



Council Study Session Meeting Agenda

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION AGENDA

Monday, May 18, 2026

Council Chambers, 1175 E Main Street

Live stream via RVTV Prime at rvtv.sou.edu or broadcast on Spectrum 180.

Public comment is welcome on agenda items.

To **speak electronically** during the meeting or to submit **written comments** in advance, please complete the online [Public Comment Form](#) by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

5:00 p.m. Study Session

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a. Legal Framework for Camping Ordinance and Addressing Issues Relating to the Unhoused Population of Ashland

III. ADJOURNMENT

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Alissa Kolodzinski at recorder@ashlandoregon.gov or 541.488.5307 (TTY phone number 1.800.735.2900). Notification at least three business days before the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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Council Study Session

Date: May 18, 2026

Agenda Item	Legal Framework for Camping Ordinance and Addressing Issues Relating to the Unhoused Population of Ashland
Department	Legal
From	Johan Pietila, City Attorney

TIME ESTIMATE

60-90 minutes

CATEGORY

Informational - this is to inform the body on a particular topic. No motion or direction needed.

SUMMARY

This item follows the Council's April 7, 2026, discussion regarding Garfield Park concerns and the April 13, 2026, special meeting concerning the proposed approach to Ashland's camping framework and Night Lawn location. During those meetings, Council identified the need for a broader, structured policy discussion concerning the intended purpose of a designated camping space, site location, operational management standards, and daytime options for Night Lawn residents, and directed that the first meeting in that process serve as a legal and policy level-setting session.

This presentation is intended to provide that foundation. It will provide Council background on the legal history of camping regulation, Oregon's statutory framework after *Grants Pass v. Johnson*, recent Oregon case law, Ashland's current ordinance and practices, and practical areas of ongoing legal and operational risk. This meeting will provide information to promote more robust overarching policy discussions and directions forward, to be held at those future meetings. The purpose of the item is not to recommend a final policy outcome at this stage, but to help Council define the policy questions it wishes to address in subsequent meetings.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

- Lawful, humane, and operationally sustainable management of public space, public camping, and issues pertaining to the unhoused population, which is consistent with state law and Ashland Municipal Code.
- Quality of life and sense of community belonging through respect, inclusion, and equity.
- Regional cooperation and partnerships, including support for public safety and homelessness

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2023-11-06 Study Session Camping and Livability [Council Communication](#) and [Minutes](#).

2023-11-21 Council Meeting. Item was tabled to next meeting. [Council Communication](#) and [Minutes](#).

2023-12-05 Council Meeting. First Reading of the ordinance passed. [Council Communication](#) and [Minutes](#).

2023-12-19 Council Meeting. Second Reading of the ordinance passed. [Council Communication](#), [Minutes](#), and the signed [ordinance](#).

On April 7, 2026, Council considered Garfield Park concerns, including complaints associated with Dusk-to-Dawn Lawn guests using Garfield Park during the day, with reported concerns relating to violence, threats, drug activity, nuisance noise, gazebo occupancy, smoking, and littering. That meeting also identified short-term enforcement





Council Study Session

and service responses, while recognizing that the issues may persist absent broader policy direction regarding the Night Lawn, related services, and use of public space.

At the April 13, 2026 special meeting, Council further considered a proposed approach to the City's camping framework and location issues. Discussion points included the current Night Lawn's proximity to the police department, the Grove, and the public works compound; the practical effect of daytime exit and reentry times; the burden that operational management places on law enforcement; and continuing issues relating to storage and site management. These discussions led Council to agree to a multi-meeting process addressing interrelated policy questions concerning the vision and intended purpose of a designated camping space, site location, operational standards, and daytime options for Night Lawn residents.

This is the first meeting in that process. As requested, the legal briefing is intended to orient Council to the current legal landscape rather than to suggest that the law is settled. Although *Grants Pass v. Johnson* narrowed one federal Eighth Amendment theory, Oregon law continues to require that local regulations governing sitting, lying, sleeping, and keeping warm and dry on public property be objectively reasonable as to time, place, and manner under ORS 195.530. As a part of this level-set, it should be noted that litigation risk in Oregon remains tied not only to ordinance text, but to implementation, including notice practices, property handling, disability accommodation, humane alternatives, management of public health consideration, and coordination with any community partners and service providers.

The intent of this presentation is to provide a common legal and factual baseline before Council considers more specific policy decisions in later meetings. Upon direction, subsequent meetings may include additional informational presentations and further discussion of process, scope, and structure.

FISCAL IMPACTS

This item is informational and does not itself request budget approval or authorize a new program.

However, as will be discussed, management of a designated camping space carries significant direct and indirect financial and staffing burdens, and future Council discussions may include a more detailed overview of current expenditures, budgeted resources, and the operational implications of different policy choices.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS, AND/OR OPTIONS

No formal action is required for this informational item. Council may, however, provide direction regarding:

- The policy questions Council wishes to prioritize in follow-up meetings—suggestions will be provided at the end of the presentation and are included in the materials from Councilor Bloom.
- Whether Council wants additional information regarding Night Lawn history, City-owned properties, fiscal impacts, or service and operational models.
- The scope and sequencing of future meetings addressing designated camping space purpose, location, operational standards, and daytime options.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

1. 2026_Legal Issue RE Unhoused and camping policies
2. Proposed Approach to Camping Framework and Location by Councilor Bloom (1)





Overview of the legal issues relating to Ashland's unhoused population

Legal Level Setting
May 18, 2026

Why This Discussion Is Happening

Identifying Policy Issues and Questions

- The City is balancing legal compliance, humane management, neighborhood impacts, financial burdens, and staff capacity
- Recent concerns include sanitation, rodent control, daytime cleanup, school-adjacent timing, and storage needs

Legal history, HB 3115, Ashland's legislative history , Ashland's current approach, monitoring areas, and best practices

What is this Discussion: Information to Help Level Set Council

- Conversation tied to Garfield park
- Proposal to consider the approach to camping framework
- Request for background and legal posture to assist in:
 - Defining a policy question to be answered by Council
 - Addressing issues related to the Night Lawn and Prohibited Camping



Getting from then to now

- From *Martin* to *Grants Pass*
- HB 3115 and HB 3124
- *Bilodeau* and *Malaer*
- Ashland's approach
- Monitoring areas and best practices
- Minimum legal "requirements" (10 Takeaways)

End with Questions for Council



Clarifying Impact

- *Grants Pass* did not erase Oregon Law
- State-law reasonableness remains central
- Litigation has shifted—but not disappeared
- Implementation matters as much as text

Legal Timeline

- 2019: *Martin v. Boise*
- 2020: *Blake v. Grants Pass*
- 2021: HB 3115 and 3124
- 2024: *Bilodeau and Grants Pass v. Johnson*
- 2026: *Malaer v. Curry County*



Martin v. Boise

- No criminal penalties for sleeping outside when shelter is unavailable
- Narrow holding
- Time, Place, and Manner limits still possible



Blake v. Grants Pass

- Civil penalties could not avoid the *Martin* rule
- Some minimal measures to keep warm and dry mattered
- Cities still retained substantial public-safety tools



HB 3115 : ORS 195.530 (2021)

- Regulates sitting, lying, sleeping, and keeping warm and dry.
- Requires objective reasonableness as to time, place, and manner restrictions
- Uses a “totality of the circumstances” test

Why HB 3115 was drafted:

- Operationalize *Martin* principles
- Preserve City authority to manage public spaces
- Replace blanket-bans logic with a reasonableness analysis
- Protect Oregon law from changes in federal doctrine

Campsite Removals

- Notice and Removal of Campsite Statute
- 72-hour notice for established campsites on public property
- Emergency and criminal-activity exceptions
- Property-preservation rules still matter



Grants Pass v. Johnson

- Narrowed the federal Eighth Amendment theory
- Generally applicable camping laws regulate conduct—not status
- Did NOT decide Oregon statutory reasonableness or other claims.



Bilodeau v. City of Medford

- Upheld Medford's ordinance as reasonable
- Designated areas for humane rest mattered
- Shelters, housing efforts, process, and exceptions mattered.



Malaer v. Curry County

- When government leases public land to a private lessee, the property is no longer “public property”
- Relevant to ORS 195.505, ORS 195.530(1)(C), and ORS 131.705(3)

The Broader Legal/ Political Landscape

- 2020. Throughout the region, camping laws are not heavily enforced post-Covid
- 2021, Feb. Oregon is the only state in the country to approve a large drug decriminalization statute (M110).
- 2022, Sept: 9th Circuit Grants Pass holding – creates confusion and enforcement trepidation throughout all of the 9th circuit on camping enforcement.
- 2022: the size and breadth of encampments is becoming public health issue; larger cities like Portland and San Francisco experience economic impacts; lawsuits hit cities to enforce (ADA)
- 2024: Supreme Court reverses Grants Pass. / M110 reinstated



Practical Lessons From Grants Pass Police

- Temporary solutions can unintentionally create long-term expectations and precedent
- Expansions of future services tends to follow the initial implementation of services offered
- Law Enforcement role becomes blurred
- Alignment with current legal framework
- Importance of focusing on long-term sustainable solutions



Camping in Ashland spikes in 2023

City regulation of public camping up for review



Eight tents covered with snow under the Threshold sculpture on Gateway Island in Ashland in March. Ashland.news photo by Bob Palermini

November 6, 2023

Ashland Timeline

- Early 2023. Camping spike in Ashland
- May 2023. Ashland establishes the night lawn.
- August 2023. Ashland purchases shelter.
- Summer 2023 to December 2023: City discusses and finalizes camping ordinance.



Ashland's Current Camping Ordinance

- AMC 10.46 prohibits camping on public property
- Exception when person is involuntarily homeless and no designated space or shelter is available
- Absolute prohibitions only in sensitive and high-risk locations
- Includes vehicle-shelter rules, occupancy rules, removal rules, and penalties.



What Must a City with an Ordinance Do?

- Review camping laws for objective reasonableness
- Follow notice and property-removal rules
- Preserve some realistic avenue for humane rest
- Tie restrictions to genuine health, safety, and access concerns
- Build a factual record of good-faith implementation and efforts



“Designated Space”

“Designated space” are those areas designated to be a resting place for the involuntarily homeless. AMC 10.46.010(E)

“Involuntarily homeless” means a person who lacks access to suitable temporary shelter due to either financial inability or the unavailability of free, viable options. AMC 10.46.010(G)



Designated Space

- Ashland's current designated space is the Night Lawn
- Practical mechanism for lawful rest
- Important to the reasonableness analysis
- Demonstrates that regulation is paired with accommodation





Property Removal and Due Process

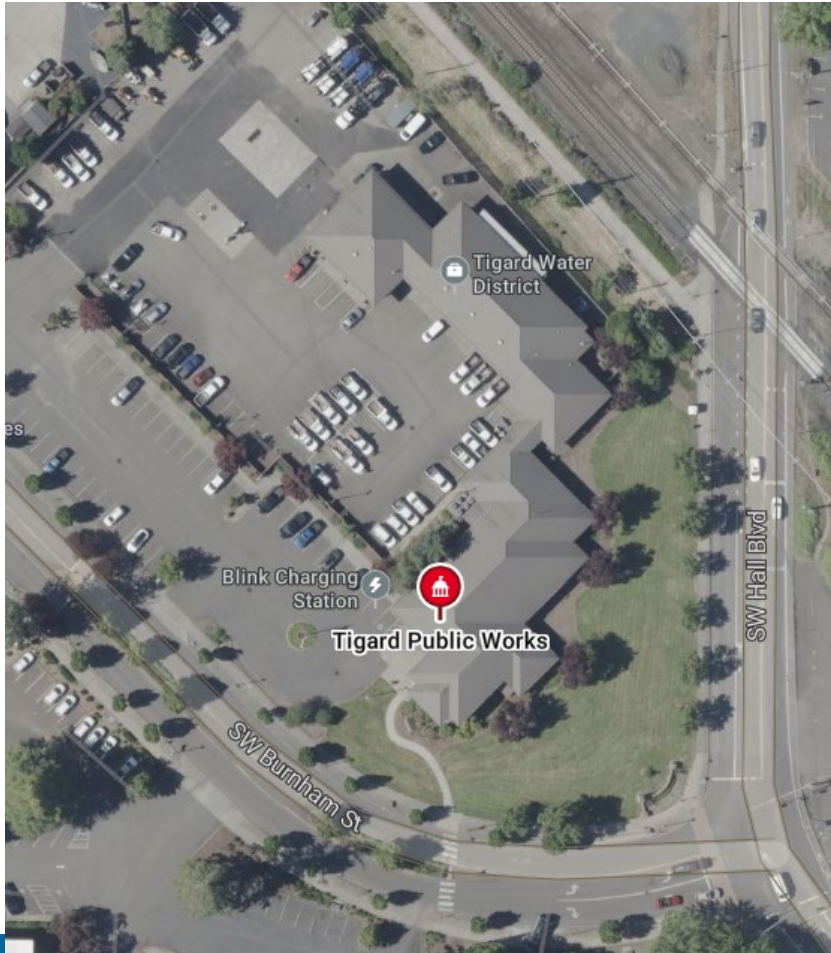
- Immediate removal allowed for emergencies, criminal activity, and non-established sites
- Hazardous or insanitary materials may be discarded
- Hearing-officer review protects property interests

What Ashland is Doing Well

- Night Lawn in operation
- Rodent issue was addressed
- Trash, sanitation, and hygiene accommodations provided
- Mobility accommodation provided
- Partnerships with OHRA, Rogue Retreat, and community groups
- Housing and Planning efforts



Comparison | City of Tigard



Tigard's Time, Place, Manner Ordinance Restricts Camping in These Ways:

Time

- Camping is permitted from 7 PM - 8 AM, within the fenced areas of the Public Works Lawn.
- All daytime use of the Public Works Lawn is prohibited between 8 AM - 7 PM

Place

Camping is prohibited at:

- Tigard Public Library (Camping and unsheltered overnight stays are not permitted.)
- Tigard City Hall
- All cement, brick, asphalt, and concrete surfaces on City property
- Sensitive lands, such as wetlands, significant habitat areas, and undeveloped park land
- Bark dust areas and landscaped areas around the Public Works Building

Manner

How campers may set up their campsites is regulated in several ways, including:

- Campsite may not obstruct travel
- Campsites must leave 48" of clearance on public sidewalks
- Campsite must be 10 ft. from driveways, building entrances/exits, fire hydrants, and other utility infrastructure
- Campsites are limited to 12x12 ft
- Campsites must be 20 ft. apart from one another, except on the Public Works Lawn
- Campers may not obstruct an exit or exit passageway (Oregon Fire Code section 1030.2)
- Campers may not dig, excavate, erect/install fixtures, or harm vegetation
- Campers may not start or maintain an open flame
- Campers may not accumulate or leave

Keep in Mind: Best Practices

- Use specific, place-based restrictions, avoiding vague bans
- Distinguish safety concerns from status-based enforcement
- Preserve survival property and provide process
- Prefer resources-first, enforcement-last where possible
- Document outreach, notice, and accommodations



“State-Created Danger”

- Requires affirmative state (city) action
- Requires a known or obvious danger
- Requires deliberate indifference



ADA / Accessibility

- Likely the thorniest issue
- Neutral rules may still burden disabled persons differently
- Accommodations may often be individualized
- Time to comply, moving belongings, and site accessibility matter



Compliance with ORS 195.530 (HB 3115)

- The core Oregon question is objective reasonableness
- Objective Reasonableness is judged in practice
 - Site hours, cleanup windows, sanitation, accessibility, real-world management—all likely matter
- Testimony from providers and affected people may matter
- Mapping, notice, practicality, and service access all matter



Minimum Considerations Going Forward

- A lawful mechanism for humane rest, such as the Night Lawn (regardless of location or who manages)
- Clear, specific, and realistic place restrictions
- Notice and property procedures that function in practice
- Serious attention to disability issues and site conditions
- A documented record of outreach, services, and accommodations



Night Lawn Costs

(Beginning May 5, 2023)

- 2023 \$4,693
- 2024 \$33,277
- 2025 \$62,154
- 2026 (est).
\$58,991
- *Future Appx*
Annual Estimate:
\$59,590

Night Lawn Costs					
Night Lawn began approximately May 5, 2023					
	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26 Estimate	Future Estimate Each Year
Porta Potties/Hand Washing Stations	2,234.88	14,313.74	29,335.56	40,227.84	41,434.68
Supplies				103.28	
Dumpster	313.79	1,681.32	1,814.16	1,775.88	1,825.94
Parks-Landscaping repair*			9,189.72		
Parks-Parking lot clean up staff time and supplies	2,144.00	14,144.00	14,768.00	14,976.00	16,016.00
Extermination*			350.00	175.00	175.00
Cameras*		3,138.00	138.00	138.00	138.00
Police-fencing, remotes, signs, storage containers*			6,559.00		
Fence repair*				1,595.00	
	\$ 4,693	\$ 33,277	\$ 62,154	\$ 58,991	\$ 59,590
*Note: Does not include personnel costs					



Practical Considerations Going Forward

- Operating and maintaining Night Lawn humanely
- Sanitation, storage, and accessibility measures
- Training appropriate staff on property and ADA procedures
- Maintaining provider partnerships and housing pathways
- Documenting...everything



Top Ten Takaways – Distilling a List of “Factors”

1. Scope of Prohibition
2. Differentiating between tents/structures and bedding
3. Objective safety and land-use justifications
4. Availability and Character of Shelter Alternatives
5. Broader Policy efforts and good faith engagement
6. Enforcement Posture
7. Non-criminalization of status and avoidance of “no legal place to be”
8. Rational Basis Balancing of Interests
9. Severity of Penalties (8th Am. Analysis)
10. State Law Reasonableness Standards (ORS 195.530)



Summary and Purpose

- *Grants Pass* changed the federal backdrop but not the whole legal landscape
- Oregon law requires objective reasonableness
- Ashland has several strong features already in place
- Continued attention to implementation/practice will matter most, and this may come at a significant financial cost and require personnel and resources
- **Now, what problem is the City actually trying to solve.....**



Potential Policy Questions for Council Consideration

1. What role should a designated camping space play in Ashland's overall homelessness strategy (compliance-only, emergency refuge, stabilization/transition, neighborhood impact management, or a defined combination)?
2. What level of investment and risk tolerance does council want to set through policy for camping enforcement and designated spaces under HB 3115 and HB 3124 (e.g., "bare legal minimum" vs. "enhanced, more humane but more resource-intensive" approach)?



Potential Policy Questions for Council Consideration, Cont'd

3. What basic policy parameters should govern any designated space (e.g., general hours framework, proximity/avoidance criteria, expectation of service-provider involvement, baseline amenities)?
4. How should council define success and accountability for the camping policy (measures of neighborhood livability, use of the site, linkages to shelter/housing, and legal exposure).



Potential Policy Questions for Council Consideration, Cont'd

5. What is the City's intended role relative to partners (OHRA, Rogue Retreat, Resolve, school district, county, neighborhood groups) in operating or supporting a camping space, and what responsibilities does council expect to delegate or contract rather than perform in-house?



WHEN DO YOU WANT TO MEET
AGAIN?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DISCUSS?



Proposed Five-Meeting Study Session Series

Submitted by: Councilor Dylan Bloom

Meeting 1

Purpose, Policy Role, and Model Options

Target date: May 18, 2026

Purpose

The goal of the first meeting would be to establish the policy foundation for the conversation. Before discussing site options, council should decide what problem the city is actually trying to solve and what role a camping space is meant to play in Ashland's broader homelessness response.

Key questions for council

- What is the intended purpose of the camping space?
- Is it primarily for legal compliance, emergency overnight refuge, stabilization, transition to shelter or housing, neighborhood management, or some combination?
- Is the current dusk-to-dawn lawn model sufficient, or does council want to consider a more structured model?
- What general types of models should Ashland evaluate further?

My contribution

I would prepare and circulate a discussion memo that:

- outlines why I believe the current model is increasingly untenable
- explains why policy design should come before site selection
- summarizes broad model options used in other communities
- frames the threshold policy questions for council

Advocate input placeholder

At this meeting, I would also provide a summary of advocate perspectives on purpose, goals, and preferred model types.

Placeholder: advocate input to be added once gathered.

Staff participation requested

- **City Manager** — to speak to organizational capacity, city priorities, and how this discussion fits within broader council work.
- **City Attorney** — to answer threshold legal questions and identify any legal guardrails at the outset.
- **Dan Cano, Executive Director of OHRA** — to provide operational perspective on homelessness response and the realities of the current service environment.
- **Police Chief or Deputy Operations Chief** — to answer questions about current enforcement realities, public safety issues, and operational concerns tied to the existing model.

What would be needed from staff

- Basic factual confirmation of the current operating model
- Clarification of any legal or practical guardrails council should understand at the outset
- Minimal support in scheduling and agenda placement

Desired outcome

Council identifies the core purpose of the camping space and narrows the general model or models that should be explored further.

Meeting 2

Rules, Operations, Facilities, and Overflow

Target date: June 1, 2026

Purpose

Once council has discussed the policy purpose and general model, the next step is to determine how such a space would actually function. This meeting would move from conceptual discussion into operating expectations.

Key questions for council

- What rules should apply to the site?
- What hours of operation should be considered?

- What standards should govern behavior, possessions, sanitation, pets, smoking, prohibited conduct, and reentry after exclusion?
- What facilities are necessary for any acceptable model?
- Should overflow capacity exist, and if so, under what circumstances?
- What level of management, supervision, or operator involvement is required?

My contribution

I would prepare a second discussion memo that:

- outlines possible operating frameworks
- compares low-, medium-, and higher-management models
- discusses facility needs and core infrastructure expectations
- lays out options for overflow and contingencies
- identifies the practical differences between a minimally managed camping area and a more structured managed site

Advocate input placeholder

At this meeting, I would also provide a summary of advocate perspectives on rules, accessibility, barriers to entry, safety expectations, and necessary facilities or services.

Placeholder: advocate input to be added once gathered.

Staff participation requested

- **City Manager** — to help council understand administrative feasibility and policy alignment.
- **City Attorney** — to answer questions about rule structures, exclusion processes, and legal defensibility.
- **Dan Cano, Executive Director of OHRA** — to provide practical input on what rules and site conditions are realistic from a provider and user perspective.
- **Police Chief or Deputy Operations Chief** — to answer questions regarding enforcement, rule violations, exclusions, and safety concerns.
- **Public Works** — to answer questions about sanitation, waste, water, lighting, maintenance, and other basic infrastructure issues.

What would be needed from staff

- Factual or practical feedback on feasibility of basic operating concepts
- Clarification on any obvious administrative, sanitation, enforcement, or implementation constraints
- No large standalone report assumed

Desired outcome

Council narrows what it considers to be an acceptable operating framework, including rules, facilities, level of management, and overflow approach.

Meeting 3

Location Criteria, Neighborhood Engagement, and Transition Framework

Target date: June 15, 2026

Purpose

This meeting would not be about choosing a specific site. It would instead establish the standards by which any potential site should later be evaluated. In my view, that discussion has to come before a candidate-location conversation.

Key questions for council

- What characteristics should any acceptable location have?
- How should proximity to services, transit, infrastructure, sensitive uses, and existing shelter resources be weighed?
- Should one site or multiple smaller sites be preferred?
- What neighborhood engagement process should apply before any future siting decision?
- How should transition from the current model be handled if council chooses to move in a different direction?
- What performance measures should be used to assess whether a future site is working?

My contribution

I would prepare a third discussion memo that:

- proposes siting criteria
- outlines possible neighborhood engagement principles
- discusses transition approaches from the current model
- recommends potential performance measures and accountability expectations

Advocate input placeholder

At this meeting, I would also provide a summary of advocate perspectives on equitable siting, neighborhood concerns, service access, and transition from the current model.

Placeholder: advocate input to be added once gathered.

Staff participation requested

- **City Manager** — to help frame implementation realities and coordination across departments.
- **Deputy City Manager** — to answer operational and interdepartmental coordination questions as the discussion becomes more implementation-focused.
- **City Attorney** — to advise on legal issues related to siting, transition, and procedural fairness.
- **Dan Cano, Executive Director of OHRA** — to provide service-provider perspective on access, transition, and what siting criteria support actual use and success.
- **Police Chief or Deputy Operations Chief** — to answer public safety and enforcement questions tied to siting and transition.
- **Public Works** — to address questions about physical infrastructure, serviceability, and site-readiness considerations.
- **Community Development** — to answer questions about land-use context, proximity to sensitive uses, and any planning or development constraints.

What would be needed from staff

- Limited practical feedback on implementation constraints tied to siting or transition
- Clarification of any major considerations council should be aware of before moving into specific location options

Desired outcome

Council establishes the criteria that should govern future site review, the expectations for neighborhood engagement, and the broad framework for transition.

Meeting 4

Candidate Locations and Site Comparison

Target date: August 3, 2026 preferred; July 20 or August 17 as alternates depending on schedule availability. July 20 currently shows a tentative Strategic Plan draft review, while August 3 and August 17 appear open.

Purpose

This would be the first meeting focused on actual site options. By this point, council would already have discussed policy purpose, operations, and siting criteria. That would allow the location discussion to be grounded in a framework rather than treated as a free-floating political debate.

Key questions for council

- What candidate locations should be considered?
- Which locations appear clearly unsuitable based on the criteria already discussed?
- Which locations warrant further review?
- Is there interest in a single preferred site, multiple smaller sites, a phased approach, or a temporary and long-term pairing?
- Are there sites council would want ruled out?

My contribution

I would prepare a fourth discussion memo that:

- identifies candidate sites or site categories for discussion
- compares them against the location criteria discussed in Meeting 3
- outlines tradeoffs for each option
- identifies likely transition implications for each candidate location

Advocate input placeholder

At this meeting, I would also provide a summary of advocate perspectives on candidate sites, site suitability, access concerns, and concerns or support related to specific locations.

Placeholder: advocate input to be added once gathered.

Staff participation requested

- **City Manager** — to help frame how any future site decision would fit with city capacity and broader policy direction.
- **Deputy City Manager** — to answer implementation and coordination questions as council reviews specific options.
- **City Attorney** — to address legal questions related to site control, authority, and implementation.
- **Dan Cano, Executive Director of OHRA** — to provide provider perspective on site suitability, accessibility, and practical functionality.
- **Police Chief or Deputy Operations Chief** — to answer questions about public safety implications, operational concerns, and enforcement realities tied to candidate locations.
- **Public Works** — to answer questions about infrastructure availability, maintenance needs, utilities, and physical limitations.
- **Community Development** — to address land-use, adjacency, and site-compatibility questions.
- **APRC Commission Chair** — to provide input if park property, park-adjacent land, or park system impacts are part of the discussion.

What would be needed from staff

- Factual clarification regarding city control, infrastructure limitations, or other known constraints associated with potential sites
- Minimal implementation feedback where needed
- No expectation of a staff-led siting report unless council later directs one

Desired outcome

Council narrows or identifies the site options it wants to consider further and provides clear feedback on which options appear most viable.

Meeting 5

Final Recommendations and Potential Staff Direction

Target date: August 17, 2026 preferred; later date if needed for spacing and synthesis. August 17 currently appears open on the study session schedule.

Purpose

This final meeting would bring the prior discussions together into one consolidated framework. The purpose would be to determine whether council wishes to direct any formal next steps and, if so, what those should be.

Key questions for council

- Based on the prior study sessions, what model appears most appropriate for Ashland?
- What operating framework should accompany it?
- What site or site options remain under consideration?
- Does council want to pursue a pilot, a formal policy framework, an ordinance, a resolution, additional analysis, or no action at this time?
- What specific direction, if any, should be given to staff?

My contribution

I would prepare a final consolidated memo that:

- summarizes the prior four meetings
- identifies where council appears aligned and where questions remain
- proposes a recommended framework
- outlines possible next-step options for council consideration

Advocate input placeholder

At this meeting, I would also provide a summary of advocate perspectives on the overall package, final concerns, and recommended next steps.

Placeholder: advocate input to be added once gathered.

Staff participation requested

- **City Manager** — to discuss organizational readiness and the implications of any direction council may give.
- **Deputy City Manager** — to answer implementation and coordination questions tied to next steps.
- **City Attorney** — to advise on the legal path forward for any formal direction, ordinance, or resolution.
- **Dan Cano, Executive Director of OHRA** — to provide final provider perspective on the practicality of the full framework under discussion.
- **Police Chief or Deputy Operations Chief** — to answer final questions related to safety, enforcement, and operational sustainability.
- **Public Works** — to speak to infrastructure, maintenance, and implementation implications.
- **Community Development** — to address any siting, planning, or development-related follow-up questions.
- **APRC Commission Chair** — to provide input if the preferred framework affects park property, adjacent uses, or APRC interests.
- **Finance Director** — to answer questions regarding cost, fiscal implications, potential pilot expenses, or ongoing funding needs.

What would be needed from staff

This is the point at which staff involvement may become more substantive, depending on council direction. Possible staff asks at that stage could include:

- legal or operational review of a preferred path
- preparation of implementation options
- drafting of ordinance or resolution language if directed
- preparation of a more formal site-analysis process if directed
- return with cost or administrative implications of a preferred framework

Desired outcome

Council concludes the study-session process with a clear understanding of whether it wants to direct formal next steps and what those next steps should be.

Summary of Staff Needs Across the Process

Because I expect to do most of the preparatory work on this item, I do not envision a staff-heavy process on the front end. What I would need from staff is more limited and targeted.

Early-stage staff support

- Agenda scheduling and coordination
- Factual verification of current operating conditions
- Clarification of legal, operational, or administrative guardrails
- Limited feasibility feedback where council discussion would benefit from it

Later-stage staff support, only if council chooses to proceed

- Review of a preferred policy direction
- Assistance with formal implementation options
- Drafting support for ordinance, resolution, or process documents
- Site-specific administrative or operational analysis if directed

From my perspective, this issue is too important and too complex to approach in a compressed or reactive manner. A staged study-session process would allow council to work through the issue in the proper sequence:

1. Define the purpose
2. Define how the model would function
3. Define what standards should govern siting
4. Review actual location options
5. Consider final recommendations and any formal direction

That approach gives council a better chance of having a constructive discussion and reduces the risk of debating locations before we have defined what we are actually trying to create.