



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
4230 Lake Avenue

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 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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

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

None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

VOICE VOTE

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

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, May 6, 2024

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

VOICE VOTE

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 Koski Construction with a mailing address of 5841 Woodman Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004 as the most responsible bid for the re-paving of the parking lots for the Health Department, Fire Department, and the Municipal Building in the amount not to exceed \$127,167.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 412.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Ronyak Paving LLC with a mailing address of 14376 N. Cheshire St., Burton, OH 44021 as the most responsible bid for the 2024 Street Paving Project in the amount not to exceed \$1,068,149.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from funds: 206, 209, 219, 212, 261.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: The City Manager stated he believes the completion date for this project is August.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Ashtabula County Land Reutilization Corporation with a mailing address of 25 West Jefferson Street, Jefferson, OH 440047 for the purpose of purchasing property for the Ohio Avenue Extension Sanitary Sewer Pump Station, permanent parcel #683160001100 in the amount not to exceed \$500.00 plus recording fees and conveyance fees. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 504.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with former Dispatchers Legg, Hampton, and Stewart for the settlement of potential Fair Labor Standards Act wage and hour claims in the amount not to exceed \$9,067.28. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 101.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: The former dispatchers were not a part of the prior suit against the City, however City Officials stated they are entitled to compensation. VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

The City Manager stated Monday (Memorial Day) there is garbage pick up. There will be a ceremony at 11am in Veteran's Park on May 27. President Roskovics stated our Veterans deserved to be honored everyday.

City Solicitor

No report.

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;

Member Holman

May 28

June 25

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Member Roskovics

May 17-Report

June 21

Committee Chair Foglio provided the report.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Member Roskovics

May 28

June 25

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Member Guerriero

May13-Report

June 10

Committee Chair Roskovics provided the report.

Planning Commission

Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

The Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission will vote on an issue at their next meeting.

Presentation of Legislation

President John Roskovics previewed the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

Overview / Discussion

Reading of Legislation

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 -51

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH PAUL & MARY ELLEN DOVENOR, FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS LOCATED AT 1614 WALNUT BLVD., ASHTABULA, OH 44004

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 52

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KOSKI CONSTRUCTION, CO. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$127,167.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAVING THE PARKING LOTS AT HEALTH AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND CITY HALL

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 53

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AMENDOLA ENGINEERING INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING THREE SEASONAL MIXING ZONE STUDIES AND NECESSARY WORK RELATED TO THE RELOCATION OF OUTFALL 001 DISCHARGE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$39,000

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 54

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER #1 WITH AMENDOLA ENGINEERING INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL NPDES PERMITTING WORK RELATED TO THE RELOCATION OF OUTFALL 001 DISCHARGE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000.00

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 55

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RONYAK PAVING, LLC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,068,140.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAVING CITY STREETS

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-56

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500 PLUS RECORDING FEES AND CONVEYANCE TAXES

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-57

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF POTENTIAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT WAGE AND HOUR CLAIMS WITH ASHTABULA POLICE DISPATCHERS DELLA MARIE LEGG, JESSICA HAMPTON, AND CAITLIN STEWART, FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,067.28

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 -58

A Resolution Honoring the Most Reverend Raymond J. Thomas, VF

Council President Roskovics entertained a motion to dispose of the ordinances 2024-52, 2024-53, 2024-54, 2024-55, 2024-56, 2024-57 and -2024-58 by consent agenda.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

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

Discussion: The City Manager stated the asphalt used is a part of the bid package in Ordinance Number 2024-55.

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 legislation

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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of ordinance 2024-51; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Motion passed by a 6 to 1 vote.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Legislation passed by a 6 to 1 vote.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo would like to congratulate all graduating seniors.

Vice President Russell Simeone stated the Ashtabula Arts Center is presenting "Foot Loose The Musical" from June 7-9.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated the Lift Bridge Association has done a wonderful job making Bridge Street look great.

City Manager James Timonere stated Ashtabula's Downtown received 1.6 million dollars of the Governor's Apalachian Grant funding.

Public Communications on General Matters

Rebekah Beeman, Conneaut, Ohio addressed online comments regarding the Pride Festival. She is a member of the Pride Festival Board. The festival is scheduled to take place June 15 on Walnut Beach. All entertainment at the Pride Festival is inclusive for adults and children.

Jeneane Kile, of Saybrook, Ohio is a theater teacher. She stated "drag" is a person putting on a costume and presenting a persona.

Mary Ellen Blake, of Elk Drive, quoted a drag artist who said, "By its very nature, drag is unsuitable for children." She thinks the drag aspect of the Pride Festival should be off limits to children.

David Lettau, of 6133 Main Street, quoted Romans Chapter 1. Exposing children to drag is teaching perversion to children. The members of the community should make sure no perverse things happen.

Cassie Eaton, of Geneva, Ohio stated she worked in the mental health field for 20 years. She stated she is afraid to attend the Pride Festival due to some community backlash. Drag is a performance art and people should not be afraid to host this art in Ashtabula. The Pride Festival is a safe space that affirms the youth in the LGBTQ plus community.

Peter Scardino, Birchwood Avenue. He stated the Pride Festival is an expression of the LGBTQ plus community. Members of his community are sick of being politicized and dehumanized.

Autumn Virgil, Ashtabula Township has a child a part of the LGBTQ plus community. She wants her children and other children to be loved and seen for who they are.

Aaron Van Buren Geneva, Ohio stated they attended a drag show at the age of 14. Drag is art and a way that people express themselves. If there are not events like Ashtabula Pride to show the youth acceptance, more kids in the LGBTQ plus community may die.

President Roskovichs stated there was a request made to City Officials to stop the Drag Show portion of the Pride Festival. No motion was made by council to revoke the permit of the Ashtabula Pride Festival.

Jenny Ball Lake Road, stated there is a lot of hate surrounding the LGBTQ plus community. She should not have to worry about her family members or friends who are apart of the LGTBQ community being mistreated or harmed.

Terresa Hodgson, Walnut Boulevard, asked the City to revoke the permit that is granted to the Ashtabula Pride Festival.

Jeff Combs, Geneva, Ohio stated drag shows are not suitable for children. Allowing children to view these types of performances are a violation of Ohio laws.

Aaron Drews, Walnut Boulevard said Pride is about letting people know that they are accepted.

Brittany Quellhorst, Andover, Ohio stated she does not believe the drag show portion of the event should be censored. Drag performances build confidence.

Sherly Clark (no address given) stated she is a Christian and has love for everyone.

William Clark (no address given) stated he is a Christian and loves everyone.

Charles Johnston, Jefferson, Ohio said several members of the Pride Committe performed in Jefferson, Ohio several years ago. He felt the artists performed in a lewd manner in the presence of children. The people attending Pride have the right to assemble. He feels drag performances should not happen while children are present.

Matt Butler, West Shore Drive, stated diversity is important and people should take the time to understand other people's opinions.

Amanda Frazier, (no address given) stated drag is a performance art and can be family friendly.

John Jones, (no address given) said the most vulnerable in our community are the youth. The Pride Festival needs to be regulated to protect children. City Council's job is to protect our community.

Helena Richardson, (no address given) stated she is an ally of the queer community. She stands for those who have been bullied or lost their lives due to diversity and gender expression.

David Lunneberg, 1711 Walnut Boulevard, opposes children having easy access to drag performances in public parks. He asked the City Manager for an age restriction at the drag performances.

Shannan Farmer, Conneaut, Ohio is an ally of the queer community. She is the stage manager at the Pride Festival for the drag performances. She feels threatened by some religious people and their doctrine. The Pride Festival Board is offering several resources for mental and physical health during the festival.

President Roskovichs stated the permit will stand as issued, there was no motion from council to make any changes.

Vice President Simeone stated he was raised in a diverse community. Take time to listen to people with opposing views. People do not have to agree with one another but we should respect one another.

Kelly Lunneberg, 1711 Walnut Boulevard, is asking that people under the age of 18 not be able to view drag performances. She also provided Council Members a petition with signatures supporting her request.

Executive Session (if needed)

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M. by Council President Roskovichs.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, June 3, 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:

June 3, 2024

ATTESTED BY:



John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:



Ashley M. Bell, Clerk of Council