



Council Study Session Agenda

ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION AGENDA
Monday, October 2, 2023
Council Chambers, 1175 E Main Street

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

HELD HYBRID (In-Person or Zoom Meeting Access)

Public testimony will be accepted for both general public forum items and agenda items.

**Please complete the online Public Testimony Form (ashland.or.us/Council),
for WRITTEN and ELECTRONIC testimony only.** Indicate on the Public Testimony Form if you wish to
provide WRITTEN testimony, or if you wish to speak ELECTRONICALLY during the meeting.
Please submit your testimony no later than 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

5:30 p.m. Study Session

1. Public Input (up to 15 minutes)
2. Ashland Emergency Shelter
 - a. Operations Overview Presentation
 - b. OHRA Program Update Presentation
 - c. Public Input
 - d. City Council Discussion
3. Adjournment of Study Session

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).



Council Study Session

October 2, 2023

Agenda Item	Council Discussion- Goals for Facility/ Program			
From	Tonya Graham	Mayor		
Contact	tonya@council.ashland.or.us			
Item type	Requested by Council ☐ Update ☐ Request for Direction ☐ Presentation ☒			

SUMMARY

Mayor Graham is putting this proposal forward for Council's consideration in order to articulate clear goals for this new facility and pilot program. By having clear goals, the City and community will be able to assess progress more effectively. In addition, the neighbors of the facility will see the Council's commitment to ensuring that the facility is a good neighbor and that the facility and pilot program are a benefit to this neighborhood, which has seen escalating challenges linked to homelessness over the past few years.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Proposed Goals

The new facility and pilot program will:

- Provide immediate safety for Ashland residents who are experiencing homelessness.
- Reduce the garbage/litter found on neighborhood streets, around businesses, in Clay Street Park, and along the bike path and train tracks.
- Provide a pathway to long-term housing for Ashland residents who are experiencing homelessness.
- Improve the sense of safety in the neighborhood, especially along the bike path under the overpass and at Siskiyou School
- Support the dignity of Ashland residents who are experiencing homelessness by providing for their basic needs on a temporary basis so that they can get on their feet.
- Reduce the risk of wildfire in the neighborhood caused by cigarette smoking and illegal cooking.
- Provide a means by which Ashland residents who are experiencing homelessness can contribute back to the community as they are receiving services at the facility.
- Invest in ensuring that the rate of certain crimes (household theft, trespassing, etc.) are no higher in this section of town than in the rest of Ashland.

FISCAL IMPACTS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS N/A

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS N/A





Ashland Emergency Shelter (AES)

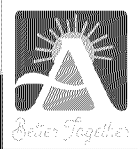
City Council Study Session
October 2, 2023

Ashland Emergency Shelter

Ashland Emergency Shelter – Overview

1. Where we are now
2. What we've learned
3. Next steps





Where We Are Now

Oregon

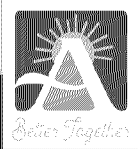
- State has **fourth highest rate** of unsheltered homelessness **in US**
 - 42 of every 10,000 in state (Calif. – 44 of every 10,000)
 - At least 18,000 experience homelessness per 2022 count
- 63% increase in homelessness in six years (2017-2022)
 - Center Oregon – 86% increase
 - Eugene-Springfield/Land County – 110% increase
 - **Medford-Ashland/Jackson Co. – 132 % increase**
 - Salem/Marian-Polk Co. – 150% increase
 - 62% of state's homeless are “unsheltered” (outdoors/cars)



Where We Are Now

Governor's Emergency Homelessness Declaration

- Effective dates – Jan. 10, 2023-Jan. 10, 2024
- For **areas with increase of 50%** or greater homelessness
- Funding – \$11,125,617 to address unsheltered homelessness
- Goals
 - **Prevention** – 8,750 households from homelessness
 - **Shelter** – Add 600 low-barrier beds
 - **Rehouse** – At least 1,200 households



Where We Are Now

Jackson County/Ashland Goals

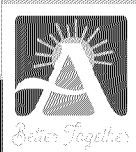
- **Prevention** – 1,200 households from homelessness
 - Medford – 1,104 households
 - Ashland – OHRA 96 households
- **Shelter** – Add at least 67 low-barrier beds
 - Medford – 80 beds
 - Ashland – 30 bed in Emergency Order Shelter
- **Rehouse** – At least 133 households
 - Medford – 96 households
 - Ashland – OHRA 37 households



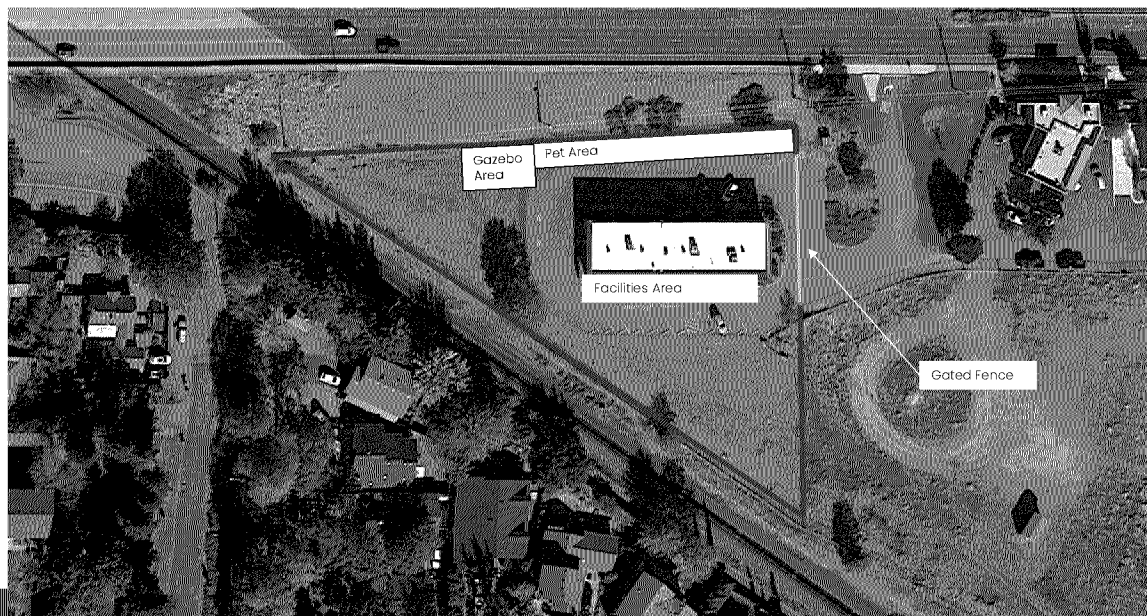
Where We Are Now

City of Ashland

- Obligation to address homelessness in our community
 - Homelessness estimated at **80-125** (approx. 10% of Jackson Co. est.)
 - **Will grow** in Oregon & Jackson County
- Balance needs of all citizens
 - Preserve health and public safety
 1. **Dusk-to-Dawn** sleeping lawn
 2. **Severe Weather Shelter** – prevent health risk or loss of life
 3. **Emergency Order Shelter** – stability & navigate to housing
 4. **Enforce behavioral expectations**
 - No exclusive use of parks & public rights-of-way (ROW)
 - Trespass (private property / railroad ROW)
 - Partner with community organizations
 - Multi-agency coordination for continuum of care approach



Where We Are Now



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Where We Are Now

City of Ashland Programs

Severe Weather Shelter:

- **Health & Public Safety Measure**
- **Over Night Shelter**
 - Approx. Nov.-Mar. funded
 - 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 a.m.
- **Shelter Thresholds**
 - Cold – 32° or below
 - Hot – 95° or above
 - Smoke – 150 Air Quality Index

Emergency Order Shelter:

- **Governor's Emergency Declaration**
 - Jan. 10, 2024 expiration
- **71 days operations**
 - Nov. 1-Jan. 10 funded
 - Navigation services for occupants
 - Experienced 24/7 oversight
- **30+ accepted applicants**
 - Screened for Vulnerability
 - Screened for sex offender registry

OHRA Center

Resource Center:

- **Walk-In**
 - Navigation services
 - Resource referral
- **52 shelter rooms**
 - 6 mos. Stability
 - Navigation services
 - Experienced 24/7 oversight

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Where We Are Now

Emergency Order Shelter Is NOT

- A walk-in center
- A campground
- A nightly sleep/camping lawn

Emergency Order Shelter Is

- State **funded for Nov. 1-Jan. 10** operation only
 - Assigned beds for at least 30 beds
 - Operated 24/7 by an experienced shelter operator
 - Supervised on-site during all operating hours
 - Behavioral standards for occupants
- Navigation resource support

City is Requiring Application/Screening for Admission

- Sex offender registry website check



Where We Are Now

Emergency Order Shelter Will Have

- Site fencing/screening
- Access gate with site curfew hours
- Interior access point and exterior security cameras
- Exterior security lighting & smoking area
- Adequate toilet & sanitation stations

During Emergency Order Shelter Operations

- City **Will**
 - Work with Siskiyou School to secure City easement
 - Work to close neighborhood bike path fencing gaps
- APD **Will**
 - **Expand patrol presence** from downtown to include Ashland Street/Clay Street/bike path area (five new discreet shelter neighborhood patrol areas)
 - **Expand cadet program** from three using vacancy savings to assist in patrol of City parks & other properties
 - **Explore store front office** option in Exit 14 area



What We're Learning

Neighborhood Concerns are Community-wide Concerns

- Homeless in neighborhoods
 - Property intrusions and resulting trash/waste
 - Ongoing fencing issues (railroad ROW & bike path access)
- Economic impacts of homeless in City
- Questions on future of Ashland's current approaches
 - Dusk to Dawn sleeping lawn
 - Severe Weather Shelter
 - Emergency Order Shelter – Pilot Program
 - Enforcement (including camping ordinance updates)
- Questions on next steps – planning in Ashland & regionally
 - Future state funding questions
 - Planning process for potential uses of shelter site
 - Access to bike path
 - Community goals and monitoring
 - Severe Weather & Emergency Order Shelter operations
 - Code enforcement / Police / Fire & Rescue



Next steps

Facility 2023

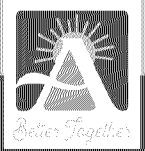
- **Oct. 2** – Public forum on Emergency Shelter at Council Chambers, including update presentation on shelter implementation
- **Mid Oct.** – Emergency order shelter open house; Application process initiated
- **Nov. 1** – Full operation with accepted applicants

Facility 2024

- **Jan. 10** – Shelter transitioning to Severe Weather Shelter operations status
- **Jan. 11 – Mar. 31** – Severe Weather Shelter operations

Planning 2023–2024

- **Nov. – Jan.** – City Council Next Steps Planning Process



THANK YOU

To submit questions/comments and view updates, please visit:

ashland.or.us/EmergencyShelter



Helping low-income neighbors live better lives.

Our Vision

To help people **move from crisis to stability**, to build more capable individuals, stronger families and a better community.

Our Mission

To **help low-income people build better lives**. By offering hope and access to social service resources, we encourage those in need on the **path to self-sufficiency**.

The OHRA Center: A Community Asset

- ❖ Co-located Resource Center and Shelter means more effective assistance
- ❖ More space for more skilled staff to meet an increasing demand
- ❖ LaClinica's onsite health center
- ❖ A partner room for rotating services such as credit counseling, job assistance, and benefit applications
- ❖ A Shelter providing dignity, privacy and greater stability



OHRA's Three Programs



OHRA's Resource
Center



OHRA's Shelter



OHRA's Shower
Trailer

Resource Navigation Assistance is Broad

Direct Help With:

- ❖ Rental Assistance
- ❖ Utility Assistance
- ❖ Computer Access
- ❖ Job Searching
- ❖ Resume Writing
- ❖ Phone and Mail Services
- ❖ Bus Passes
- ❖ Pet Food
- ❖ Goodwill Vouchers
- And More

Applications to / Refer to:

- ❖ Affordable Housing
- ❖ Section 8 Vouchers
- ❖ Sober Housing
- ❖ Transitional Housing
- ❖ Permanent Supported Housing
- ❖ VA Housing
- ❖ Credit Assistance
- ❖ Legal Advocacy
- ❖ Health Insurance
- ❖ Social Security, Disability & Vet Benefits
- ❖ Birth Certificates
- ❖ Mental & Physical Health Services
- ❖ Substance Use Recovery
- ❖ SNAP Food Benefits
- ❖ State Assistance Programs
- And More



OHRA's Resource Center

We are the only walk-in Resource Center in Jackson County

- ❖ 55 guests each day—no screening or program registration required
- ❖ Navigators often meet multiple times with each guest
- ❖ Adults and families with children – housed or homeless – use the Resource Center.

At the Resource Center, people can retake control of their lives.



OHRA's Shelter

- ❖ A professionally staffed, low-barrier adult shelter
- ❖ We are staffed 24/7/365.
- ❖ 52 rooms with up to 72 guests who can stay 6 months
- ❖ ADA accessible and secure
- ❖ All shelter guests meet with Resource Navigators to move towards permanent housing.





OHRA's Shower Trailer

- ❖ Laundry and shower services for people who are unhoused.
- ❖ A crucial access point to OHRA's Resource Navigators.
- ❖ Partners with Laundry Love, OHSU School of Nursing, La Clinica



OHRA's Housing Outcomes:

Shelter and Resource Center: Combined	
Families in New Housing (Combined)	656
Men	285
Women	270
Children	97
Total Individuals	652
Housed families protected	1,107
Men	353
Women	470
Children	380
Total Individuals	1,409

Speaker Request Form

THIS FORM IS A PUBLIC RECORD

ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

- 1) Complete this form and return it to the City Staff prior to the discussion of the item you wish to speak about.
- 2) Speak where directed to allow recording of your comments.
- 3) State your name and address (or City of Residence only if preferred) for the record.
- 4) Limit your comments to the amount of time given to you.
- 5) You may give written comments to the City Staff for the record if you do not wish to speak. (Comments can be added to the back of this sheet if necessary.)
- 6) Speakers are solely responsible for the content of their public statement.

Fill Out

Agenda Topic/Item
Number: Ashland Emergency Shelter / 2c OR
Topic for Public Forum
(non-agenda item):
Meeting Date: October 2, 2023
Name: Vincent Rice
Ashland Resident: Yes ☒ No ☐

Optional

Address:
Phone Number:
Email:

The Public Meeting Law requires that all city meetings are open to the public. Oregon law does not always require that the public be permitted to speak. The Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee generally invites the public to speak on agenda items and during public forum on non-agenda items unless time constraints limit public testimony. No person has an absolute right to speak or participate in every phase of a proceeding. Please respect the order of proceedings for public hearings and strictly follow the directions of the presiding officer. Behavior or actions which are unreasonably loud or disruptive are disrespectful and may constitute disorderly conduct. Offenders will be requested to leave the room.

Comments and statements by speakers do not represent the opinion of the City Council, City Officers or employees or the City of Ashland.

Study Sessions

Speaker Request Form

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THOSE INTERESTED IN GIVING ORAL TESTIMONY AT A COUNCIL MEETING WILL NEED TO:

- 1) Complete this form, including the topic you want to speak on and send to the City Recorder: <mailto:melissa.huhtala@ashland.or.us>
- 2) Begin the oral testimony during the meeting by stating your name for the record.
- 3) Limit your comments to the amount of time given to you by the Mayor, usually 3 or 5 minutes.
- 4) If you present written materials, please email a copy of the materials with this form to the City Recorder for the record.
- 5) Speakers are solely responsible for the content of their public statement.

Meeting Date	10/3/23
Name	Janet Rice
	(please print)

Study Session

Agenda topic/item number/Topic new shelter @ 2222 Ashland St

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- 2) Speak to the City Council from the table podium microphone.
- 3) State your name and address for the record.
- 4) Limit your comments to the amount of time given to you by the Mayor, usually 3 or 5 minutes.
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Tonight's Meeting Date _____	
Name <u>Debbie Neisewander</u>	_____
Address (no P.O. _____)	
Phone _____	Email _____

Study Session Regular Meeting

Agenda topic/item number _____ OR _____

Topic for public forum (non agenda item) Emergency Order Shelter

Land Use Public Hearing	
Please indicate the following:	
For: _____	Against: _____
Challenge for Conflict of Interest or Bias	
If you are challenging a member (a city councilor or a planning commissioner) with a conflict of interest or bias, please write your allegation complete with supporting facts on this form and deliver it to the clerk immediately. The Presiding Officer will address the written challenge with the member. Please be respectful of the proceeding and do not interrupt. You may also provide testimony about the challenge when you testify during the normal order of proceedings.	
Written Comments/Challenge: _____	

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- 5) Speakers are solely responsible for the content of their public statement.

Meeting Date <u>10/2/23</u>
Name <u>Trina Sanford</u> (please print)
Address (no P.O. Box) _____

Study Session

Agenda topic/item number/Topic Homeless Shelter

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