



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers

4230 Lake Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Committee Chair DiGiacomo.

Roll Call

Members Present: **Chair:** Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo, **Vice Chair:** Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Absent: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

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

Parks & Recreation Board Members Present: None.

Visitor: Leonard Stepp, Jr., MBA President and CEO Ashtabula Regional Medical Center

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

Special Guest Presentation

Leonard Stepp provided the following information: The Patient Care Tower is a new addition to the hospital. One of the hospital's priorities is to improve the provision and the high-quality health care environment. The hospital also wants to recruit additional health care providers for Ashtabula County. Hospital officials also would like to secure and grow family-sustaining jobs to support the local economy. The hospital was able to transition to all private rooms. The hospital has an education and conference center that is accessible to the community. The total project cost was approximately 115 million dollars. There is an atrium and a public lounge area. Many of the new additions were made possible by philanthropic donations. The emergency department was able to expand from 18 rooms to 24 rooms. There are 4 rooms dedicated to behavioral health issues. There are two large triage rooms. The Helicopter Pad was relocated and is now heated. The sidewalks are now heated as well to keep the space safe and clear. There are now 5 operating suites. A Robotic Assisted Surgery program is now included at the facility. This addition was made possible by a donation from Richard Morrison of Molded Fiber Glass. A two-way video conferencing software called "Tele-Doc" is now available. This service allows providers to conference in remotely to assist patients. The hospital has received paid and pledged philanthropic donations. The donation amount is approximately 8.5 million dollars. Another large project is the hospital's Epic Optimization Project.

This project supports scheduling, billing, reporting, and translation of information among the rest of the Cleveland Clinic Health network. The hospital is ranked as one of the top hospitals for Fair Share Spending. A.R.M.C. is ranked "gold" by Stroke Accreditation. Community is important to the organization. Hospital officials are always looking forward to adding value to the community. The A.R.M.C. is the largest employer in the city.

Leonard Stepp Jr., MBA President and CEO Ashtabula Regional Medical Center ARMC Healthcare System

Update on the Health System and the ARMC Patient Care Tower

City Manager's Report

The City Manager provided the report: The improvements at A.R.M.C. are a huge addition to the city. The inclusive playground at Walnut Beach is in the construction phase. City officials hope to have all the structures in place by the end of the 3rd week of October. The project should be completed by the end of the year. Amy Coursen the Project Administrator of the Planning Commission, has played an active role in making sure the playground is installed. The smaller accessible parking lot will be put in place in Spring 2025. The park staff will be transferred back to the Public Works Department. There is a lot of activity at Smith Field. The City officials say the new basketball courts are being utilized. The second call with East Gate regarding the Appalachian Grant took place. City officials would like a facade program to be a part of the grant. A building on Main Avenue will be demolished. The lot is the future home of Pocket Park. The tree in front of the Walnut Beach sign has been removed. Several trees were also removed in the area, including a tree near the Hubbard House.

Parks & Recreation Committee Report

Len Jury provided the report: The most recent meeting was September 30. All members were present. No additional landscaping on the hill at Walnut Beach this season. No intention at all to move Bocce Ball Courts. 114,000 people visited the park this year. Approximately 59,000 were unique visitors. Equipment for the Inclusion Zone should start arriving on October 1 and the installation process will begin. Once all the equipment is up, sidewalks then landscaping will be completed. The Veteran's Park was vandalized. Over 30 fags were destroyed. New flags were ordered.

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes, Parks Map & List, Parks Rules

Unfinished Business

New Business

Next Meeting

November 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m. by Committee Chair DiGiacomo.