



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 8:30 AM

Council Chambers

4230 Lake 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: Chris Tolnar, GPD Group

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

Guest Presentation

Chris Tolnar presented the City of Ashtabula Capital Improvement Plan. The service area includes the City of Ashtabula, Saybrook Township and Ashtabula Township. The City of Ashtabula is responsible for updating the Sewer Collection System. The Capital Improvement Plan includes the following; Waste Water Treat Plant improvements, ventilation for the Grit Building, Ventilation for the Blower Building, replacing the emergency exit signs, lighting, and digester gas handling improvements. Many of the systems exceeded their design life and must be upgraded. The upgrades will improve the plant's operation. Upgrades also include outfall improvements. The current outfall system was installed in 1925. The generator must be updated, obsolete piping and equipment must be removed, and sump pumps must be replaced throughout the plant. There are nine pump stations that must be constantly monitored. The Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) stated several of the city's Sanitary Sewer Overflows must be eliminated. A rate study was completed to address how the improvements may be accomplished. The current revenue does not meet the current operations nor maintenance expenses and debt service. The City of Ashtabula's sewer rate is the lowest compared to surrounding communities.

The City Manager stated that regarding notifying residents about the rate increase, the presentation is available for people to watch on the City's website and the City's Facebook page. When the legislation is presented to the Council, the City Manager suggests two readings. He hopes the legislation is passed prior to the December Regular Council Meetings, so the rate increase occurs by

January 2025. The city must also put together structures to eliminate the flooding that may occur during heavy rain. The Waste Water Treatment plant is only funded by rates this called an Enterprise Fund.

Chris Tolnar, GPD Group City of Ashtabula Capital Improvement Plan

City Manager's Report

The City Manager reported the final course of asphalt is being placed on Lake Avenue. The Ohio Department of Transportation's paving project is almost finished. In this phase, the stripping is laid. The City hopes to make part of Lake Avenue (near the hospital) a center turning lane to alleviate congestion.

Water Pollution Control Report

Superintendent Mark Verzella provided the report. Requested appropriation of additional funds to cover chemical (sodium aluminate) purchases for the remainder of the calendar year. Sodium Aluminate is used to remove phosphate. Matt Copeland has been awarded the posted maintenance mechanic position. Tim Seymour has been awarded the posted swing shift operator position. Both employees moved to their new positions on 8/19/24. Mr. Seymour will complete three weeks of plant training prior to being placed on shift. The Assistant Superintendent position has been posted. The Lead Operator Position for first shift has been posted and has been filled. The Department is working with GPD Group for the relocation efforts for the outfall. The house-hold hazardous waste recycling day is September 28, hosted by Ashtabula County. People are encouraged to drop off items that have mercury an example includes an old thermometer.

Water Pollution Control Update

Public Works Report

Public Services Superintendent John Melnik provided an update: continued mowing, patching, catch basin repairs, as well as utility hole repairs. The department is still picking up debris from the storm earlier this month. Contracts have been distributed for the resurfacing project. Currently, the department has a tree contract with Brobst Tree and Stump Company for 20 plus trees. The Jett is still out for repair. The road sweeper is back in use. Two seasonal workers were hired full time by the department and there is one vacant position.

Old Business

Assistant Solicitor Catherine Colgan continues to work on updating ordinance for this committee.

Ordinance Update

New Business

Next Meeting

September 24, 2024

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 a.m. by Committee Chair Mills.