

RESOLUTION

No. XXX2023

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE VAUGHN PUBLIC LIBRARY RENOVATION

WHEREAS, as November 1888, the Vaughn Building opened with a free library on the second floor and commercial space on the first floor. Over the years, a variety of commercial tenants have existed in the building. But, for the last 135 years, the public library has been and continues to be the heart of the building on the corner of Vaughn and Main; and

WHEREAS, the last capital investment in the building was in the early 1980s. This plan created space for an elevator, shifted the entrance to Vaughn Ave, reduced the size of the children's area, enclosed the stairway connecting the first and second floor and added a series of small rooms to accommodate the Historical Museum on the second floor; and

WHEREAS, after 40 years of public use, the Vaughn Building is again in need of capital investments to address failing systems and best meet changing community use of the building. A 2018 structural and mechanical analysis of the building concluded the electrical, plumbing, lighting and HVAC systems and the windows are all due for replacement. The study also confirmed the capacity of second floor structures to support library material shelving. Based on professional and public input, Engberg Anderson Architects, led by Alexandra Ramsey, have designed schematic floor plans for a three-floor renovation, and including a cost estimate; and

WHEREAS, features of the renovation begin with basic capital improvements; addressing code compliance, introducing energy efficiencies, waterproofing the foundation, adding fire protection, electrical service upgrades, tuckpointing and life-cycle window replacement. All these improvements contribute to the health, safety, security and sustainability of the Vaughn Building; and

WHEREAS, to further invest in the Vaughn as a destination library and a cornerstone of the Historic 2nd Street District, the renovation design includes plans to reopen the Main Street entrance and move the Vaughn entrance to its original place under the brownstone arch. A central open stairway connecting the first and second floors will welcome everyone to all parts of the building, making better use of the building space.

WHEREAS, it is understood the continued deferred maintenance of essential Vaughn Library building systems will result in costlier replacements over time, loss of public dollars due to heating, cooling and lighting inefficiencies and at worst will create an expensive, cobbled approach to addressing crisis repairs; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Common Council of the City of Ashland hereby supports the renovation of the Vaughn Building; acknowledging the obligation of the Common Council of the City of Ashland to be stewards of municipal assets and understanding a revitalized Vaughn Building is an essential part of re-making Downtown into a play, work, stay space attractive to all generations and one of the priorities of Ashland's Comprehensive Plan.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Ashland commits to funding the essential library services or Phase One of the renovation plan with the understanding private and public fundraising will be leveraged to fund phase two, including an entrance on Main Street.

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PASSED: xxxx, 2023

Councilperson

Attest:

Denise Oliphant, City Clerk

Mathew MacKenzie, Mayor

Approved as to Form:

Tyler W. Wickman, City Attorney