

Ashmore Board Meeting  
Feb24 2026 Minutes

## **Village of Ashmore**

### **Board Meeting Minutes February 24, 2026**

**6:00 PM Municipal Building,**

**Ashmore, Illinois**

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#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Kurt Crail.

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#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 6:00 PM.

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#### **Roll Call**

##### **Present:**

- Bill Edwards
- Kyle Sims
- Bryan Watson
- Cathy Welborn
- Mayor Kurt Crail
- Michelle Redd, City Clerk

##### **Not Present:**

- TC Grissom
  - Marshall Reinhart
  - Linda Hollow, Treasurer
  - Jake Johnson, Superintendent
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## Guests in Attendance

1. Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC. His written report will be inserted below Engineer Report
  2. Jennifer Carver, Ashmore Precinct Representative, and her husband Ron Carver.
    - She reminded the Board that the Primary Voting Day is March 17, 2026 at the Ashmore Community Center and that she will be on the ballot.
    - Village Board noted that Ms. Carver is the first person to come to an Ashmore Board meeting and address the Board.
    - Ms. Carver stated that the polling place needs volunteers for election day.
    - Ms. Carver also expressed that she wants to make herself known to the Village and Township and offered her assistance wherever possible.
  3. Ronda Sauget and William Hickey from the Coles County Enterprise Zone.
    - They discussed Ashmore being included in the Enterprise Zone alongside Charleston, Mattoon, and Oakland.
    - They explained how the property tax abatement program could benefit the Village by attracting new businesses and residents.
    - Mrs. Sauget also discussed the DCEO Main Street Improvement Grant.
    - The Coles County Enterprise Zone flyer is will be attached to these minutes.
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## Engineer Report

### Ordinance 25-0224A

An Ordinance Authorizing the Village of Ashmore to Borrow Funds from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Public Water Supply Loan Program.

- Motion to approve: Trustee Bryan Watson
- Seconded by: Trustee Bill Edwards
- Roll Call Vote: Kyle Sims, Cath Welcbor, Bill Edwards, Bryan Watson — Aye

Motion carried and the ordinance passed.

### Grant Funding Update by Lee

The Village was advised that movement of funds for approved project grants is anticipated to begin in 2027. Funding includes:

- \$400,000 from the Illinois Department of Transportation FY24 Local Project Funding Program
- \$945,000 from the 2025 DCEO Infrastructure Grant

**VILLAGE OF ASHMORE**  
**February 24, 2026**

**Unsewered IEPA Grant**

The planning for the unsewered grant has been completed and approved by the IEPA. We expect the NOFO for the construction grant to be out soon.

**IEPA Loan Application**

All loan materials have been submitted at this time. The project has been bypassed until the next funding cycle. An updated Funding Nomination Form is ready for signature tonight.

**Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)**

IDOT has approved the PDR. The application was submitted on September 30th, 2024. Announcements were made regarding awards and the Village of Ashmore was not successful. IDOT had an additional "pot of money" with \$400 million available. The village applied for the IDOT Local Project Funding but was not successful.

**IDOT 24 Local Project Funding**

The village received \$400,000 in IDOT local project funding for the previously submitted Safe Routes to School Project. This is in progress.

**OSLAD**

An OSLAD Application was not submitted this year as the village did not qualify as a "Disadvantaged Community".

**2025 DCEO Public Infrastructure Grant**

Applications were submitted on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Announcements were made in December and the village was awarded \$945,000 for watermain replacement. We are working on the Environmental Review Record (ERR). In addition, we are working to secure IEPA funding to cover engineering for this project. An updated Funding Nomination Form is ready for signature tonight.

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**Intergovernmental Agreement Amendment – Coles County Enterprise Zone**

- Motion to approve the amendment: Trustee Cath Welborn
- Seconded: Trustee Bill Edwards
- Roll Call Vote: Kyle Sims, Bryan Watson, Bill Edwards, Cath Welborn — all Aye

Motion passed.

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## **Ordinance 26-0224 – Amended Enterprise Zone Ordinance**

An Amended Ordinance Amending the Coles County Enterprise Zone to add Ashmore, deleting territory within the existing Enterprise Zone boundary, and adding territory to accommodate targeted growth throughout the County, including amendments to property tax abatement qualification criteria and property tax abatement provisions.

- Motion to approve: Trustee Bryan Watson
- Seconded: Trustee Bill Edwards
- Roll Call Vote: Kyle Sims, Cath Welborn — Aye

Motion passed.

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## **Signatures and Guest Departure**

Required signatures for previous ordinances and related documents were obtained during the meeting upon completion of the Board’s action.

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## **Clerk Report**

### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed the January 27, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.

- Motion to approve: Trustee Bryan Watson
- Seconded by: Trustee Bill Edwards
- Roll Call Vote: Kyle Sims, Cath Welborn — Aye

Motion passed; minutes approved.

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## Treasure Report

- Approval of Account Payable & Payroll
- Treasure's Report is placed on File with a review from trustee Watson of explanation in the report of what the Parenthesis represents at final amounts. Question was, is it a surplus or a negative meaning.
- Motion to Approve: Trustee Bryan Watosn
- Seconded: Trustee Cathy Welborn  
Roll Call vote: Aye: Kyle Simes Bill Edward

Motion passed but with clarification of Parenthesis

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## Superintendent Report

Discussion of Fencing and Lighting that has already been approved.  
Update on Demo Grants that the Village will apply for the Tear downs of the dilapidated properties. Clerk and Mayor will review and reach out to the county on those grants.

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## New Actions & Approvals & Claims

1. 309 E Charleston Demo
  - \* Motion trustee Kyle Sims,
  - \* Seconded by Trustee Cathy Welborn
  - \* Roll Call Vote: AYE: Trustee Bryan Watson and Bill EdwardsMotion Passed
2. Discussion & Vote on Construction School Bus Shelter
  - Motion by Trustee Kyle Sims
  - Seconded by Trustee Bill Edwrds
  - Roll Call Vote: AYE: Trustee Byran Watson and Trustee Cathy WelbornMotion Passed

### 3. Grocery Sales Tax Ordinance

- Off the Table – No Vote

Adjourn (7:10 PM) Motion by Trustee Bill Edwards, Seconded, Cathy Welborn,  
Roll Call Vote: Aye: Trustees Kyle Sims and Bryan Watson. Motion Passed