

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING DRAFT MINUTES
Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

View on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (Charter Communications) or live stream via rvtv.sou.edu select RVTV Prime.

HELD HYBRID (Limited In-Person Social Distancing Seating and Zoom Meeting Access)
The Special Business Meeting will be held in Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street.

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.

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 and DuQuenne were present. Councilor Jensen was absent.

IV. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Land Acknowledgement**

Graham read the Land Acknowledgment into the record.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Study Session Minutes of October 3, 2022**
- 2. Study Session Minutes of July 18, 2022**

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

Minutes of Boards, Commissions and Committees***

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC FORUM

Susan Hall – Ashland – Spoke regarding her disappointment of mutilated lawn signs. She spoke that the City needs to address this type of vandalism.

1. Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission/Corresponding Advisory Committee Report

SERJ Commission members Precious Yamaguchi and Emily Simon gave an update on their work (*see attached*).

2. Travel Ashland Marketing Report

Director of Travel Ashland Katharine Cato and Chief Operator of Neuman Hotel Group Don Anway presented a PowerPoint to Council (*see attached*)

Items Discussed were:

- Travel Ashland’s Role and work
- A track record of positive impact
- Where are we now
- Program Analytics
- Earned Media Coverage Summer 2022
- Website engagement – forecasting- Instagram
- Search
- Display Advertising
- Animated Ads
- Lodging Industry Statistics Summer 2022 – average daily rate
- Building Assets
- Water Campaigns
- We invite you back campaigns launch this November
- Festival of Light & Holiday Campaigns Launching
- Travel Ashland Advisory Committee Members

Council discussed options and how to work proactively.

Council thanked Travel Ashland for their hard work.

VII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Joe Lessard introduced Deputy Sabrina Cotta. Cotta gave an update regarding the Human Resources Department.

Items discussed were:

- Staff turnover
- Advertising open positions
- Hiring process

- Union contracts
- Annual Audits

Council discussed the importance of retaining employees and the importance of morale in the workplace.

DuQuenne requested to get a list of services of what each department does. Lessard spoke that will be coming soon.

Graham questioned the exit interview process for employees leaving. Cotta explained that in the past it has been a written survey but now it is face to face interviews. Council requested to bring this information to them.

Lessard thanked Cotta for her work on Labor Negotiations.

Lessard went over the Look Ahead.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XI. NEW AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Standing Advisory Committee Appointments

Seffinger/DuQuenne moved to approve the Mayor's recommendations for the Standing Advisory Committees. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Moran, Seffinger and DuQuenne: YES. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

1. First Reading Telecommunications Ordinance Updates for Small Wireless Facilities (5G)

Public Forum

Alan Rathsam- Ashland - Spoke regarding the wireless Ordinance.

Graham spoke that the Ordinance we have now is out of date.

City Attorney Doug McGeary spoke to his experience on this topic. He spoke that the Ordinance presented is a good Ordinance. He spoke that Council can always make changes if need be.

Council discussed deadlines.

Hyatt suggested to approve this Ordinance sooner than later.

Council discussed tower location and aesthetics.

Council discussed the process.

Graham suggested to bring this Resolution back and to direct Staff to specify a procedure for gap analysis, provide notice of people within 15 hundred feet of the applicant and address the pollution exclusion in the insurance.

Council agreed to the Staff direction.

2. Resolution clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Ashland Park Commission and Ashland Recreation Commission with the City of Ashland

Public Forum:

Mike Gardiner – Ashland – He spoke regarding charter amendment 15-210 and Resolution 2022-30.

Jeff – Ashland – spoke against approval of Resolution 2022-30. He suggested for Council to table the Resolution.

Parks Commissioners' Bell and Eldridge introduced themselves.

Dr. Bell suggested to table the Resolution 2022-30 and his reasons why.

Eldridge spoke to reconsider Resolution 2022-30. She spoke that measure 15-210 is on the ballot and to wait for the people to vote.

Lessard spoke regarding the Resolution.

Graham spoke that she was stunned to see this in the packet and questioned where this Resolution came from.

Mayor Akins explained that Hyatt and Moran asked for this discussion. Hyatt spoke that the initial request was never for a full-on Resolution and explained the situation.

Seffinger/Graham moved to table the Resolution. Discussion: None. Roll Call Vote: Hyatt, Graham, Moran, Seffinger and DuQuenne: YES. Motion passed unanimously.

- XIII. **OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS/REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS**
- XIV. **ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING**

Moran/DuQuenne moved to adjourn the Business Meeting. Discussion: None. Voice Vote. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council Business Meeting was adjourned at

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).

Ashland City Council Meeting, October 18, 2022

The following is the statement from SERJC regarding the racially motivated death threats to Nataki Garrett artistic director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival

The Social Equity and Racial Justice Committee of the City of Ashland (SERJ) joins with the Medford Mail Tribune, Mayor Julie Akins, SOU, the dramatist’s guild and multiple other individuals and organizations to condemn the abhorrent racist death threats suffered by Nataki Garrett. The threats to Ms. Garrett did not happen in a vacuum. Nor is she the only victim. A black female OSF actor was targeted with specific racist threats in 2017, causing her to fear walking in the railroad district, and requiring OSF to institute car shuttles to get their black employees home safely after performances. Stops by police officers of black and Hispanic OSF employees have been far to common.

We hope that this statement will be shared widely on both social and traditional media as our community’s history of racism needs to be confronted and exposed. Without this confrontation and exposure, the work that this community and city council have been doing to root out our racist past and embrace an anti-racist culture will fall far short. Ms. Garrett’s victimization is felt by every person of color in this valley. It must also be felt by every one of us, regardless of the color of our skin, our gender, our sexual orientation, our ethnicity, our religion and/or our age. We should all be reacting with outrage, sadness, and anger. This commission stands behind Ms. Garrett and all people of color in strong and willful defiance against malevolent words of hate that express the worst intentions that certain member(s) of our society foist upon others.

Too often, our community will voice anti-racism and equity support, but do little more than that. It's easy enough to march in a parade, wear a t-shirt or applaud at a protest, but it takes courage and effort to take action. We applaud those who are doing work and educating yourselves. We encourage you to learn about American history, educate your children about systemic racism and bias, and advocate for greater diversity of leadership in businesses and schools. Listen to Black women. Listen to people of color. Talk to your racist friends and relatives. If they don't listen, then move on and talk to others.

This commission calls upon the Ashland community at large to continue promoting awareness of racism through education and dialogue being mindful and conscious of how we impact others and ultimately ourselves in the process. Racism is not a problem that impacts only people of color. It impacts all of us. Making this community a welcoming place for everyone benefits everyone. It's good for our community, our economy, and our schools.

Each of you represent and lead our community. We ask that as a city council you not only strongly and vocally support OSF and its excellent artistic director by speaking out against the hateful comments. We are asking that you take affirmative action against racism by allocating sufficient financial resources so that Diversity, Equity and Inclusion can become a reality (and not just buzz words) within the City of Ashland.

Respectfully,

Emily Simon and Precious Yamaguchi,
Co-chairs Social Equity and Racial Justice Committee