



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM
4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of Regular Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Absent: None

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin, Clerk of Council Ashley Bell

Sunshine Law Certification

A quorum was established as defined by the Ashtabula City Council Rules of Order. The meeting met the requirements of the Ohio Sunshine Laws Open Meetings Act.

Presentations/Announcements

Approval of Minutes

March 18, 2024, Regular Council Meeting

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

Hearing no corrections to the minutes, they were approved as presented.

Administrative Reports

City Manager

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Grand Finale Fireworks LLC with the mailing address of P.O. Box 1900, Willoughby OH, 44096 in the amount not to exceed \$12,500.00 to provide fireworks display at the 2024 Wine and Walleye Festival. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 233.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Timonere stated this was just a contract with the City. A combination of the City's Parks and Recreation Board, The Lift Bridge Community Association, and the sponsors of the Wine and Walleye Festival funded the fireworks.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Capp Steel Erectors Inc, with the mailing address of 6004 State Road Ashtabula, OH 44004 for labor and materials to make repairs to Truck #27 in the amount not to exceed \$12,968.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 503.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Mr. Timonere wanted to alert the public about the high winds and rains in tomorrow's forecast. He said leaf pick up begins next week. The pick up will begin in various Wards and then in the Harbor Area. The Eclipse occurs April 8th, additional safety staff will be on duty. People are welcome to use Walnut Beach as an observation area. City Employees are in the process of opening the restrooms at Walnut Beach in preparation. The restrooms will only be open for that day. They will open permanently around late May early June.

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cooper updated the Council about a recent event. The Police Department's Narcotics Unit was able to stop an individual who was attempting to bring a large quantity of marijuana into the City to sell. The Narcotics unit seized the marijuana and seized the person's bank account. The money was forfeited to the Law Enforcement Trust fund for the Ashtabula Police Department. The amount is approximately \$10,000.

Finance Director

No report.

Clerk of Council

No report.

City Council Committee Reports

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation

(4th Tuesday @ 5:00 p.m.)

Members: Chair DiGiacomo/Council Liaison to Parks and Recreation Board; Vice Chair Mills; Holman

March 26-Committee Chair Jane DiGiacomo provided the report

April 23

May 28

June 25

Finance & Personnel

(3rd Friday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovicks

April 19-Canceled

May 17

June 21

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

(4th Tuesday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

March 26-Committee Chair Jodi Mills provided the report

April 23

May 28

June 25

President John Roskovics stated new side walks are being placed on Station Avenue by the Bus Garage.

Safety Forces

(2nd Monday @ 8:45 a.m.)

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Guerriero

April 8-canceled

May13

June 10

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President John Roskovics stated there was a Planning Commission Meeting last week. The Commission approved a sign for Signature Health, a sign on Lake Avenue. The Commission also approved construction of houses West 50th Street.

Ad Hoc Committee: Racism As a Public Health Crisis Report

Members: Chair RoLesia Holman

March 27-No Report

Presentation of Legislation

President John Roskovics previewed the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

None.

Public Communications on Legislation

None.

Overview / Discussion

None.

Reading of Legislation

Clerk of Council Ashley Bell presented the following legislation for Council's consideration.

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 40

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY Y.M.C.A. FOR LIFEGUARDS

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 41

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH GRAND FINALE FIREWORKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,500 TO PROVIDE A FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR THE 2024 WINE & WALLEYE FESTIVAL

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 42

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CAPP STEEL ERECTORS, INC. FOR REPAIRS TO TRUCK 27

Council President Roskovics entertained a motion to dispose of ordinances 2024-41 and 2024-42 by consent agenda.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked who will receive the profits from the Wine and Walleye Festival. The City Manager responded The Lift Bridge Community Association. Mr. Guerriero also asked if the City would pay for the fireworks at the Wine and Walleye Festival. The City Manager stated The City does not pay for the fireworks, they are paid for by several organizations.

VOICE VOTE
Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None
ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None
Motion passed.

Adoption of the Ordinances
ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None
Legislation passed.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the reading of the Ordinance number 2024-40; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked to abstain from voting.

VOICE VOTE
Motion passed 6 to 0 with one abstention.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the ordinance; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion
ROLL CALL VOTE
Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo (abstained)

Nays: None
Motion passed.

Adoption of the Ordinance Number
ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo (abstained)

Nays: None
Legislation passed.
Discussion City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper asked Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo if her abstention applied to every vote for Ordinance number 2024-40. Councilor DiGiacomo replied yes.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated the Access to Care Meeting took place on March 28th. The organization will be at the Remote Access Medical clinic, April 13-14. Their committee members will

provide additional information about their "Healthy Ashtabula" initiative. The organization goes to various neighborhoods and shares health information and community resources. Their next event will take place at the Y.M.C.A on April 20th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. They will provide health screenings, health education, and community resources.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated on Tuesday, April 9th from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. a free produce giveaway will take place at Our Lady of Peace Community Center.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked when the blighted houses on Grove Drive are going to be demolished. The City Manager stated the landbank had not received the money to demolish the houses. The Councilor also reported an area on Main Avenue that accumulates water and does not drain. The City Manager stated the City is aware, and the appropriate department has assessed the matter. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills also inquired about a blighted house on Center Street. The City Manager stated the house is on the list to be demolished.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero inquired if the houses that burned down on East 14th Street and on East 15th Street are on the list to be demolished. The City Manager stated the City is aware of the condition of both houses. He thinks neither of the houses are insured. The City has to ensure there are funds available to demolish the houses. The City Solicitor reported a person has been charged with arson in the case of one house. That matter is in the middle of prosecution with the Court of Common Pleas.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio inquired about a burned building on West 32nd Street. The City Manager stated he believes the owners have signed a voluntary demolition and will share the cost with the landbank.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated a house on the corner of 58th Street and Jefferson has broken windows. The City Manager stated the owner is notified about the violations then given a timeframe to correct the violations or demolish the house. If the issue is not resolved in the specified time frame, the issue is sent to the court for charges.

Public Communications on General Matters

Kimberly Sims, 821 W. Prospect Road, mentioned several potholes on Ann Avenue. She asked what is the statute of limitation to report a car being damaged by a pothole. Ms. Sims stated she contacted the City in 2007 about her car's damage, but did not receive a resolution. She still had a receipt for the car repair. She is asking the City to reimburse her for the damages. City Solicitor Cooper stated the City's insurance will not typically cover damage to cars from potholes. The damage must be extreme or the person reporting the incident is one of several after the initial report and the City has not done anything to correct the problem. The City Manager stated that the area Ms. Sims lives in will be paved this year. He also stated there is a phone number people may call to report potholes (440-992-7100). Once the incident is reported, it is documented. Callbacks are not customary due to messages left at this phone number. He advises people to contact the Police Department to make a report as well.

William Todd 1727 E. 45th Street, a member of the North East Ohio Pollenator Society. His concerns are the lack of trees in the City. He asked if there is a plan to replace trees on the tree lawns. The City Manager stated many trees were removed because of their size, and they were growing into the sewer lines. He also stated his preference is to not replace the trees on tree lawns. People are welcome to plant them in their yards and take responsibility for them.

Executive Session (if needed)

N/A

Adjournment

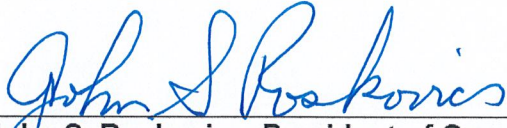
The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, April 15, 2024, in Council Chambers. The Pre-Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

April 15, 2024

ATTESTED BY:



John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:



Ashley Bell Clerk of Council