

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Common Council of the City of Ashland will meet as the Committee of the Whole on **Tuesday, February 27, 2018** immediately following the City Council meeting which begins at **6:15** p.m. in the Ashland City Hall Council Chambers.

The following items will be considered:

1. Roll Call
2. Council President's Report
3. City Administrator's Report
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the VFW and American Legion Acquiring the Chequamegon Bay Engineering Building at 211 6<sup>th</sup> Street West (*Councilor Kinney*)
6. Discussion and Possible Action Related to Approving, Disapproving, and Waiving of Permits and Fees (*Councilor Ortman*)
7. Adjournment

*The City of Ashland does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, age or disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities.*

*NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, the City of Ashland will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals or individuals with limited English proficiency through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Denise Oliphant at 715-682-7071 (not a TDD telephone number) or FAX: 715-682-7048*



# AGENDA BILL

Ref: 046

COMMITTEE AGENDA: 5 (02-27-2018)  
COUNCIL AGENDA:

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the VFW and American Legion Acquiring the Chequamegon Bay Engineering Building at 211 6<sup>th</sup> Street West

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN:** Councilor Kinney

**DATE SUBMITTED:** February 19, 2018

**CLEARANCES:** Council President

**EXPENDITURES REQUIRED:** NA

**AMOUNT BUDGETED:** NA

**APPROPRIATION REQUIRED:** NA

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** NA

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The VFW and American Legion have expressed an interest in acquiring the Chequamegon Bay Engineering building. The Chequamegon Bay Engineering building would provide improved access and use for veterans and the services that they provide to the community.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)**

The information regarding the Veterans of Foreign Wars below is from <https://www.vfw.org/about-us>

**Our Mission:** To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

**Our Vision:** Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

**Who We Are**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, guard and reserve forces.

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. Today, membership stands at nearly 1.7 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

Our voice was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, development of the national cemetery system, in the fight for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. In 2008, we won a long-fought victory with the passing of a GI Bill for the 21st Century, giving expanded educational benefits to America's active duty service members, and members of the guard and reserves, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. We were the driving force behind the Veterans Access and Accountability Act of 2014, and continually fight for improved VA medical centers services for women veterans.

Besides helping fund the creation of the Vietnam, Korean War, World War II and Women in Military Service memorials, in 2005 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to contribute to building the new Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial, which opened in November 2010. And in 2015, we became the first supporter of the National Desert Storm War Memorial which is planned for construction at our nation's capital.

We have many programs and services that work to support veterans, service members and their families, as well as communities worldwide.

### **American Legion**

**(<https://www.legion.org/mission>)**

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

Hundreds of local American Legion programs and activities strengthen the nation one community at a time. American Legion Baseball is one of the nation's most successful amateur athletic programs, educating young people about the importance of sportsmanship, citizenship and fitness. The Operation Comfort Warriors program supports recovering wounded warriors and their families, providing them with "comfort items" and the kind of support that makes a hospital feel a little bit more like home. The Legion also raises millions of dollars in donations at the local, state and national levels to help veterans and their families during times of need and to provide college scholarship opportunities.

The American Legion is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization with great political influence perpetuated by its grass-roots involvement in the legislation process from local districts to Capitol Hill. Legionnaires' sense of obligation to community, state and nation drives an honest advocacy for veterans in Washington. The Legion stands behind the issues most important to the nation's veterans community, backed by resolutions passed by volunteer leadership.

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.



# AGENDA BILL

Ref: 013

**COMMITTEE AGENDA:** 10 (09-12-2017)  
 11 (09-26-2017)  
 9 (10-10-2017)  
 8 (10-31-2017)  
 8 (11-14-2017)  
 8 (01-09-2018)  
 6 (02-27-2018)

**COUNCIL AGENDA:**

**SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Related to Approving, Dissapproving, and Waiving of Permits and Fees**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN:** Councilor Ortman

**DATE SUBMITTED:** 09-04-2017

**CLEARANCES:** Councilor President

**EXHIBITS:** N/A

**EXPENDITURES REQUIRED:** N/A

**AMOUNT BUDGETED:** N/A

**APPROPRIATION REQUIRED:** N/A

**TREASURER'S CERTIFICATE:** N/A

**COMPLIANCE WITH ORDINANCE 51:**

**STATEMENT OF CONFORMANCE WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF RECORD:**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

Councilor Ortman has requested a discussion related to the approving, disapproving, and waiving of permits and fees. In particular, he is interested in determining if the City has a clear written policy and if it is uniformly applied.