



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, September 16, 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. Council President Roskovics 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo
Absent: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

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

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to excuse Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills from the meeting; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

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

Resolution Honoring the Goodwill

Resolution Honoring Cathy Speelman

A Resolution in honor of the DeGeorge Family

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo 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.

September 3, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Administrative Reports

City Manager

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to amend Ordinance 1994-102; to meet the requirements of the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Housing and Community Development's AntiDisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. *Repeal & Replace Codified Ordinance Section 937.02

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance (1) repealing in its entirety Codified Ordinance section 937.02 in order to enact an Ordinance (2) for a new section 937.02 to impose updated rates and charges for waste water treatment effective January 1, 2025.

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

Discussion: The Waste Water Treatment Plant study is complete. Recommendations have been made for maintenance improvements and general upkeep of the plant. The rates are factored in according to the recommendations. The improvement plan was presented by GPD Group and is available to view on the city's website. The City Manager recommends two readings of the repeal and replace ordinance. The County has been notified regarding the potential rate increase. Rates have not been increased since 2018.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

The week of September 23, curbside leaf bag pick up begins. The schedule is on the city's website.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to make supplemental increases/decreases to appropriations in the Parks & Recreation Fund for current expenses and other expenditures of the city of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2024. These appropriations will be drawn from unappropriated fund balance.

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to make supplemental increases/decreases to appropriations in the General Fund, Public Works Fund, Public Health Nursing Fund, Sanitation Fund, Housing Code Enforcement Fund, Permanent improvement fund, WPC/wastewater fund, JEDD-1 Saybrook TWP Depot RD Fund, JEDD-2 Saybrook TWP Depot RD fund and Jedd-1 Saybrook TWP RTE 20 fund for current expenses and other expenditures of the city of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2024. These appropriations will be drawn from unappropriated fund balance.

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

Discussion: The City Manager stated that any new developments in Saybrook Township, Ashtabula Township, and parts of Plymouth Township that the city serves waste water treatment, must join the Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDD).

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to make supplemental increases to appropriations in the Court Special Projects fund for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2024. These appropriations will be drawn from unappropriated fund balance.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to approve the Finance Director's request; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Nays: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio

Motion passed by a 5 to 1.

Clerk of Council

No report.

City Council Committee Reports

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation

(3rd Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m.)

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

September 24-5:30 p.m.

October 15

November 19

December 17

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 20

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

September 24

October 22

November 26

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Guerriero

October-Holiday

November-Holiday

December 9

Planning Commission

President John Roskovics stated the Planning Commission is meeting on September 19. The three items on the agenda are; a Senior Day Care Center, a request for storage units on West Avenue, and a request for a used car lot on Prosepect Circle.

Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President John Roskovics stated the Commission approved two items; an addition to Fat Sally's Warehouse and a house design for a property on Walnut Boulevard. A tax abatement for the addition to Fat Sally's Warehouse was approved by the Council. The abatement will not go into effect until construction is complete.

Presentation of Legislation

President Roskovics previewed the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

Overview / Discussion

Reading of Legislation

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

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

Resolution NO. 2024 -116

A resolution for Goodwill Industries in celebration of their 125 years of service in Ashtabula

Resolution NO. 2024 -117

A Resolution in honor of Cathy Speelman

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 -118

A Resolution in honor of the DeGeorge Family

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 -119

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES/DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE PARKS & RECREATION FUND FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024. THESE APPROPRIATIONS WILL BE DRAWN FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 -120

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES/DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, PUBLIC WORKS FUND, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING FUND, SANITATION FUND, HOUSING CODE ENFRMNT FUND, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND, WPC/WASTEWATER FUND, JEDD-1 SAYBROOK TWP DEPOT RD FUND, JEDD-2 SAYBROOK TWP DEPOT RD FUND AND JEDD-1 SAYBROOK TWP RTE 20 FUND FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024. THESE APPROPRIATIONS WILL BE DRAWN FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 -121

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE COURT SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024. THESE APPROPRIATIONS WILL BE DRAWN FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE.

Council President Roskovics entertained a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for ordinance numbers 2024-116, 2024-117, 2024-118, 2024-119, 2024-120.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE
Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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; Vice President Russell Simeone 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation 2024-116, 2024-117, 2024-118, 2024-119, 2024-120

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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None.

Legislation passed.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the reading of the legislation 2024-121; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Abstain: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Motion passed by 5 to 0 vote.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation 2024-121; Vice President Russell Simeone 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

Abstain: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation 2024-121

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman,

Nays: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio

Abstain: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Legislation passed by a 4 to 1 vote. It will take 30 days before the legislation is enacted.

Unfinished Business

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo has great concerns about the un-housed population in the city. There are many social service resources the city offers. Many people contact Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo about their concerns regarding the un-housed population. Citizens state they would like to enjoy the parks and local business without harassment. Mrs. DiGiacomo suggests that the city

partner with Ashtabula Township to enact ordinances that regulate the un-housed population. The City Solicitor stated when you see someone in an abandoned house please call the police so that they may be removed. If a house is vacant and in a code violation, city officials will take steps to secure the house. People should report vacant houses and houses that are in disrepair so that city officials may secure the houses and prevent un-housed individuals from living in them. The Chief of Police sent officers to various homeless camps to determine why they are in the city and un-housed. Their goal was to direct them to resources, help get them housed, or to redirect them to their place of origin.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated the "Rib Burn Off" will take place at Lakeshore Park. The event takes place from September 21-22.

President John Roskovics stated the ribbon cutting for Riverbend Hotel is on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated the Main Street Mural Painting Party will take place September 21 from 11:00 am. Until 3:00 p.m. as well as September 22 from 12:00 p.m. Until 3:00 p.m. The address is the alleyway at 4633 Main Avenue.

The City Manager stated the first meeting was scheduled to discuss the Appalachian Grant. The meeting is not open to the public.

Public Communications on General Matters

Joan Crockett, 5221 Reed Avenue, wanted to thank the Council for the resolution for Superintendent David Howard, Jr. She also addressed her concerns about the un-housed population. She stated the un-housed population frequents the parking garage next to Head Start. Their staff has seen defecation in the parking garage. She is asking for a police presence to monitor the garage and the area.

Executive Session (if needed)

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, October 7, 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:

October 7, 2024

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics
John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

AB
Ashley M. Bell, Clerk of Council