with cosmic rays and thereby affecting natural function of cloud formation and climate stability." Project Censored 2017  
Atmospheric and Climate Sciences 2016
- **The wireless cloud is an energy monster**  
"Access to cloud services will have the same carbon footprint as adding 4.9 million cars to the roads" The Conversation 2013  
Centre for Energy Efficient Telecommunications
- **Planetary electromagnetic pollution: it is time to assess its impact.**  
The Lancet-Planetary Health 2018
- **Technology is destroying nature**  
... with electromagnetic radiation from power lines and cell towers ... 5G could increase threat. Newsweek 2018

Items in BLUE are links to the science.

### Take Action!

1. Reduce cell and wireless use.
2. Oppose 5G technology.
3. Call for studies on EMR climate effects.

[www.fomb.org](http://www.fomb.org)



Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

**EMF**  
Safety Network  
[www.emfsafetynetwork.org](http://www.emfsafetynetwork.org)

Flyer by: AgencyForEarth.com

## **"Smart" is Not Smart.** **The push for all things wireless is the wrong direction.**

### **5G Harms Bees, Trees and Birds**



Research finds bees and pollinators absorb between 3% to 370% more of the higher frequencies of 5G, leading the scientists to warn, "This could lead to changes in insect behaviour, physiology, and morphology over time..."



Research finds wireless frequencies interfere with birds' navigation systems and circadian rhythms, and can harm their development and reproduction.



Research finds trees can be harmed by the standard radiation emissions from antenna equipment. Effects include altered growth, thinner cell walls and adverse biochemical changes.

#### **Damage to the Tree Canopy**

Trees play a vital role in mitigating climate change, sequestering millions of tons of carbon that would otherwise pollute our climate. The installation of 5G equipment often requires heavy pruning and digging. This will obviously damage the canopy and root system of our trees.

***"Wireless devices, antenna networks and data centers are consuming an ever-increasing portion of the global energy supply, based largely on coal..."***

— "Re-Inventing Wires: The Future of Landlines and Networks"

"Our energy calculations show that by 2015, wireless cloud will consume up to 43 TWh, compared to only 9.2 TWh in 2012, an increase of 460%. This is an increase in carbon footprint from 6 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2012 to up to 30 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2015, the equivalent of adding 4.9 million cars to the roads. Up to 90% of this consumption is attributable to wireless access network technologies, data centres account for only 9%..."

...wireless access networks are clearly the biggest and most inefficient consumer of energy in the cloud environment."

— The Centre for Energy Efficient Telecommunications, 2013

### **Solutions for fast, safe and secure internet connections do exist.**

A national wireline system can guarantee a superior foundation of Internet access for everyone, unequalled connectivity speed, safety, privacy, security, energy efficiency and long-term sustainability.

#### **Referenced Reports**

- Engels, Svenja, et al. "Anthropogenic electromagnetic noise disrupts magnetic compass orientation in a migratory bird." *Nature*, 2014
- Thielens et al. "Exposure of Insects to Radio-Frequency Electromagnetic Fields from 2 to 100 GHz." *Scientific Reports*, 2018
- Waldmann-Selsam, C., et al. "Radiofrequency radiation injures trees around mobile phone base stations." *Science of the Total Environment*, 2016
- The Shift Project. "Lean ICT: Towards Digital Sobriety. Report on the Environmental Impact of Information and Communication Technologies." February 2019
- Andrae & Edler of Huawei Technologies. "On Global Electricity Usage of Communication Technology: Trends to 2030." *Challenges* 2015
- Vertiv. "Telco Industry Hopes and Fears from Energy Costs to Edge Computing Transformation." 2019
- Timothy Schoechle. "Re-Inventing Wires: The Future of Landlines and Networks." *National Institute for Science, Law & Public Policy*, May 2018
- Baliga et al. of the University of Melbourne. "Energy Consumption in Wired and Wireless Access Networks." *IEEE Communications*, June 2011
- Morley et al., Lancaster University. "Digitalisation, energy and data demand: The impact of internet traffic on overall and peak electricity consumption." *Energy Research and Social Science*, 2018
- The Centre for Energy Efficient Telecommunications at the University of Melbourne. "The Power of Wireless Cloud." 2013
- Shohabi et al. "United States Data Center Energy Usage Report." *Berkeley Laboratory*, 2016

Dear Ashland Friends and Neighbors,

Scientists, doctors, and thousands of people, worldwide, are challenging the rollout of fifth-generation wireless technology (5G), referred to as "5G." With my multi-year study of the history and independent science of disease from *man-made* electromagnetic radiation (EMR), and my preparations for public presentations, I am motivated to inform all who will listen about the harmful biological effects from EMR exposure, particularly from "5G," for all humanity and life forms.

As a founding member of Oregon for Safer Technology (OST), I receive updated information from credible scientists and watch-dog organizations about electromagnetic radiation (EMR), "5G" cell-phone technology, and the latest policy rules from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). A recent ruling by the FCC has unusually alarming significance for adverse effects in our neighborhoods with regard to our **health, neighbor-to-neighbor relationships, property values**, and more. With my personal commitment to the well-being of our neighborhood and community, I am compelled to deliver this hard-copy letter and invite you to share it widely.

The FCC ruling that is the subject of this letter is known as the OTARD rule. **OTARD** stands for **Over the Air Reception Device**. This rule originated years ago to allow home owners to install satellite antennas for receiving video and Internet services for private use only. Effective March 29, 2021, the FCC has changed the rule to allow antennas on private property to not only receive voice, data, and video services **but to transmit these services, including "5G," TO NEIGHBORS**. This is a "back-door" maneuver to install "5G" neighborhood networks without the need for any city or county approval. In some cities, antenna companies are already offering homeowner incentives, such as free Wi-Fi, to become a "5G" hub for the neighborhood.

The significance of this new FCC ruling is discussed well by the group, "Americans for Responsible Technology (ART)." They describe how **PRIVACY, SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY, PROPERTY VALUES, and HEALTH** will be compromised if "5G" is allowed in neighborhoods. This quote from their short OTARD video portends friction among neighbors due to health effects from EMR: "*Homeowner liability for health claims from their neighbors could cause bankruptcy. Insurance companies will not insure Telecoms against health claims.*" For details and actions you can take, visit the ART Web site at <https://www.americansforresponsibletech.org/otard>.

Finally, as a public service, a mechanical engineer from OST can offer an in-person PowerPoint presentation, "**Introduction to the Science and Effects of Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR)**" for individuals, households, or groups who have interest in the solid, "independent science" and measures to minimize personal and family EMR exposure. Cell phones and digital technologies will always be with us, but those who are health conscious will want to know how to use them as safely as possible. Please contact me for further information about any of this.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue, Kelly Marcotulli

[kmarcotulli@protonmail.com](mailto:kmarcotulli@protonmail.com) or [4safertech.org](http://4safertech.org) [5gfreeoregon.org](http://5gfreeoregon.org) [ehtrust.org](http://ehtrust.org)

# July 20, 2021 City Manager's Report

Posted: Tuesday, July 20, 2021



## City Manager's Report

Adam Hanks, City Manager Pro Tem

### July 20, 2021

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

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#### Emergency Access at North Mountain Avenue

Public Works Director Scott Fleury has been informed that ODOT is reviewing the access control permit information compiled for FHWA to allow for an emergency access route from North Mountain Avenue to I5. ODOT is also working on the required environmental paperwork for the project. This will likely fall under the categorical exclusion process, but due diligence is still needed for the report to FHWA. Approval is estimated for August. After approved, ODOT crews may be able to cut in the access road with asphalt grindings and potentially further improve the surface with paving and other enhancements next year.

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#### Emergency Shelter On-Track to Move Ahead

The Emergency Solutions Grant sub grantee contract has been completed and the City is moving forward with the purchase of ten pallet shelters. Rogue Retreat has agreed to lease the Calvary Baptist church property for use through June 2022. Rogue Retreat will operate a 49-occupant shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness being housed either inside the existing building or within ten individual Pallet Structures located on the property. Should additional Pallet Structures become available over the one-year period of operation, Reserve locations for up to 10 additional Pallet Structures with a corresponding reduction in the number of individuals housed within the building.

Rogue Retreat staff will provide 24-hour supervision of the shelter. The premises would be fully fenced and gated, with a front gate which will close at 9 p.m. each night and opens again at 6 a.m. each morning. Porta Potties and hand wash stations located outside of the building. Rogue Retreat will provide a van to shuttle people to and from the Options for Helping Residents of Ashland (OHRA) Center located at 2350 Ashland Street, to access showers and other services, and to the nearest bus stop for transit services. All occupants will be by referral and not selected on a first come first serve basis, and no referrals will be made on site.

Rogue Retreat will utilize the building including the kitchen for the preparation and storage of food and beverages for the occupants of the shelter. In addition to accommodating up to 39 shelter beds, the building will provide office space for on-site management staff and case management services for housing, financial, vocational, and educational services provided for the residents of the non-congregate shelter in cooperation with outside partner agencies. The interior of the building may be occasionally utilized for temporary shelter for the occupants of the Pallet Structures only as necessary for relief from emergent hazards as they arise, such as in cases of hazardous air quality, excessive heat, or freezing temperatures.

Currently Rogue Retreat is working toward hiring staff for the campground, and anticipates an opening date in September.

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### **Line Clearance Tree Trimming**

The Electric Department has increased our focus on vegetation management in the right of ways. Right of way vegetation management is important to the utility for system reliability to reduce the number of outages, and to reduce the risk of power lines causing wildfires.

With the fire danger risk levels currently being extreme, the Electric Department has invested in battery operated and hydraulic operated saws and other equipment for vegetation management work, that will be used nearly exclusively to reduce risk.

Earlier in 2021, tree trimming efforts were hampered by equipment and personnel downtime. Presently, the Department has dedicated two crews to tree trimming for the next two months to assure trimming is back on schedule.

The direction to the crew leaders is to trim the trees away from the overhead power lines for a three years growth period. This will not be possible in every situation, but the City is fortunate to have very knowledgeable staff working on these crews who can make those determinations as needed.

The most important consideration will always be safety for staff, citizens, and the community. Some residents may see the trimming as excessive, particularly in areas where trimming has fallen behind the three-year cycle. Staff will make every effort to maintain the vitality of trees, for years to come.

If it becomes necessary to utilize gas-powered equipment, the direction given is to plan for it's use before noon and to keep watch on the area after use for at least an hour. Both crews are also equipped with basic firefighting tools and backpack style water cans.

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### **Looking Ahead**

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

### **August 2 - Study Session**

- Review and Next Steps for Existing and New Council Goals

### **August 3 - Business Meeting**

- Proclamation for Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day
- Forest Lands Commission Annual Report
- Financial Report
- Approval of Contract with RVTV
- Public Hearing and First Reading of 2021 Housing Capacity Analysis
- Resolution Addressing Compliance with Employment Agreement
- Initiation of an Ordinance Amendment Relating to Annexations – Ashland Municipal Code, Land Use Chapter 18.5.8
- BIPOC Celebration Mural
- Appointment of an Interim Finance Director
- First Reading of TOT Ordinance
- First Reading of 2021 Housing Capacity Analysis

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

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### **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://ashland.or.us/citysource) for the latest and past editions.

## **Amendments to Mayoral Commission Appointment Process**

1. Vacancy is advertised by City Recorder.
2. Citizen applications are submitted to the Recorder. Recorder will inform the applicant that the application has been received and how the review process works and **the expected timeline.**
3. The Recorder sends the application to the Mayor. **The Recorder will also send the application to the Council Liaison, the Commission Chair and Staff Liaison for review.**
4. Mayor interviews the applicant.
5. Applicant attends a commission meeting and meets with the Council Liaison and Chair.
6. Council Liaison and Chair provide feedback to Mayor within 30 days of receipt of application. **(The 30 days allows for commission meeting attendance.)**
7. Mayor recommends (or not) appointment to Council. Recorder will inform the applicant when their appointment will be considered by Council. If rejected, Recorder will send a thank you email to applicant.
8. **All applications will be reviewed by the mayor. Council Liaison and Commission Chair will have no authority to summarily reject any application.**
9. Council approves/**rejects** appointment at a Regular Council Meeting. If applicant is appointed or reappointed, the Recorder will send out a congratulations letter or email outlining the meeting date, time, location, the advisory body handbook, reminder to sign acknowledgment of policies, and contact information for the Commission Chair, Council Liaison, and staff liaison the day after the appointment.
10. **The above process instructions do not change any part of the AMC. Its purpose is to clarify and standardize the commission appointment process.**