



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, November 18, 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. A moment of silence was observed for Police Officer William Glover who was shot and killed in the line of duty 27 years ago.

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, 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

Motion: Council President Roskovics moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss employment and personnel; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

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.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman requested to amend the minutes to include Lieutenant Michael Palinkas agreeing to attend the AdHoc Committee Meeting "Explore racism as a public health crisis".

VOICE VOTE

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

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, November 4, 2024

Administrative Reports

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to add Ordinance Number 2024-150 to the agenda. An ordinance appointing Stacy Millberg as Clerk of Council for the city of Ashtabula, Ohio, for a three-year period commencing on December 2, 2024, and authorizing a written contract of employment; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

President John Roskovics reminded everyone of the Public Hearing on December 2 at 6 p.m. There will be no action taken during the meeting.

City Manager

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to acknowledge and approve compensation and vacation leave for new hire Kelli Jones as Executive Assistant to the City Manager.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated she is happy to add Kelli Jones to the team.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to repeal payroll ordinance 2024-110 and replace it with a new payroll ordinance to provide for changes to the compensation for the position of Executive Assistant to the City Manager.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to authorize the amendment of the Community Care Ambulance Network agreement for Ambulance and Medical Transportation and Fire Department Dispatching Services.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations for various funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Ashtabula County Animal Protective League for the purpose of intake of animals for the City of Ashtabula in an amount not to exceed \$24,200.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 101.

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

Discussion: The funding is approximately 10% higher than last year.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Northeast Ohio Overhead Door with a mailing address of 3777 Sheffield Monroe Road, Kingsville, OH 44048 for the purpose of replacing the Maintenance Building overhead door at the Water Pollution Control Plant at 303 Woodland Avenue in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 504.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4

Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

City Manager Timonere stated leaf bag pickup continues. This week the pickup commences in the Harbor. The week of November 25, leaf bag pickup will continue in the various wards. The week of November 25 is the last week for pickup. Residents may not blow their leaves into the street. Garbage will not be picked up on Thanksgiving (November 28). The route pickup for garbage as well as recycling will be one day behind.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked if there may be budget allocation for recycling bins and trash bins in Ward 3. City Manager Timonere stated City Officials are working with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to acquire grant funding for recycling bins. The grant funding would only cover 75% of the cost of the recycling bins. The City Manager also stated education materials will be disturbed regarding recycling education. The preliminary cost for recycling bins and garbage bins is approximately \$280,000. This price reflects a cost of \$50.00 per bin. The bins will be assigned to the property. The Sanitation Department Staff is exploring routes to cover recycling pickup and garbage pickup on the same day.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

City Manager Timonere stated a preliminary budget was sent to the Council. All departments have been asked to begin closing Purchase Orders to prepare for the end of the year.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman congratulated the Finance Department for their department's audit that was returned with zero findings.

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

November 19-5:30 p.m

December 17-5:30 p.m.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

November 15-Report

December 20

Committee Chair Foglio provided the report.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

November 26

December-TBD

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Guerriero

December 9

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President Roskovics stated The Historic Preservation Commission will begin a discussion on the downtown facades. Downtown Ashtabula is now considered a historical area. City Manager Timonere stated the downtown area has not adopted standards. City Officials have asked the Historic Commission to compile recommendations so that they may be included in the facade program.

A house in the Harbor area will have its porch remodeled.

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

Ordinance NO. 2024-144

AN ORDINANCE ACKNOWLEDGING THE HIRING OF KELLI JONES AS THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND APPROVING COMPENSATION AND ADDITIONAL PAID VACATION LEAVE

Ordinance NO. 2024-145

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2024-110 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION

Ordinance NO. 2024 –146

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT

Ordinance NO. 2024-147

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP OF AKRON, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE WALNUT BLVD. STORM SEWER OUTFALL PROJECT

Ordinance NO. 2024-148

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY CARE AMBULANCE NETWORK FOR AMBULANCE & MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION AND FIRE DEPARTMENT DISPATCHING SERVICES.

Ordinance NO. 2024-149

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, S.C.M.R.-PUBLIC WORKS FUND, LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND, COURT SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND, SANITATION FUND, FIRE PENSION FUND, POLICE PENSION FUND AND WPC/WASTEWATER FUND FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024.

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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills 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; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, 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

City Manager Timonere stated the Petmin Project has an access road at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated Ashtabula Township passed an Ordinance that prohibits camping on publicly owned property.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated the Adhoc Committee "Explore Racism as a public health crisis" is sponsoring another Racial Wealth Gap Simulation. The dates are November 25 at 6 pm at Kent State Ashtabula and December 5 at 6pm at the Ashtabula County District Library. Both simulations are open to the public.

New Business

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated Officer Ryan White was honored for his service via the Ashtabula County Safe Community Council. A free event will take place at Ashtabula Town Square. The event is called "The Star to Bethlehem". This event includes activities and live animals. The dates are Friday, December 6 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, December 7, from 12 p.m to 5 p.m.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills attended an event at The Space on Main. The event was a video premier of "Art Alley". The event also included a video of the Pocket Park that is being constructed on Main Avenue. The 2024 Holidays in the Harbor event will take place on December 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held on Bridge Street and in the surrounding Historic Harbor area. It will feature shopping, eating, and holiday activities.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated the Downtown Christmas parade will take place on November 22. She also wanted to remind everyone to utilize local businesses for their shopping. Ashtabula Municipal Court will be making a Giving Tree this year, taking in donations for our local Animal Protective League. (APL) The tree will be located on the first floor of the Anex Building located at 110 West 44th Street next to the security desk. The bins are located around the tree for items to be placed in. The APL is in much need of various items; dry dog food, kitten food and

bleach. This full list will also be displayed by the security desk.

Vice President Russell Simeone stated the video of the Pocket Park may be viewed on the Facebook page of the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association.

City Manager Timonere provided an update regarding the Appalachian Community Grant. The City was awarded 1.6 million dollars. The city was not funded for the facade program. The funds were redistributed so that a facade program may be completed. The Street Scape project administered by the City is projected to be completed by Summer 2025. This project will replace all the sidewalks from West 44th Street, south to the train tracks. If funds are left over, additional work will be completed on the road. City officials also plan to include additional street parking on Main Avenue. President John Roskovics stated Ollie's outlet would open on November 21. The Arby's Restaurant on Prospect Road is also being rebuilt.

Public Communications on General Matters

Blake Hinkle, asked if there was a study done regarding the Pitmin Iron Plant. City Manager Timonere stated all the company's permits were reviewed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.(EPA) Any wastewater on the property is discharged through the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Air quality was discussed and meets all the EPA's requirements for the air permit. The project has not been approved and development is still underway.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, December 2, 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:

December 9, 2024

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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