



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, October 21, 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 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Absent: None.

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

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

None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

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

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, October 7, 2024

Administrative Reports

Re-Appoint Kathy Eames to the Architectural Review Board

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to re-appoint Kathy Eames to the Architectural Review Board; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

City Manager

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to enter into a contract with Lampion Companies to repair damage and replace a

street pole at the intersection of Main Avenue and W. 44th Street in an amount not to exceed \$11,350.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the Permanent Improvement Fund 412. Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to prepare and submit an application for financial assistance with the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and to execute agreements as required for the Michigan Avenue Ext. Sanitary Sewer Project with an estimated project cost of \$311,000.00. The application shall include a local share of \$124,400.00, \$136,600.00 in grants funds and \$50,000.00 in loan proceeds.

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

Discussion: Once the grant is awarded the project must be completed in two years.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a contract with Rocky Road Paving for various street cut road restorations in an amount not to exceed \$16,200.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the Water Pollution Control fund 503.

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

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

The Manager requested a voice vote to appoint Mr. Brad Biro, Terminal Manager at Kinder Morgan – Pinney Dock, to the Ashtabula City Port Authority effective immediately with a term to expire on January 28, 2028. I would like a voice vote to reappoint the following members to the Ashtabula City Port Authority: Mr. Brian Wells – Term Expiration of January 18, 2028, Mr. Ron Kister – Term Expiration of October 22, 2028, Mr. Joseph Craine - Term Expiration of October 22, 2028

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

The City Manager stated Senator Sherrod Brown came to the city for a meeting to discuss year round Coast Guard coverage. Senator Brown is an advocate of opening the Coast Guard Station for daily coverage. During the summer of 2024, the Coast Guard was at the station on the weekends only. City officials are also advocating daily coverage at the Coast Guard Station. The Coast Guard schedule will not be released until 2025. The City Manager stated that writing to Congress and Senators asking for daily coverage is the best avenue for results. City officials had a 2nd call with East Gate regarding the Appalachian Grant. They are narrowing down the areas and funding for the grants. The next step is to meet with the downtown merchants and business owners to discuss how the money will be distributed. The City Manager is adamant about incorporating a facade program as a part of the grant. All money that comes in through East Gate must be spent by Fall 2026. Trick or Treating will take place on November 2 from 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

No report.

Clerk of Council

No report.

City Council Committee Reports

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman is the Ad Hoc Committee Chair for "Racism as a Public Health Crisis". She is asking the Council for the next steps to implement some of the committee's recommendations. President John Roskovics urged the council to read the information linked to the presentation.

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 Jane DiGiacomo provided the report.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

October 25

November 15

December 20

Committee Chair Kym Foglio stated the meeting for October 25 has been postponed.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

October 22-Report

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 and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission held a meeting. The Commission approved an addition to Fat Sally's. The company also had various alterations of their building approved by The Historic Preservation Commission.

City Manager James Timonere stated the Lamar Sign on West Avenue was blown over and damaged due to a windstorm. Lamar is requesting to move the sign further north and to lower the sign's height. This suggestion was approved by the Planning Commission. This recommendation must be approved by the Council.

Presentation of Legislation

President Roskovics previewed the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

None.

Public Communications on Legislation

None.

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 2024-133

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LAMPION COMPANIES TO REPAIR DAMAGE AND REPLACE A STREET POLE AT THE INTERSECTION OF MAIN AVENUE AND W 44TH STREET

ORDINANCE 2024-134

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) AND TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS AS REQUIRED FOR THE MICHIGAN AVENUE EXT. SANITARY SEWER PROJECT.

ORDINANCE 2024-135

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ROCKY ROAD PAVING FOR VARIOUS STREET CUT ROAD RESTORATIONS

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 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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 for Ordinance 2024-133, 2024-134, 2024-135; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

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 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5

Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None.

Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio wanted to remind the Council about creating legislation for Golf Carts. The City Manager stated City Officials will work on the legislation during the winter.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated many business owners have contacted her regarding their issues with the homeless population. Her goal is to have a dedicated Police Officer to patrol West 58th Street to Lake Avenue near the YMCA.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated G.O. Ministries is hosting their annual Thanksgiving Dinner. More information about the dinner will be advertised in The Star Beacon. You may pick up a dinner from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Thanksgiving (November 28). The organization is also delivering dinners to those in need.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero stated the Knights of Columbus will have a Turkey Raffle on November 3 at 4 p.m. at Mount Carmel Community Center. All proceeds are for the organization's charity account.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated the time falls back on November 3.

President John Roskovics stated the Fat Sally's Trunk or Treat event had a large turn-out. The business gave out food and treats. He also encouraged people to go to Walnut Beach to see the progress of the Inclusive Playground.

Public Communications on General Matters

Christy Tobias, owner of Christy Tobias Hair Salon on Main Avenue. She stated in the past few years that Main Avenue has declined. She noticed people living in the Gazebo located in North Park. She also stated people who appear to be homeless come into her business. Her staff and customers feel uncomfortable because of their behavior. She witnessed people overdose on Main Avenue. She would like to know how the various issues can be resolved.

Susan Smith 5836 Jefferson Avenue. Stated she is a customer at Christy Tobias Hair Salon. During her time at the Salon, she witnessed a woman screaming and destroying flags at Memorial Park. She experienced several negative interactions on Main Avenue with people who appeared to be homeless. She asked if there are ordinances regarding boarding houses. The City Manager stated the state of Ohio is going to enact legislation to address boarding houses.

Stacy Stevenson, owns a bakery on Main Avenue. She asked if the Council could address a person putting their personal belongings under the awning of a business. She also asked what laws are in place to handle abandoned property and encampments in public spaces. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated legislation was passed that addresses encampments.

Leonard Pratt, 717 Tall Trees Drive, asked what city officials are doing to address the homelessness issues.

Deanna Cole owns Christian Faith Academy on Main Avenue. She stated she had to move her business off of Main Avenue. Mrs. Cole also mentioned she had to contact the police several times during the past month because of issues with the homeless community on her property.

Tia Woodard is the membership Director of the Ashtabula YMCA. She stated people who appear to be homeless loiter around the YMCA and on the YMCA's property. She expressed her thanks for the efforts being made by city officials to help resolve the issues with the homeless population.

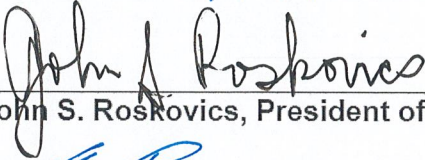
City Manager James Timonere stated many of the agencies in the city assist people who are experiencing homelessness and have mental health issues. He thinks a Day Center will help resolve many of the city's issues with the homeless population. The City Manager also stated four police officers will retire in 2025. The department is focusing on filling those spots.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.
Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, November 4, 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: November 4, 2024

ATTESTED BY: 
John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY: 
Ashley M. Bell, Clerk of Council