

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, October 5, 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: 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 Tuesday, October 4th 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 Jensen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

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

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

DuQuenne read the Land Acknowledgment (*see attached*).

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Study Session Meeting of September 20, 2021
2. Business Meeting of September 21, 2021

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

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

1. Proclamation for Indigenous Peoples' Day

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

2. Public Arts Commission Annual Report

Aaron Anderson introduced the Ashland Public Arts Commission Chair Jennifer Longshore. Longshore presented Council with the Public Arts Annual Report (*see attached*).

Council thanked the Public Arts Commission for their work.

3. National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit Update

Public Works Director Scott Fleury gave a brief staff report and introduced Rogue Valley Sewer Services Manager Carl Tappert and City of Medford Water Reclamation Division Manager Dustin Hagemann.

Mr. Tappert explained who the decision makers are.

Mr. Tappert spoke regarding connection options and costs.

Public Input

Dan Van Dyke – Ashland – Spoke giving information regarding positive signs for fish in Bear Creek. He spoke that he believes this is tied to the upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant in the 1990s. He explained that having the plant meet water quality requirements and release water in upper Bear Creek is important and helps to mitigate heavy use of Ashland Creek.

Council discussed having a rate study and cost.

Council discussed next steps.

Moran/Hyatt moved to direct Staff to bring a plan and budget estimate back to Council in 2 weeks. Discussion: Moran spoke in support of the motion. Hyatt spoke that it is important to explore the finances of this issue and spoke in support of the motion. Seffinger spoke to look into outsourcing. Council gave consensus for Staff to look into outsourcing. Graham suggested having an environmental assessment and information on bonding. She suggested information on impacts for individual rate payers. Jensen spoke that he will not support the motion. He spoke that this is not a General Fund issue. DuQuenne spoke in support of the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, DuQuenne, Graham and Moran: YES. Jensen and Seffinger: NO. Motion passed 4-2.**

VI. 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	Public Arts	Social Equity & Racial Justice
Transportation	Tree	Wildfire Safety

VII. 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]

VIII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Interim City Manager Gary Milliman gave an update on the City Manager and Finance Director search.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Annual Liquor License Renewals

Graham/Hyatt moved to approve Item 1. Discussion: None. **All Ayes Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Special Procurement Request for Approval for Contract to Grayback Forestry, Inc.

DuQuenne pulled this item.

Mayor Akins declared a conflict of interest for this item.

Hyatt/DuQuenne moved to request Mayor Akins to recuse herself from this item. Discussion: None. **Voice Vote. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

DuQuenne spoke to this item.

Jensen/Hyatt moved to approve Item Number 2 of the Consent Agenda. Discussion: None. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, DuQuenne, Moran, Jensen, Graham and Seffinger: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

X. 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.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Appointment of City Attorney

Milliman gave a brief Staff report.

Seffinger/DuQuenne moved to approve Katrina Brown's appointment as City Attorney and authorize the Mayor and City Manager Pro Tem to sign the associated employment agreement. Discussion: Seffinger spoke in support of the motion. DuQuenne spoke in support of the motion. Graham thanked Katrina Brown for her work so far and spoke in support of the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, DuQuenne, Jensen, Moran and Seffinger: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Wastewater Treatment Plant Alternatives

Public Works Director Scott Fleury introduced Public Works Senior Project Manager Kaylea Kathol.

Kathol presented Council with an update of the Wastewater Treatment plant.

3. Talent Irrigation District Fees

Milliman gave a brief Staff report.

Council discussed options.

Jensen/Seffinger moved to continue with the current rate structure and existing Resolution as guidance to the Interim City Manager to proceed as we have been. Discussion: Hyatt spoke in support of the Finance Director and the motion. DuQuenne thanked the Finance Department.

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

XIII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

1. First Reading of an Ordinance Relating to Transient Lodging Tax Amending AMC 4.24.020

Interim City Attorney Katrina Brown gave a brief Staff report.

Hyatt/Jensen moved to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 3202 and advance it to Second Reading for enactment. Discussion: None. **Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, DuQuenne, Jensen, Moran and Seffinger: YES. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Council discussed extending Study Session Meeting times and adding extra Study Sessions.

Hyatt gave a brief update regarding the Planning Commission.

XV. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

Hyatt/Moran moved to adjourn the Business Meeting at 9:24 PM. Discussion: None. **All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

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).