



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 8:30 AM

Council Chambers

4717 Main Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council Public Works/ Public Utilities/ Cable/ Schools Committee was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Mills.

Roll Call

Members Present: Chair: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Vice Chair: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Member: Council President John Roskovics

Absent: none

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Ashley Bell

Visitors: Superintendent Lisa Newsome

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.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

Superintendent Lisa Newsome, Ashtabula Area City Schools

Superintendent Newsome has worked for Ashtabula Area City Schools for 26 years. This is her first year as Superintendent. The District is hosting an Open House for the new transportation facility August 7, 2024, at 10 a.m. The new facility includes classrooms, offices, and indoor parking for the buses. The Ashtabula Area City School District is 1 of 17 districts in Ohio to receive recognition for their implementation of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (P.B.I.S) for the 2023 school year. The School District hosts several programs and events that include: Anti-bullying, a Black History Month performance, Family math and reading events, and Dragon Rooms for Behavior and Mental Health support. The district also hosts a monthly "Parent University" that helps non-English speaking families. The program also offers an overview of the Individual Education Plan (I.E.P) process. The district has a program that assists students with clothing and personal hygiene needs. An additional program offered is a mobile dentist that serves students. A decrease in enrollment is an issue. Parents are choosing to home school their children, use online schools, as well as enroll their children in other districts. Another factor is low birth rates in Ashtabula County. The Superintendent stated she may need to close one of the school buildings because of lack of enrollment. The district has a 29.15% rate of students with disabilities. The allocated amount to serve this demographic impedes the general budget. Lakeside High School hosts an attendance breakfast for students with perfect attendance and for students with a GPA of 4.0 or higher. Lakeside High School is making several changes and improvements to its curriculum. The School is adding

Woodworking Design, Introduction to Drone Technology, and training in Adobe Industry-Standard Software. Lakeside High School also offers a College Credit Plus program for students to receive college credits while attending high school. The district is in need of substitute teachers, substitute bus drivers, and substitute para professionals.

City Manager's Report

The City Manager stated there were only a few applicants for summer season jobs the pay is \$15 per hour. Summer season lasts until August 30th, 2024. Work has started on State Route 531 Erosion Repairs. The City Manager will begin review the paving bids.

Water Pollution Control Report

Water Pollution Control Update

Assistant Superintendent Mark Verzella provided the report. Disinfection season starts at the end of the month. The Ultra Violet System is online. The Department had a follow-up meeting with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency on April 16, 2024, to discuss the outfall relocation proposal, preferably to an inland slip. GPD Group will begin survey work onsite at Kinder Morgan in preparation of the outfall relocation. The GPD study is still ongoing. This includes short/long term capital improvement plan, sewer rate study, and Sanitary Sewer Overflow (S.S.O.) elimination. On April 5, 2024, MH Equipment completed tow motor certification and training at the wastewater plant. The department is working to obtain pricing for the Bridge and Morton replacement pump.

Public Works Report

Superintendent John Melnik gave the report. Leaf bag pick-up started. The hot mix plants are open for the season, the Department is patching holes throughout the city. This Public Works Department is also removing tree stumps. They are also repairing a man-hole on Woodman Avenue. The Public Parks are open as of April 8. The department is mowing the grass in the parks as well as preparing the baseball field for the Saint John's baseball team. Barrings are still needed to repair the jet. Superintendent Melnik contacted a paint company in Mentor to discuss the longevity of the paint for stop bars and crosswalks. The service is more expensive but it is brighter and lasts longer.

New Business

none.

Next Meeting

May 28, 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m. by Committee Chair Mills.