



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, November 4, 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 Officer Joseph Cellitti. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio and Chief Robert Stell gave words of reflection.

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

President John Roskovics announced an Executive Session would convene off camera to discuss personnel and employment. No action will be taken.

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.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, October 21, 2024

Administrative Reports

President John Roskovics stated Clerk of Council Ashley Bell submitted a resignation from the position. Applications can be received via Ohio Means Jobs on Lake Avenue, [Monster.com](https://www.monster.com) and the city's website.

City Manager

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Ohio CAT with the mailing address of P.O. Box 854439 Minneapolis, MN 55485 for the purpose of purchasing two pumps for the Water Pollution Control Department through Sourcewell, under contract #062320-CAT in the amount not to exceed \$147,315.00. Funding for this purchase 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.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Rocky Road Paving with the mailing address of 3142 Padanarum Road, Geneva, OH 44041 for various street cut restorations under Round 4 Road Restoration in the amount not to exceed \$18,400.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from Fund 412.

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

Discussion: The funds are taken out of Permanent Improvement Fund 412 when restoring storm sewers. Fund 503 is used for Sanitary Sewers as a part of the Water Pollution Control budget.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Rocky Road Paving with the mailing address of 3142 Padanarum Road, Geneva, OH 44041 for various street cut restorations under Round 5 Road Restoration in the amount not to exceed \$33,000.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from Fund 503.

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 execute CO#2 with Ronyak Paving, LLC with the mailing address of 14376 N. Cheshire St. Burton, OH 44021 for the 2024 Paving Project decreasing the contract price by \$135,785.16 for a new contract price of \$1,046,330.24.

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

Discussion: The funds will remain in the Paving Levy Fund. City Manager Timonere stated the city is anticipating a carry-over of approximately \$500,000.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing an amendment to the agreement for Wastewater Conveyance, Treatment, and Disposal with Ashtabula County.

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with the State of Ohio, Department of Development, with the mailing address of P.O. Box 1001 Columbus, OH 43216-1001 for the purpose of administering the Economic Development RLF for 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.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD Group with a mailing address of 100 Federal Plaza East, Suite 200, Youngstown, OH 44503 for the purpose of providing Engineering Design and Construction Administration for the Walnut Blvd. Storm Sewer Outfall in the amount not to exceed \$29,500. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 412.

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

Discussion: City Manager Timonere stated construction may begin in 2025. Surveys will need to be conducted to determine the root of the issue. The issue is causing a small sinkhole in a backyard.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

The City Manager stated residents may not blow leaves from their yard onto the roadway. Curbside leaf bag pick up will continue during most of November. Residents are able to bring leaf bags to the Public Works Station. If residents drop off tree limbs, they must be in 3 foot sections in smaller bundles. Residents may call Public Works to pick up tree limbs from their property. A fee may be assessed dependent upon the quantity.

The City Manager asked Police Chief Stell to provide a report of what challenges their department faces as they encounter the homeless population. Chief Stell stated a major issue is lack of jail space. There are 7 out of 9 jail spaces that are currently occupied by Ashtabula County Inmates. He also addressed an issue with an individual on Main Avenue near Ultimate Appearance Hair Salon. He stated the issue that was reported several weeks ago was dispatched to the police department. The person who was causing the disturbance was arrested later.

Lieutenant Palinkas provided statistics from the department. He stated in 2023 their department responded to over 23,000 calls to service. He also stated methamphetamine is the most prominent drug within the community. It is also the most prominent drug used within the homeless community. Mental health issues and drug use issues are problems within the homeless community. Often, the results of drug use and mental health crises look similar. Lieutenant Palinkas stated people should contact the police to report encampments. The Police Department has an outreach program that helps assist with that issue. People who live in encampments have certain Constitutional rights. Action can be taken if there is a violation of the law.

Officer Palinkas stated many teenagers and young adults have been charged with shootings in the city. He stated some of the shootings are not drug related but impulsive. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked if the Police Department currently partners with the Juvenile Court to reduce the volatile behavior that follows some teenagers into adulthood. Officer Palinkas stated their department has an "open gateway" between the Juvenile Prosecutor and the Juvenile Court System. Officer Palinkas stated he would accept an invitation to the AdHoc Committee Meeting "Explore Racism as a Public Health Crisis".

Officer White stated in August 2023, several members of the Police Department formed an outreach program titled the Homeless Initiative Team (H.I.T.) The team has been able to gather data that includes where homeless camps are located, how the person became homeless, resources to help

the homeless become housed, as well as medical aid and attention. He also stated their department has determined that most of the homeless population has come to the city through various agencies. The outreach program was also able to identify crimes being committed by the homeless. There has also been crime against the homeless. Their research also determined that there has been crime within the homeless community. He also stated during the summer when Officer DiAngelo was assigned to Main Avenue, there was less crime in the area.

Officer Bruckman stated the homeless population tends to gravitate towards wooded areas as well as abandoned homes and buildings. He also stated officers noticed that the trails and the Ashtabula Gulf have several homeless encampments. The camps created a risk for fire as well as an environment filled with litter. During summer 2023 there were approximately 15–20 camps. At the end of summer 2024 there were fewer than 5. Other areas that are populated with homeless people are the Ashtabula Public Library and North Park Gazebo. To resolve the issue of the homeless, all community agencies and city officials must come together to create a solution.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo invited the Police Department to attend a Work Session on January 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Officer DiAngelo is a campus resources officer for Ashtabula Kent State University. During the summer, he patrols the Main Avenue business area and the surrounding area. During his patrol, he noticed homeless people in the parking garage on Main Avenue. The former Park Haven Nursing home is also frequently breached, and several fires have been reported. City officials clear the building and board the building once the breach is reported.

Chief Stell stated homeless people account for 20% of the arrests their department makes.

The City Manager stated other communities need to provide the social services the city of Ashtabula provides. The City Manager also would like to create a Day Center to help those in need.

Captain Stephen Chase of the Ashtabula Fire Department, serves as the city's Fire Marshall. He works with the Planning and Community Development Department to remove vacant houses. He stated homeless people tend to enter vacant homes and start fires.

The Ashtabula Downtown Development Association plans on installing cameras on the city's poles along Main Avenue.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

No report.

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

December 20

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

November 26

Committee Chair Jodi Mills provided the report.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Guerriero

December 9

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

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. 2024-136

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH OHIO CAT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO 12" PUMPS AND EQUIPMENT FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 137

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-138

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 139

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER #2 WITH RONYAK PAVING, LLC. FOR THE 2024 CITY PAVING PROGRAM

ORDINANCE 2024-140

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF ASHTABULA FOR WASTEWATER CONVEYANCE, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 141

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 933.12 & 933.13 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING NEW INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT ENFORCEMENT LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-142

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING REPLACEMENT CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 933.12, ENTITLED "INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT ENFORCEMENT" AND SECTION 933.13, ENTITLED "INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT PENALTIES, COSTS AND DAMAGES".

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-143

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN EASEMENT

AGREEMENT WITH THE CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING COMPANY FOR AN EASEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF ELECTRIC TO THE OHIO AVENUE EXTENSION PUMP STATION

Council President Roskovics entertained a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda.

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; 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

None.

New Business

No objections to the Liquor License request were presented. City Manager Timonere stated the request is for a C1 License which allows for beer to be sold in sealed containers as take out.

Harbor Gardens LLC Liquor License Request

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated the city of Ashtabula's Veterans Day Ceremony will take place November 11 at 11 a.m. The event will take place at the corner of Main Avenue and West 44th Street.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated The Christmas Parade is November 22 on Main Avenue at 7 p.m.

Public Communications on General Matters

Reverend Joseph Woods is the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church Ashtabula. Reverend Woods asked the Council if anyone had applied for grants to help the homeless community. He stated his church is in a neighborhood that has many issues with homeless people. His church also serves breakfast to those in need.

Dean Filer and Mike Fusek are the coaches for Saint John Youth Football. They appreciate being

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, November 18, 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 18, 2024

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

AB

Ashley M. Bell, Clerk of Council