

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES
August 1, 2023**

Executive Session

Mayor Graham, Councilor Hyatt, Bloom, Kaplan and DuQuenne were present. Councilor Hansen was absent. Councilor Dahle arrived at 5:35 p.m. Staff Present: City Manager Joe Lessard, Deputy City Manager Sabrina Cotta, Acting City Attorney Doug McGeary, Community Development Director Brandon Goldman, and Housing Program Manager Linda Reid.

Council and staff discussed the following:

1. To conduct deliberations with persons the City of Ashland has designated to negotiate real property transactions pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e).
2. Consultation with the City Attorney on current or likely litigation pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h).

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Graham called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

1. Land Acknowledgement

Councilor Dahle read the land acknowledgement.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Hyatt led the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Mayor Graham, Councilor Hyatt, Bloom, Dahle, Kaplan, and DuQuenne were present. Councilor Hansen was not present.

IV. MAYOR'S/CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Graham read a proclamation on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and mayors for peace.

V. APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES ***

1. **Minutes of the July 17, 2023, Retreat Meeting**
2. **Minutes of the July 18, 2023, Business Meeting**

Councilor Bloom/Dahle m/s to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2023, Retreat Meeting and the July 18, 2023, Business Meeting. Roll Call Vote: Councilor DuQuenne, Hyatt, Dahle, Kaplan, and Bloom, YES. Motion passed.

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

1. James M. Ragland Memorial Volunteer Spirit Service Award

Mayor Graham introduced Brent Thompson who provided background on the Ashland Folk Dancers and how he became aware of them in 1983. Jan Wait, one of the recipients of the James M. Ragland award shared how dance allayed worries. She believed in the power of dance and encouraged everyone to join the community of dancing circles. The world was always better for it.

Mayor Graham presented the awards and congratulated the recipients.

2. Fire & Rescue Citizen Special Life Saving Award

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

VII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Joe Lessard reviewed the city manager report and Look Ahead.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

JD Barons/Ashland/Spoke to an unhoused mother of three and shared her observations and thoughts.

Miriam Reed/Ashland/Spoke from a document submitted into the record (see attached).

Debbie Neisewander/Ashland/Commented on the dusk to dawn camping site and her role to help assist the homeless.

Paul Mozina/Ashland/Spoke to the 2020 decision in Portland regarding telecommunications and the LOC's model ordinance.

Brent Thompson/Ashland/Spoke in support of a plaque acknowledging how Siskiyou Boulevard was established. He asked council to honor established master plans. He did not support the Grand Terrace annexation on Hwy 99 and encouraged council to vote against it.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Transportation Advisory Committee Appointment**
- 2. Liquor License Approval for Harana Café, (DBA Harana LLC) at 116 Lithia Way, Ste 2**

Councilor Bloom/DuQuenne m/s to approve the approval of the Transportation Advisory Committee appointment, and Liquor License approval for Harana Café.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Bloom, Kaplan, DuQuenne, Hyatt, and Dahle, YES. Motion Passed.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program

City Manager Joe Lessard explained the matter was an educational issue in addition to childcare. There was excess demand, and this was an affordability grant program to open the demand.

Councilor Hyatt shared her family's personal experience when a local school shut down and the impact it created for her family and many others. This was a way to support the families that encountered similar situations. Solving it would not be easy and would take everyone. She expressed her gratitude. She provided a presentation included in the packet.

- City Grants Plan: Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program
- Early Childhood Affordability Grant: Pilot Program Overview
- Program Goals: Affordability and Access
- Early Learning as a Community Benefit: Stakeholders
- Early Childhood Affordability Grant Process/Steps
- Funding: Up to \$100K (not all funding must be awarded)
- Responsive / Values
- QUESTIONS?

Councilor Hyatt explained they had partners already and there was a licensable working mortar site. They also established a partnership with the school district. City staff would do the monitoring and reporting for the finance with the ad hoc managing the grant program. The ad hoc would work with partners regarding long term sustainability.

Councilor Bloom/Kaplan m/s to adopt the Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program plan and authorize City staff to begin its implementation. DISCUSSION: Councilor Bloom commented on due diligence of the work already being done. Councilor Kaplan noted it was an exciting mission and looked forward to seeing adjustments over time. Councilor DuQuenne added it was a wonderful opportunity. It would be nice for people to live and work where their children will be close. Business owners would appreciate it as well. Councilor Dahle added it was a proud moment and commented on the innovation, and collaboration. He understood the impact early educators could make. Councilor Hyatt thanked the body and staff and shared how her experience set her on this path. **Roll Call Vote: Councilor Dahle, Kaplan, DuQuenne, Hyatt, and Bloom, YES. Motion passed.**

XIII. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

1. Electric Master Plan Contract

Electric Utility Director Thomas McBartlett III explained the RFP process for the electric utility master plan. He addressed how the climate and energy action plan would fit into the master plan. McBartlett III had asked the Climate and Energy Ad Hoc for a list of priority functions that could be addressed. He would give it to Stoddard Power System LLC to determine what could be done and what could not.

The electric utility master plan would touch on water and wastewater master plans since they were customers of the electric utility. There had been some work on keeping basic functionality in the systems when the electrical supply was damaged.

Councilor Kaplan/Bloom m/s to approve the contracting of Stoddard Power Systems LLC, for the Electric Master Plan of the City of Ashland. DISCUSSION: Councilor Kaplan saw it as a building block. This was a masterplan focused on infrastructure. A lot of pieces fit together to ensure the city got the best cost benefit of all the systems working together. Councilor Bloom agreed and looked forward to learning more. Councilor DuQuenne appreciated looking at the different RFPs. She wanted a consideration of the costs prior to implementing rate hikes. Mayor Graham noted that climate change was making everyone change how they did things. She appreciated being out on the frontier of what it would take the community to get out of head of this. **Roll Call Vote: Councilor Hyatt, Dahle, Bloom, DuQuenne and Kaplan, YES. Motion passed.**

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

1. City Council Liaison Appointments

Mayor Graham reviewed the appointments. Council had suggested establishing an Unhoused ad hoc Committee and an unhoused master plan during their retreat July 17, 2023. The city did not have the staff to support either at this time. Having an unhoused liaison would be assumed by the city manager.

Council consensus moved the agencies listed under Community Relationships, Continuum of Care and Crisis Response Network under the regional boards & committees' section.

Mayor Graham would continue to work on the priorities and the liaisons. The goal was to make sure each committee understood their work plan for the next twelve months by the end of 2023.

Councilor DuQuenne announced the SERJ Committee would do their annual report to the council at the August 15, 2023, meeting. She explained the City of Grants Pass SERJ Committee had done a wonderful job with their Remembrance Program regarding sundown laws. It was something SERJ was working with in Ashland that would also be presented during the August 15, 2023, council meeting.

Mayor Graham announced the sister city certificates for Sviatohirs'k were on their way to Ukraine. There would be an English and Ukrainian version. The city had sent them hats and cups.

XV. ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS MEETING

Councilor Bloom/DuQuenne m/s to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Voice Vote: ALL AYES. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attest:

Clerk of the Council Pro Tem Dana Smith

Mayor Tonya Graham