



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, December 9, 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. Council President Roskovics offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed for attorney Kyle Smith who served as Assistant Ashtabula City Solicitor in 1984. He also served as Solicitor for Conneaut, Geneva-on-the-Lake, and Roaming Shores.

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2024

Administrative Reports

The City Manager expressed support to the students and staff of Lakeside High School due to the damage the building sustained during last week's storm. There were 12-15 structures in the City that were damaged. Employees of the City of Ashtabula and Council Members wore green on Monday in support of Lakeside. The Fire Department provided assistance by recording drone footage.

Ward 5 Councilor DiGiacomo stated Adam's Angels has a yearly school supply drive to support Ashtabula Area City School's students. Adam's Angel's is providing an extension of that fundraiser to

assist families in the Ashtabula Area City School District with replacing school supplies they lost due to the storm. Those interested in helping can visit www.adamsangels912.org or visit the organization's Facebook page.

Council President John Roskovics appointed Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero as Chair of the Safety Forces Committee beginning January 2025. President Roskovics will continue to serve as a member.

City Manager

The following legislation was requested:

An ordinance to enter into a MOU to modify the collective bargaining agreement for AFSCME Local 1197, IAFF Local 165, and FOP Lodge 26 (Captains & Lieutenants, Patrol Officers, and Dispatchers) due to an IRS Rules Change to Health Savings Accounts.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion:

Motion passed.

A resolution declaring a State of Emergency due to extreme winter weather conditions in the City of Ashtabula.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: President Roskovics commended the City Manager and City employees for their hard work during the storm. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills thanked the City Manager for keeping Facebook updated and keeping Council members updated during the storm. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio said despite all the negativity on Facebook during the storm, she received a lot of phone calls from residents expressing appreciation. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo verified that trash pickup was back on schedule.

Motion passed.

City Manager Timonere stated City employees began work during the storm at 2:30 a.m. Friday, before the snow started. Salting hills, bridges and overpasses are the areas that are focused on first. By 8 a.m., there was 2-feet of snow, and it kept falling, which made it difficult for crews to keep up with removal. A State of Emergency was declared Saturday morning. The severe weather was a county-wide issue. Assistance from the Ohio Department of Transportation and several independent contractors was crucial in clearing the snow. The City will remain under a State of Emergency due to the risk of flooding as the snow melts and additional snow is forecast later this week. There are contingency plans for fire hydrants. City fire engines carry hundreds of gallons of water and tanker trucks from neighboring departments will provide additional support. The City Manager urges residents to stay home during a Level 3 Emergency. A parking ban goes into effect in the City when snow hits 3-inches. The City Manager stated when plow trucks are deployed in the City, State Routes have to be cleared first. Townships do not have to clear State Routes and can clear neighborhood streets first. In a normal storm, plows focus on salting hills, underpasses and bridges first. As snow progresses, plows clear the main roads next, then secondary roads and neighborhood roads last.

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cooper stated the City Manager does not have the authority to call in the National Guard. It has to be done by the Governor. Solicitor Cooper stated there is a large increase to the Law Enforcement Trust Fund from a drug seizure.

Finance Director

Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin requested an ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations in the General Fund, Food Service Fund, S.C.M.R.-Public Works Fund, AMC Probation Fund, Law Enforcement Trust Fund, Law Enforcement Trust Fund, Court Special Projects Fund, Sanitation Fund, Fire Pension Fund, Fire Escrow Fund, Police Pension Fund and WPC/Wastewater Fund for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula for the period January 1, December 31, 2024.

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

Discussion:

Motion passed.

Clerk of Council

The November 4th Regular meeting minutes were approved as presented at the November 18th regular council meeting. After the minutes were approved, Ward 3 Councilor Holman asked that Officer Palinkas' statement to be included in the minutes. Officer Palinkas stated that he would come as a guest to the Ad Hoc Committee Meeting "Racism as a Public Health Crisis."

In order for the Clerk to amend the November 4 regular meeting minutes for the purpose of satisfying the Ward 3 Councilor's request, the City Council must move and second the request to include (Officer Palinkas' statement) in the November 4 regular meeting minutes.

Motion: Council President Roskovics moved to amend the minutes from the November 4 Regular Meeting; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion:

Motion passed.

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

December 17

The committee will meet December 17 at 2 p.m.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

December 20

The meeting scheduled for December 20 is canceled.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

November 26-report

Committee Chair Mills provided the report.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Guerriero

December 9

Committee Chair Roskovics provided the report.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President Roskovics stated The Historic Preservation Commission approved a porch on a house in the Harbor. Discussion will begin on the facades on Main Avenue.

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 the council's consideration.

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

Ordinance NO. 2024-151

AN ORDINANCE ACKNOWLEDGING THE HIRING OF STACY MILLBERG AS CLERK OF COUNCIL AND APPROVING ADDITIONAL PAID VACATION LEAVE

Ordinance No. 2024-152

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DUE TO AN IRS RULES CHANGE TO HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS TO MODIFY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN AFSCME LOCAL 1197, IAFF LOCAL 165, FOP LODGE 26 (PATROL OFFICERS, DISPATCHERS AND CAPTAINS & LIEUTENANTS) AND THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-153

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACING THE MAINTENANCE BUILDING OVERHEAD DOOR AT THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT WITH NORTHEAST OHIO OVERHEAD DOOR FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000.00

Ordinance NO. 2024-154

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 155

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND, AND FIRE ESCROW FUND FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024.

RESOLUTION 2024-156

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO EXTREME WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO.

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

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the Legislation; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, 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

The application deadline for the facade program was extended due to the weather. A meeting with business owners will be scheduled for the first of the year.

New Business

Councilor Foglio discussed resolutions for City employees who will be retiring.

Laxminarayan Three LLC Liquor License request

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated Holidays in the Harbor will take place December 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Harbor. The ADDA Holiday Party is Tuesday, December 10 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The Lift Bridge Community Association member meeting is Tuesday, December 10. The CHIP and CHA meeting is Tuesday, December 10 at the Health Department.

Ward 5 Jane DiGiacomo stated to please support local businesses. Christmas Eve's Eve will be held on December 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. at The Bakery on Main.

Public Communications on General Matters

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, December 16, 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 14, 2024

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council