

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 9, 2026

The Ashland Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session in the Commissioners' Chambers on the 3rd floor of the Ashland City Building, 1700 Greenup Avenue, Ashland, Kentucky on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM. Those present were Commissioners: Marty Gute, Richard "Sonny" Martin, Tim Renfroe, David J. (D.J.) Rymer, II, and Mayor Chuck D. Charles, who presided. Also present: Tony D. Grubb, City Manager; Andrew K. Wheeler, Corporation Counsel; Susan W. Maddix, City Clerk; Todd Kelley, Chief of Police; Erika Bonner, Public Information Officer; Steve Corbitt, City Engineer; Steve Alley, Fire Chief; Will McKenzie, Deputy Fire Chief; Sean Murray, Director of Public Services; Chris Pullem, Director of Community and Economic Development; Mark Hall, Director of Utilities; Michelle Veach, Assistant Chief Financial Officer; Samantha Salyers, Human Resources Manager; and Reporters.

AGENDA

City Manager Grubb presented the agenda of April 9, 2026.

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA

Commissioner Martin requested the amendment of the agenda by amending New Business, Item (f), making the appointment to the Ashland Park Board to read Derek Runyon and Susan Hunt. Motion was made by Rymer, seconded by Gute, amending the agenda as requested. Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin, Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay - none. Motion passed.

MINUTES

Recessed Meeting 03/18/2026 - Motion was made by Renfroe, seconded by Gute, to dispense with reading and approve the minutes of the Recessed Meeting held on March 18, 2026. Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin, Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay - none. Motion passed.

Regular Meeting 03/26/2026 – Motion was made by Gute, seconded by Martin, to dispense with reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 26, 2026. Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay - none. Motion passed.

HEARINGS AND REPORTS

Mayor and Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Rymer welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his excitement at seeing the friends and family of the city's firefighters in attendance today. He noted that the gathering was a special occasion, celebrating the promotion of several outstanding firefighters—individuals who are not only dedicated public servants, but also valued members of the community. Commissioner Rymer and Mayor Charles also recently met with Boyd County Fiscal Court Judge Chaney and Mayor Day of Catlettsburg to discuss organizing a joint interlocal meeting between the cities and the county. Proposed discussion topics include tourism, economic development, job creation, and purchasing. The goal of this collaboration is to explore opportunities to work together more effectively and identify ways to save the taxpayers money.

Commissioner Renfroe welcomed the firefighters and expressed how proud he was of those receiving promotions. He also extended his appreciation to the water department for their recent work in repairing a water leak, noting that the team worked for 48 consecutive hours and did an excellent job. Lastly, Commissioner Renfroe reported that he attended a meeting at the Ashland Housing Authority and shared the following statistics:

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HEARINGS AND REPORTS CONTINUED

- Current occupancy rate is 98%
- 136 applicants on the waiting list at DeBord
- 334 applicants on the waiting list at Scope Towers
- 273 adults residing at Scope Towers
- 132 adults residing at DeBord
- 103 children residing at DeBord

Commissioner Martin welcomed everyone and remarked that there is something very special about public promotion ceremonies for both the firefighters and their families. He stated that these occasions not only honor the firefighters for their service and dedication to the city, but also recognize the vital support provided by their family members.

Commissioner Gute echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Martin, noting that it is always a pleasure to witness promotions within the Fire Department. He also commented on the success of the recent Easter Egg Hunt, thanking the Parks & Recreation Department, the Fire Department, and the Police Department for their efforts. He noted that it was a beautiful day and that the event was very well planned and executed. Commissioner Gute further reported that he and the Mayor attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new tattoo shop on 15th Street. In addition, he gave the introduction and opening prayer at the opening celebration for Ashland American Little League Softball at Oliverio Park. He expressed his appreciation to Public Services Director Murray and Parks & Recreation Superintendent Berry for their work in preparing the field.

Mayor Charles reported the Appalachia Funders Network (AFN) will conduct the AFN Annual Gathering April 13 – 15 in Ashland.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Grubb encouraged attendance at the budget work session on April 16 at 1:00 PM.

ASHLAND250 PRESENTATION – Lynda Cannon

Teresa Hardesty, Poage Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), introduced Lynda Cannon who announced the Ashland250 Winners in conjunction with the Poage Chapter NSDAR. Students participated in the Junior American Citizen Contest and American History Contest.

Junior American Citizen Contest – Grades PreK – 12
Contests: Art, Creative Expression and Community Service

Banner Winners:

Kindergarten - Judd Barker and Aspen Gehringer – Holy Family
 2nd Grade – Alexis Hall, Sofia Bastidas, Gideon Thompson – Holy Family
 3rd Grade – Aeryn Andrada, Allison Salem, Addison Johnson, Ellie Daniels, Waylon Haywood – Holy Family
 5th Grade – Alex Salem, Avah Messinger, Gianni Lucki, Dylan Layne, Lily Ratliff – Holy Family

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HEARINGS AND REPORTS CONTINUED

Poster Winners:

1st Grade – Paxton McDonald – Holy Family
3rd Grade – Maria Peacock – Holy Family
6th Grade – Hunter Corey – Boyd County Middle School
7th Grade – Brayden McCoy – Holy Family
7th Grade – Miyah Mauk, Hadlei Norris, Malayah Jackson, Isabella Elins – Ashland Middle School
8th Grade – Bella Sturgill – Holy Family
9th Grade – Anthony Salem – Holy Family
10th Grade – Irah Delwader – Holy Family

Stamp Winners:

3rd Grade – Aeryn Andrada – Holy Family
3rd Grade – Addison Johnson – Holy Family
4th Grade – Lily Ratliff – Holy Family
5th Grade – Alex Salem – Holy Family
6th Grade – J. Brody Alan Ball – Ashland Middle School
7th Grade – Brayden McCoy – Holy Family
7th Grade – Sophia Lynn Strothman – Ashland Middle School
8th Grade – Avery Miller – Ashland Middle School
12th Grade – Sydney Clutters – Fairview

Poetry Winners:

5th Grade – Gianni Lucki – Holy Family
8th Grade – Somto Udeagwu – Holy Family

Community Service:

Holy Family

American History Contest – Essay and Video
Middle School – Lunch with a Signer
High School – Patriot of the Revolution

Middle School Winners:

Essay – Aubrey Lowe – Holy Family
Video – Alaina Christy & Sophia Price – Holy Family

High School Winner:

Ian Hall – Fairview High School

HERITAGE ON THE RIVER

Stacey May and Cory Brown, Ashland Middle School, invited everyone to the Heritage on the River, Ashland Kentucky’s Role in America 250, on April 11 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Ashland Middle School. Events include a “Walk Through History,” Inductions into the Hall of Honor, Live Music & Student Exhibits, Classic Car Show, and Tours of Putnam Stadium.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

REGULAR MEETING APRIL 9, 2026
CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 10, 2026

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, ADOPTING, AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE COURSE OF ACTION PRESENTED BY THE CITY MANAGER ON THE ITEMS APPEARING ON THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF APRIL 9, 2026.

* * * * *

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY:

SECTION 1. The Board of City Commissioners hereby adopts, authorizes and approves the action presented by the City Manager on each item appearing on the “Consent Agenda” for the regular meeting, April 9, 2026, attached hereto and incorporated herein, as if set out in full, is a copy of the “Consent Agenda” hereby adopted, authorized and approved.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption, as required by law.

/s/CHUCK D. CHARLES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/SUSAN MADDIX
CITY CLERK

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: April 9, 2026

MOTION

Motion was made by Gute, seconded by Rymer, to adopt Resolution No. 10, 2026. Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin, Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay - none. Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- a. City Manager recommends authorizing payment of Invoice #0001903-IN dated March 23, 2026 in the amount of \$171,180.00 to The Bri-Den Co., Inc. for The Neighborhood Roof Replacement Project for the Department of Community and Economic Development to be paid by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.
- b. City Manager recommends authorizing payment of Application for Payment #1 dated March 16, 2026 in the amount of \$101,996.00 to Southern Ohio Trenching and Excavating, Inc. for the Spring Park Sanitary Sewer Project for the Department of Engineering.
- c. City Manager recommends authorizing payment of Application for Payment #12 dated March 31, 2026 to Judy Construction Company in the amount of \$78,619.22 for the Roberts Drive Screen Replacement for the Department of Utilities.
- d. City Manager recommends authorizing payment of Pay Request #12 dated March 31, 2026 in the amount of \$557,015.40 to Judy Construction Company for the Johnson Fork, Baugess Drive and Florida Street Water Booster Station Project for the Department of Utilities.

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CONSENT AGENDA CONTINUED

- e. City Manager recommends authorizing payment of Invoice #5 dated March 9, 2026 in the amount of \$4,854.20 to Hazen and Sawyer for professional services for a carbon feasibility study for the Department of Utilities.
- f. City Manager recommends authorizing payment of Invoice #20 dated March 9, 2026 in the amount of \$4,577.50 to Hazen and Sawyer for engineering services for program management of the mandatory EPA Lead and Copper Rule inventory and public notification program for the Department of Utilities.
- g. City Manager recommends authorizing payment of Invoice #14480 dated January 16, 2026 in the amount of \$39,471.00 to Gullett Sanitation Services, Inc. for the removal and de-watering of reservoir solids for the Department of Utilities.
- h. City Manager recommends the appointment of Daniel Brown to the position of Maintenance Worker I, Grade 2, in the Department of Public Services, Division of Parks & Recreation, contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen.
- i. City Manager recommends authorizing the promotion of Derrick Suttles to the position of Battalion Chief in the Ashland Fire Department effective April 12, 2026.
- j. City Manager recommends authorizing the promotion of Fields Davis to the position of Captain in the Ashland Fire Department effective April 12, 2026.
- k. City Manager recommends authorizing the promotion of Zach Moore to the position of Fire Engineer in the Ashland Fire Department effective April 12, 2026.

ASHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT – Badge Presentation & Pinning Ceremony

Christian Manning completed Firefighter training
 Trey Canafax completed Firefighter training
 Fields Davis promoted to Fire Captain
 Zach Moore promoted to Fire Engineer

NEW BUSINESS
FIRST READING AND ADOPTION ONLY

ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE OFFICIAL ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND NO. 101, SERIES OF 1986, AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AND REFERRED TO AS THE ROSEBUD MOBILE HOME PARK LOCATED AT 2401 BEECH STREET FROM (R-6) SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL/MEDIUM DENSITY TO (PUD) PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT.

MOTION

Motion was made by Gute, seconded by Martin, to adopt Ordinance No. _____, 2026, at this its first reading.

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ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2026 CONTINUED

DISCUSSION

Attorney Donald Yates, representing the developer, advised the Commission that approval was recommended by staff and the Ashland Planning Commission. Corporation Counsel Wheeler advised comments made at the Ashland Planning Commission meeting were favorable.

Melissa Preston, a resident of Rosebud Trailer Park, to raise concerns regarding the current landlord/owner who is also the developer. She advised that the developer was not trying to assist residents in finding a new location. Corporation Counsel Wheeler advised that the contractual relationship regarding her lease is a civil matter and suggested Ms. Preston seek counsel or legal aid to define tenants’ rights.

VOTE ON MOTION TO ADOPT

Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin, Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay – none. Motion passed.

FIRST READING AND ADOPTION ONLY

ORDINANCE NO. _____, 2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CHUCK D. CHARLES, MAYOR, TO SUBMIT THE FY 2026 GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ON BEHALF OF THE ASHLAND BUS SYSTEM FOR OPERATING COSTS, PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE, PARA TRANSIT SERVICE, MAINTENANCE PAYROLL AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CHUCK D. CHARLES, MAYOR, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS GRANT.

MOTION

Motion was made by Gute, seconded by Rymer, to adopt Ordinance No. _____, 2026, at this its first reading. Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin, Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay – none. Motion passed.

READING AND ADOPTION

MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 8, 2026

A MUNICIPAL ORDER OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CHUCK D. CHARLES, MAYOR, TO EXECUTE A DONATION AGREEMENT REGARDING ACCEPTANCE BY THE CITY OF ASHLAND OF THE DONATION OF THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL.

* * * *

WHEREAS, Rotary Club of Ashland is the owner of the World War II Memorial, and
WHEREAS, Rotary Club of Ashland is desirous of making a donation of the memorial to the City of Ashland, and
WHEREAS, the City of Ashland is willing to accept the donation;

REGULAR MEETING APRIL 9, 2026
MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 8, 2026 CONTINUED

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY:

SECTION 1. That Chuck D. Charles, Mayor, is hereby authorized and directed to execute a Donation Agreement between the City of Ashland, Kentucky and the Rotary Club of Ashland for acceptance by the City of Ashland of a donation of the World War II Memorial located at the corner of 17th Street and Carter Avenue. A copy of said Donation Agreement is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

INTRODUCED, PUBLICLY READ AND FINALLY APPROVED ON ONE READING, this the 9th day of April, 2026.

/s/CHUCK D. CHARLES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/SUSAN MADDIX
CITY CLERK

MOTION

Motion was made by Rymer, seconded by Gute, to adopt Municipal Order No. 8, 2026. Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin, Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay – none. Motion passed.

READING AND ADOPTION

MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 9, 2026

A MUNICIPAL ORDER OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING CHUCK D. CHARLES, MAYOR, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND IN THE SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH SIX REMNANT DEFENDANTS' SETTLEMENTS RELATING TO OPIOID MEDICATIONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY (THE OPIOID LITIGATION).

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and various counties, consolidated governments, and municipalities, including the City of Ashland, have sought monetary damages from the pharmaceutical opioid manufactures and distributors, and

WHEREAS, six Remnant Defendants (Associated Pharmacies, Inc., J M Smith Corporation, Morris and Dickson Co., L.L.C., Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company, Inc., North Carolina Mutual Wholesale Drug Company, Inc. and United Natural Foods, Inc.) have reached a proposed settlement (Remnant Defendants' Settlement Agreement ("RDSA")), and

WHEREAS, each Kentucky local government will be provided an opportunity to accept or reject such proposals for all state and local government entities, and

WHEREAS, the City of Ashland has determined that it desires to accept the proposed settlement of such claims;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY:

REGULAR MEETING APRIL 9, 2026
MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 9, 2026 CONTINUED

SECTION 1. That Chuck D. Charles, Mayor of the City of Ashland, Kentucky, be and hereby is authorized and directed to execute all documents reasonably necessary to accept the terms of the proposed settlement agreement (“RDSA”) of the “Opioid Litigation” by the six Remnant Defendants and to execute any and all documents necessary to complete and effectuate said settlement by the City of Ashland and to facilitate the receipt of settlement funds by the City of Ashland, Kentucky, including, without limitation, the Participation and Release Forms attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

INTRODUCED, PUBLICLY READ AND FINALLY APPROVED ON ONE READING, this the 9th day of April, 2026.

/s/CHUCK D. CHARLES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/SUSAN MADDIX
CITY CLERK

MOTION

Motion was made by Gute, seconded by Renfroe, to adopt Municipal Order No. 9, 2026. Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin, Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay – none. Motion passed.

READING AND ADOPTION

MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 10, 2026

A MUNICIPAL ORDER OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ASHLAND, BOYD COUNTY & CATLETTSBURG OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF ALL DISASTER AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN ASHLAND, KENTUCKY AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 74, SERIES OF 2014.

* * * * *

WHEREAS, KRS 39B0101(1), KRS 39B.030(3), KRS 39C.050(3), and applicable Kentucky Administrative Regulations requires the development and maintenance of a local emergency operations plan (“Plan”) which sets forth the local government organizational structure, policies, procedures, and guidelines for the management and coordination of all disaster and emergency response in Ashland, Boyd County, and Catlettsburg; and

WHEREAS, KRS 39B.030(3), KRS 39B.060(2), KRS 39C.050(3), applicable Kentucky Administrative Regulations, and planning guidance issued by the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management require the local emergency operations plan be officially approved and adopted by signed executive order/municipal order of the County Judge/Executive and Mayors; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Boyd County Office of Emergency Management has submitted the Boyd County Plan to the County Judge/Executive and Mayors of Ashland and Catlettsburg for official approval and adoption in accordance with the aforementioned laws, administrative regulations, and planning guidance:

REGULAR MEETING APRIL 9, 2026
MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 10, 2026 CONTINUED

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KENTUCKY:

SECTION 1. In accordance with the provisions of KRS 39A to 39F, applicable Kentucky Administrative Regulations, and the Boyd County Emergency Management Ordinance, the Emergency Operations Plan is officially approved and adopted effective this date. A copy of the Plan is attached to the original copy of this Municipal Order. It is incorporated herein and adopted by reference.

SECTION 2. The conveyance of the official approval and adoption of the Boyd County Emergency Operations Plan through this Municipal Order shall remain continuously in effect one year or until superseded by a subsequent Municipal Order promulgated in accordance with KRS 39B.030(3), KRS 39B.060(2), KRS 39C.050(3), applicable Kentucky Administrative Regulations, and planning guidance issued by the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management.

SECTION 3. That Ordinance No. 74, Series of 2014, is hereby repealed.

INTRODUCED, PUBLICLY READ AND FINALLY APPROVED ON
ONE READING, this the 9th day of April, 2026.

/s/CHUCK D. CHARLES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/SUSAN MADDIX
CITY CLERK

MOTION

Motion was made by Gute, seconded by Renfroe, to adopt Municipal Order No. 10, 2026. Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin, Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay – none. Motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS

Ashland Park Board

Derek Runyon – Retroactive to 10/18/2025 thru 10/19/2029
Susan Hunt – Fulfilling unexpired term of Bob Vanover expiring on 10/08/2028

Ashland Tennis Commission

Lyndi Lowman – Retroactive to 10/02/2025 thru 10/02/2028
Melanie Thompson – Retroactive to 10/10/2025 thru 10/02/2028
Preston Freeman – Retroactive to 10/01/2025 thru 10/01/2028
Clayton Hill – Retroactive to 10/10/2025 thru 10/10/2028

Human Rights Commission

Judy Robinson – Retroactive to 01/01/2026 thru 01/01/2029
Faith Fountain – Retroactive to 01/01/2026 thru 01/01/2029

Motion was made by Gute, seconded by Renfroe, approving the Mayor's appointment of the above individuals. Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin, Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay - none. Motion passed.

REGULAR MEETING APRIL 9, 2026
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Rymer, seconded by Gute, to go into Executive Session at 6:47 PM to discuss property acquisition. Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin, Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay – none. Motion passed.

RECONVENED

The meeting reconvened at 7:24 PM and Mayor Charles announced that the only item discussed was property acquisition with no final action taken.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Motion was made by Martin, seconded by Rymer, directing the City Manager to continue negotiations regarding the acquisition of property for a city garage and farmer’s market. Upon roll call, voting aye were Commissioners Gute, Martin, Renfroe, Rymer and Mayor Charles. Nay - none. Motion passed.

RECESS

Mayor Charles declared the meeting recessed at 7:25 PM until 1:00 PM on Thursday, April 16, 2026.


CHUCK D. CHARLES
MAYOR

ATTEST:

SUSAN W. MADDIX
CITY CLERK