



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, October 7, 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. Clerk of Council Ashley Bell offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Absent: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio

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

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to excuse Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio from the meeting; Vice President Russell Simeone 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

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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.

September 16, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Administrative Reports

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to re-appoint Roberta Naydar- Pruitt to the Architectural Review Board.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

President John Roskovic also stated a committee is being formed to honor individuals in the community; Council members Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio and Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero agreed to be a part

of the committee. The committee will review the already established rules. If the committee decides to make any changes, they will present the changes to the council.

Motion: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills moved to nominate Blake Hinkle and Tim Dibble to the Ad Hoc Honoring Committee; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills suggested an odd number of committee members to avoid ties when voting. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman encouraged people of racial difference to submit their names to join the Honoring Committee.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

City Manager

The following legislation was formally requested;

An ordinance repealing, in its entirety, Codified Ordinance Section 951.10 for the purpose of enacting new rates and charges for Transfer Station rates, effective November 4, 2024.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Andritz Separation, INC. For the purpose of rehabilitating the centrifuge at the city's Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to approve the City Manager's request; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance amending the Traffic Control Map and File, for the purpose of vacating a portion of National Street.

Motion: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills moved to approve the City Manager's request; President John Roskovics seconded.

Discussion: The City Manager stated the end of National Street that abuts the Ashtabula Area City Schools (AACS) Bus Garage is a dead end. AACS owns both sides of the property. School District officials would like to make the property line straight. The proposed ordinance will vacate that portion of the end of the road. Currently, the end of the road is owned by the city. The initial request was presented to the Planning Commission.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with FYDA Freightliner Western Star Zanesville to purchase a 2025 Freightliner Tandem Axle Dump Truck for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Capp Steel Erectors, Inc. to construct sidewalks for the inclusive playground at Walnut Beach.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to approve the City Manager's request; Vice

President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cooper spoke about compliance and housing. When the Solicitor's office is informed about houses that may be out of compliance, the Housing Department does an inspection of the outside of the property. If housing violations are found, they provide the property owner with a notice and a time frame to complete the repairs. If the repairs are not made, this information is sent to the Solicitor's office. The Solicitor's office then files a complaint requiring compliance. It is essentially a misdemeanor complaint. The ultimate goal is to get the house fixed or get the property cleaned up.

Finance Director

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to make supplemental increases to appropriations in the General Fund, Police Levy Fund, S.C.M.R.-Public Works Fund, State Highway Fund, Sanitation Fund And Marina 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 an unappropriated fund balance.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to approve the Finance Director's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

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

October 15-5:30 p.m.

November 19-5:30 p.m

December 17-5:30 p.m.

Committee Chair DiGiacomo provided the report.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to add Ordinance 2024-132 to the agenda; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: The ordinance was discussed at the Community Development/Economic Development Parks and Recreation Committee. President John Roskovics stated he does not feel the ordinance has been evaluated thoroughly. Councilor DiGiacomo stated she is open to having two readings of the legislation.

VOICE VOTE

Nays: President John Roskovics

Motion: passed by a 5 to 1 vote.

Councilor DiGiacomo shared several stories about business owners on Main Avenue having negative experiences with people who appear to be homeless. The stories were sent to the council members via email. Vice President Russell Simeone stated he noticed an increase in people sleeping on sidewalks in the city and setting up personal items on the sidewalks. Mr. Simeone also stated he thinks the ordinance may be able to help resolve the issue of people using public property for personal use. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated she has noticed many people riding bicycles without reflectors on Main Avenue. The City Solicitor stated the parks are open from dusk until dawn and people in the park when it is not open can be arrested for trespassing. City Manager James Timonere stated Catholic Charities received a grant for a coordinator that can help house

people in need. The City also received funding on behalf of the Samaritan House. The organization will open a new location that can provide additional housing for those in need. The City Manager stated a Day Center could eliminate many transient things. Many issues are due to mental health issues and not homeless issues. The City Manager stated he does not want new facilities in the city that help with the homeless or those with mental health issues. He will help the current facilities expand. The City Solicitor stated her office, the Planning Community Development Office, and Officials of Ashtabula County Building Department created Legislation regarding Boarding Houses. Those parties created letters to send to the Boarding Houses asking what their designation is. Once their designation is identified, the regulations can be implemented. The report must be given by the end of October.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 20

Vice Chair DiGiacomoe provided the report.

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

Committee Chair Mills provided the report.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Guerriero

October-Holiday

November-Holiday

December 9

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President Roskovics stated the Planning Commission approved converting the former Rite Aide on Lake Avenue to a Senior Day Care Center.

Presentation of Legislation

President Roskovics previewed the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

Blake Hinkle, 1525 Union Avenue stated his sister works on Main Avenue. Mr. Hinkle stated his sister does not feel safe on Main Avenue. His sister feels the various issues with the homeless community will affect her clientele. Mr. Hinkle was recently on Main Avenue and a man was screaming obscenities as people were leaving church.

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 - 122

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 937.02

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING NEW RATES AND CHARGES FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 -123

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW ENTIRETY CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 937.02 FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPOSING NEW RATES AND CHARGES FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 124

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 951.10 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING NEW RATES AND CHARGES FOR TRANSFER STATION RATES, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 4, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 125

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 951.10 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING NEW RATES AND CHARGES FOR TRANSFER STATION RATES, EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 4, 2024

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 126

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ANDRITZ SEPARATION, INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF REHABILITATING THE CENTRIFUGE AT THE CITY'S WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-127

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF VACATING A PORTION OF NATIONAL STREET

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 -128

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1994-102 PASSED JUNE 6, 1994 ALSO KNOWN AS THE CITY OF ASHTABULA ANTIDISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION PLAN

Ordinance NO. 2024-129

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, POLICE LEVY FUND, S.C.M.R.-PUBLIC WORKS FUND, STATE HIGHWAY FUND, SANITATION FUND AND MARINA 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. 2024-130

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FYDA FREIGHTLINER WESTERN STAR ZANESVILLE TO PURCHASE A 2025 FREIGHTLINER TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK FOR THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Ordinance NO. 2024-131

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CAPP STEEL ERECTORS, INC. TO CONSTRUCT SIDEWALKS FOR THE INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AT WALNUT BEACH

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-132

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING SECTION 521.17 OF PART FIVE, GENERAL OFFENSES CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, AS AMENDED, TO ESTABLISH A PROHIBITION AGAINST CAMPING ON PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTY, PUBLICLY CONTROLLED PROPERTY, AND PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Council President Roskovics entertained a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for ordinance numbers 2024-124,125,126,127,128,129,130,131,132

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Vice President Russell Simeone 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; President John Roskovics seconded.

Discussion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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 2024-124, 2024-125, 2024-126, 2024-127, 2024-128, 2024-129, 2024-130, 2024-131, 2024-132

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills moved to waive the reading of the legislation 2024-122 and 2024-123; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

The legislation will be placed on the agenda for the October 21, 2024 meeting.

Unfinished Business

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated the celebration of the new mural in the alleyway on Main Avenue will take place October 13 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. The address is 4633 Main Avenue.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills said the applications for HALO with Catholic Charities are available online. You are able to fill out the application in person at Catholic Charities.

President John Roskovics recognized the passing of Valerie Peters who owned The Squire Shop and Father John Mulqueen a longtime member of the community.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero stated Fat Sally's Trunk or Treat is October 19.

Public Communications on General Matters

Dianna Northrop spoke during the Pre-Council Meeting. She was unable to stay for the Regular Council Meeting due to personal reasons.

Dianna Northrop 5708 Madison Avenue, is concerned about her neighbors at 5716 Madison Avenue. Their neighbors have an excessive amount of debris, rodents, and excessive noise. She has reported their home to the city on several occasions. She has also reported her concerns to the police.

Tim Dibble 5613 Madison, stated he wanted to reinforce the statements from Dianna Northrop. The City Solicitor stated the owner of 5716 Madison Avenue has two nuisance complaints filed against him currently in Municipal Court. There are 4–5 cases against the owner that is awaiting sentencing. The person in question failed to appear for sentencing in May 2024. There is a current warrant for his arrest.

Executive Session (if needed)

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, October 21, 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 21 2024

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

Ashley M. Bell
Ashley M. Bell, Clerk of Council