



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, July 15, 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo
Absent: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper
Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin, Clerk of Council Ashley Bell

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to excuse Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

The motion to excuse the absences was adopted.

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

The City Manager and Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills presented the Resolution.

Resolution for Craig Pierce Retirement

Approval of Minutes

July 1, 2024, Public Hearing Tax Budget 2025

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

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

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

July 1, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

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 the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities for the receipt of a \$500,000 ARPA Grant for the purpose of installing an accessible and inclusive playground at Walnut Beach Park.

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

Discussion: President Roskovics stated the "groundbreaking" has already taken place and the project is scheduled for completion in December according to the grant application.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to authorize the hiring of Mark Verzella as the Superintendent at the Water Pollution Control Plant and to approve additional paid vacation leave and compensation.

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

Discussion: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills expressed her gratitude that Mr. Verzella is willing to take on the new role.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an eighth amendment to the Ashtabula Township JEDD.

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

Discussion: President Roskovics stated the property is located on Route 20 and development of the parcel will take place.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to authorize the payment of \$13,015.94 to ODOT for various change orders incurred on project ATB US 20 PID 94073.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Council President John Roskovics seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to repeal and replace Codified Ordinance Section 1105.01 for the purpose of adopting a new section.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Council President John Roskovics seconded.

Discussion: Council President John Roskovics stated this ordinance was developed during the Community Development/Economic Development/Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Brobst Tree & Stump Service with a mailing address of 7935 Center Rd. Ashtabula, OH 44004 in the amount not to exceed \$17,950.00 for the purpose of removing trees in various locations of the City of Ashtabula. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 205.

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

Discussion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo would like new trees to be planted in place of the trees that

will be torn down.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

The City Manager stated the traffic lights on Lake Avenue are being adjusted. Two new cross walks and ped heads will be placed in the area. Cross Walks will also be placed on Bridge Street. The City Manager addressed the city-wide flooding issues. City officials did not detect any blockages in the sewer system, the flooding was caused by the volume of rain. Unless the Governor declares an emergency, Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance is not available to those who have experienced damage to their homes. The land-bank has not received the grant to demolish blighted homes. Several citations were given for illegal fireworks during the 4th of July holiday.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance adopting the tax budget of the city of Ashtabula for the Fiscal year beginning on January 1, 2025, and submitting the same to the Ashtabula County, Ohio Budget Commission.

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

Discussion: President John Roskovics stated the document has been on display for 10 days.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations in the General Fund, Indigent Alcohol Treatment Fund, Court Special Projects Fund, CBDG Fund, Housing Code Enforcement Fund, Workers Compensation Fund for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2024.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the Finance Director's request; President John Roskovics seconded.

Discussion: CBDG Fund must be spent by October 2024. A request was made to increase the budget from the CBDG fund.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

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

July 23

August 22-5:30pm

September 24

October 22

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovicks

July 19

August 16

September 20

October 18

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

July 23

August 27

September 24

October 22

Safety Forces

(2nd Monday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Guerriero

July 8-report

August 12

September 9

President Roskovics provided the report. There is a staffing issue regarding lifeguards. The YMCA plans to have lifeguards at Walnut beach once their training class ends. The more senior lifeguards will be on duty at the beach. The Coast Guards will be on duty at the station on weekends. People should be cautious at Lake Erie. City officials are placing rip tide current signs at Walnut Beach to inform swimmers of conditions in Lake Erie. President Roskovics stated the meeting time for Safety Forces has changed to 8:30 a.m.

Planning Commission

President Roskovics provided the report.

Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President Roskovics provided the report. The Commission approved construction of several houses. The commission also approved lighting at the Riverbend Hotel. Soon, the groundbreaking for the Wenner Field housing project will take place.

Presentation of Legislation

President John Roskovics previewed the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

The City Manager explained, anytime changes are made to the codified ordinances, a repeal of the section is completed and then replaced with the new language.

Overview / Discussion

Reading of Legislation

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

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

Ordinance NO. 2024-79

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR THE RECEIPT OF \$500,000 ARPA GRANT FUNDS TO PAY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AT WALNUT BEACH PARK

Ordinance 2024-80

AN ORDINANCE ACKNOWLEDGING THE HIRING OF MARK VERZELLA AS SUPERINTENDENT (CLASS IV) OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA WASTEWATER TREATMENT DIVISION AND APPROVING ADDITIONAL PAID VACATION LEAVE AND COMPENSATION

Ordinance 2024-81

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN EIGHTH

AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CONTRACT WITH ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP, OHIO

Ordinance 2024-82

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2025, AND SUBMITTING THE SAME TO THE ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO BUDGET COMMISSION

Ordinance 2024-83

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH CORY NAGLE, FOR COMMERCIAL TAX ABATEMENT AT 75% FOR 10 YEARS FOR THE EXPANSION OF RETAIL SPACE WITHIN 1569 LAIRD DRIVE

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 84

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR VARIOUS CHANGE ORDERS INCURRED ON PROJECT ATB US 20.

Ordinance NO. 2024-85

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, IND ALCOHOL TREATMENT FUND, COURT SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND, CDBG FUND, HOUSING CODE ENFRMNT FUND, WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024.

Ordinance NO. 2024-86

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING REPLACEMENT CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1105.01.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-87

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1105.01, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING A NEW SECTION 1105.01.

Ordinance 2024-88

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BROBST TREE & STUMP SERVICE FOR THE REMOVAL OF TREES IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Council President Roskovics entertained a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills 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
Absent: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman
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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Absent: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Nays: None

Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated "Tax Free Day" starts July 30–August 8.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated the G.O. Community Development Corporation will host their back-to-school event on August 3 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. They are giving away shoes, backpacks, and lunch. Bands on the Beach is July 25 from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at Walnut Beach Park.

Public Communications on General Matters

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

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

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, August 5, 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:

August 5, 2024

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Ashley M. Bell

Ashley M. Bell, Clerk of Council