



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, December 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

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 Vice President Simeone 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 Stacy Millberg

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

Kristy Hosken, Director of Operations - Square One Health Ashtabula

Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, December 9, 2024

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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.

Public Hearing Minutes, December 9, 2024

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

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Administrative Reports

Council President Roskovics stated the Budget Hearing will be Thursday, December 19 at 6 p.m. There will be some meetings in January that will begin at 5:30 p.m. Specific dates of those meetings will be announced.

City Manager

The following legislation was requested:

An ordinance to enter into two agreements with the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners for the purpose of providing public transportation services and lease for the operations center.

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

Discussion: City Manager Timonere said detailed information on tickets, passes and routes as well as door-to-door service can be found on the County's website (www.ashtabulacounty.us). Fares for ACTS transportation are \$2 for adults, \$1 for elderly and disabled individuals with E & D cards, \$0.75 for children ages 3 to 17, children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by an adult and children under the age of 2 are free.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement for the 2025 Concierge Nurse Navigators, LLC for the purpose of providing guidance on high quality healthcare for Ashtabula City employees enrolled under the program for a period of one year.

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

Discussion:

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Schneider Organization Inc. for the purpose of providing Direct Primary Care Medical Services to Ashtabula City employees enrolled under the program for a period of one year.

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

Discussion:

Motion passed.

An ordinance to execute CO#1 with Rocky Road Paving for the purpose of providing additional work on the 2024 Round 4 Road Restoration in the amount not to exceed \$10,750.00.

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

Discussion:

Motion passed.

A unanimous voice vote to approve a TREX Form to transfer a liquor license into the City of Ashtabula for the new Shenanigans on Main Avenue.

Motion passed.

City Manager Timonere stated the bill for the private contractors that assisted with snow removal during the snow storm earlier this month is anticipated to be between \$130,000 to \$135,000.

Overtime costs for City staff is approximately \$15,000. That does not include truck time, salt usage or regular hours worked. Mr. Timonere visited the ODOT garage on December 16 to meet with the Director of ODOT and thank ODOT personnel for their assistance during the storm. The Ashtabula County Auditor's Office and Ashtabula County Emergency Management Agency are assessing all of the damage. Those reports as well as the costs to the City will be sent to the state for possible

reimbursement.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated several residents on Norwood Drive have complained that their tree lawns were damaged during the snow removal. Mr. Timonere stated damages will be addressed in the Spring.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked Mr. Timonere to clarify whether private plows are permitted to plow city streets. Mr. Timonere stated it is not encouraged as it poses as liability issue.

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper provided an update on what the Law Enforcement Trust Fund can be used for. All of the research conducted by Solicitor Cooper as well as Attorney General opinions indicate the funds can only be used for drug enforcement such as interdictions.

Finance Director

Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin requested an ordinance to repeal and replace Ordinance 2024-95 for the purpose of replacement legislation providing compensation salaries and wages to employees of the Ashtabula City Municipal Court and Probation Divisions.

Motion: Council President John Roskovics moved to approve the Finance Director's request; Council Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion:

Motion passed by 5-1 vote with Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio voting no and Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo abstaining.

Finance Director Augustin requested an ordinance to repeal and replace Ordinance 2024-146 for the purpose of enacting replacement legislation for providing compensation salaries and wages to employees of the City of Ashtabula and the Ashtabula City Health District.

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

Discussion:

Motion passed.

Finance Director Augustin requested an ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations in the General Fund, Police Levy Fund, Food Service Fund, S.C.M.R.-Public Works Fund, State Highway Fund, Auto Reg/Perm Tax Fund, Sanitation Fund and WPC/Wastewater Fund for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula for the period January 1 through December 31, 2024.

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

Discussion:

Motion passed.

Clerk of Council

No report.

City Council Committee Reports

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation

(1st Wednesday @ 5:30 p.m.)

Members: Chair DiGiacomo/Council Liaison to Parks and Recreation Board; Vice Chair Mills; Holman

January 1 - New Year's Day No Meeting

February 5

March 5

Committee will meet Tuesday, December 17 at 2 p.m.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

December 20 - Canceled

January 17

February 21

March 21

No report.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

January 28

February 25

March 25

No report.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Guerriero

January 13

February 10

March 10

No report.

Planning Commission

No report.

Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

No report.

Presentation of Legislation

President Roskovics previewed the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

Overview / Discussion

Reading of Legislation

Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg presented the following legislation for the council's consideration.

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-157

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2024-95 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION PROVIDING COMPENSATION SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-158

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-159

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2024-146 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING

REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION FOR PROVIDING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-160

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-161

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO TWO AGREEMENTS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-162

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF THE ANNUAL RENEWAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CONCIERGE NURSE NAVIGATORS, LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING GUIDANCE ON HIGH QUALITY HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO ENROLLED EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-163

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF THE ANNUAL RENEWAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SCHNEIDER ORGANIZATION INCORPORATED d/b/a CONCIERGE HEALTH NETWORK FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DIRECT PRIMARY CARE MEDICAL SERVICES TO ENROLLED EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-164

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, POLICE LEVY FUND, FOOD SERVICE FUND, S.C.M.R.-PUBLIC WORKS FUND, STATE HIGHWAY FUND, AUTO REG/PERM TAX FUND, SANITATION 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.

After the reading of the legislation titles, Mrs. DiGiacomo and Mrs. Foglio stated they would not like to include Ordinance Number 2024-157 and Ordinance Number 2024-158 if the council decides to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda.

Council President Roskovics entertained a motion to waive the reading of ordinances 2024-157 and 2024-158.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, moved to waive the reading of ordinances 2024-157 and 2024-158; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE 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.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of ordinances 2024-157 and 2024-158; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE 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 Ordinance Number 2024-157 and Ordinance Number 2024-158

Discussion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated she is opposed to the stipends many of the court employees are receiving. There is no reason or extra job duties the employees are responsible for, they are just receiving additional pay. Several employees are also being paid out of the Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment Fund including the Court Administrator and an IT employee. Mrs. Foglio stated those two employees should not be receiving compensation from that fund. The fund should be used for treatment. Council President Roskovics stated he shares Mrs. Foglio's frustration; however, the Court has the authority to do what it wants. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked for clarification on what the Indigent Driver Alcohol Treatment Fund can be used for. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated the judge entered a journal entry saying she spoke with the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and determined there was surplus in the fund and it could be used for other purposes as long as there is enough in the fund to cover regular expenses. Mrs. Foglio requested a copy of the journal entry.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Nays: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio

Abstain: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Motion passed.

Council President Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for ordinances: 2024-159, 2024-160, 2024-161, 2024-162, 2024-163, 2024-164.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo, moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE 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.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE 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.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Vice President Russell Simeone 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 2024-159, 2024-160, 2024-161, 2024-162, 2024-163, 2024-164
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.
Motion: None

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo congratulated Blake Hinkle for the YouTube video he recorded with Jeff Dunham about vintage TVs he collects, sells and restores.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked City Manager Timonere if the RAM (Remote Area Medical) USA clinic scheduled for March 22, 2025 at Lakeside High School will still take place due to the roof collapse at the school. Mr. Timonere stated he is not on the committee but will look into it.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated on Thursday, January 23, 2025 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. there will be a guest speaker from the State of Ohio at the Ashtabula Public Library to speak to business owners on various business tax topics.

Council President Roskovics attended the Lift Bridge Association Annual Meeting. The meeting was well-attended and very positive and uplifting.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman whether the presentation for her Ad Hoc Committee took place as it was scheduled during the snow storm. Ms. Holman stated the presentation was postponed due to the weather and has not yet been rescheduled. Ms. Holman added that the presentation is a simulation on the racial/wealth gap. It is an experience the committee would like all residents to be able to participate in to learn how legislation is impacting the gap around those who have wealth and those who don't.

Public Communications on General Matters

Kristy Hosken, Director of Operations for Square One Health, provided an overview of the services Square One offers. Square One staff met with City Manager Timonere and Chief Stell in April regarding the homeless population in Ashtabula. Square One staff has joined Ashtabula police officers in community outreach efforts, since that meeting, to determine whether there may be people who have left Square One that need to return or if there are homeless people that Square One may be able to provide assistance to. Mrs. Hosken stated that Square One has three drivers so if someone is from outside this area and is not doing well here, they will help them get back to where they need to go or help get them into treatment if they need it.

Jennifer Acitelli Stofan, Director of Nursing, stated a lot of people in the homeless community have

come to them for help. Mental health takes over more of their needs than addiction. When individuals are not fit for Square One's facilities, the staff works with other facilities to get those individuals the mental health treatment they need. Sara Martin, Admissions Coordinator, and Adrianna Acitelli, Discharge Coordinator, help facilitate those transfers.

Ms. Martin stated she works closely with a number of other treatment facilities and mental health facilities. Ms. Martin stated Square One works around the clock for its patients to get them the appropriate level of care. The facility accepts Ohio Medicaid as well as private insurance; however, individuals seeking treatment do not need insurance to get treatment. They will help individuals get set up with Medicaid. Square One offers a full continuum of care including detox, residential treatment and partial hospitalization (PHP) with supportive housing. The Ashtabula facilities include a detox building, two residential buildings, an administration building for the intensive outpatient program (IOP), and four sober houses.

Mrs. Hosken stated Square One is currently working with the State to obtain Ohio Recovery Housing certification.

Mrs. DiGiacomo asked if there are policies and procedures in place when people leave and refuse treatment. Mrs. Hosken stated all patients must sign a code of conduct and agree to the policies and procedures of the facility.

Mrs. Acitelli Stofan stated if a client leaves against medical advice, there is nothing they can do to keep them there. Her staff is instructed not to go after them.

Mrs. Hosken stated she and her staff will be visiting local businesses on Main Avenue to distribute business cards so if business owners come across a person that needs treatment, they will have a point of contact.

Several clients of Square One addressed City Council and expressed their gratitude for the help they received at the facility. Richard Brant, of Lake Avenue, stated he would not be alive had he not received treatment at Square One.

Veronica Perez, of Ashtabula, stated before receiving treatment at Square One she was on the verge of homelessness. She went through the detox program, residential treatment, PHP, IOP and after care. She is now employed at Square One.

Carletta Jemison stated she is grateful for Square One. She has received treatment from Square One numerous times and each time she was welcomed back with open arms.

Mike Ellis, of Lake Avenue, has been through the program more than once. He stated if treatment doesn't work, it's not the program at Square One that doesn't work. It's something each individual person is responsible for.

Jessica M, of Ashtabula, stated Square One saved her life. She came here from Cleveland and was able to find a roommate and now has a family and works as a councilor at Square One.

David Simon stated he moved to Ashtabula in August. He stated the program is about saving lives. Square One provides the tools for successful rehabilitation but it is up to the individual to make the right choices.

Jay Demonico, of Cleveland Avenue, stated he started using drugs and alcohol at the age of 13 or

14. He began using methamphetamines at the age of 21 and continued until he was 46. He had three prison sentences and had never received any treatment until he entered the program at Square One. He stated the program at Square One gave him hope and purpose to continue on in his life.

Arthur Fisher, from Toledo, stated he graduated from the Square One program and is soon to be employed because of it.

David Cuddy, from Ashtabula, stated he was homeless and thanks Square One for helping him. He graduated the IOP and PHP programs and is now living in a sober house. He stated that homelessness has been a problem in Ashtabula for a long time. It takes a community to help homelessness. He stated Square One is not contributing to the homeless population. They are not sending people out on the streets. He stated the area needs more homeless shelters.

Chris Campbell, of Ashtabula, stated the individuals that enter Square One for treatment are not bad people. They are good people that made bad decisions. Square One deals with many different people with different levels of addiction and mental health. He stated it was difficult to stay at Square One and receive treatment but they gave him the tools and reminded him of the person he wanted to be. The program is about one addict helping another.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated her son, Kyle, would not be here if he had not received treatment at Square One. He went through the program and lived in a sober house and is now doing well. She stated you cannot understand what Square One does for people in Ashtabula unless you have walked down the paths of the people they have helped.

Arthur S., W. 36th Street, was homeless and living in a tent in Akron. He stated Square One was the only facility willing to take both him and his fiancé. He is working now, paying child support and has reconnected with his family and children.

Randall Campbell, of Ashtabula, stated he went through detox and on his second day of residential treatment he was ready to quit. The staff and Square One helped him get back on his medication and continue the program.

Eric, from Ashtabula, stated Square One saved his life. He state the staff at Square One cares about the clients.

Mrs. Hosken stated they are also working with GO Ministries to offer assistance to people who need it.

Council Vice President Russell Simeone stated we should not put a negative stigma on recovery. It should be celebrated.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Thursday, December 19, 2024 in Council Chambers for a Special Meeting to approve the 2025 Budget.

DATE APPROVED:

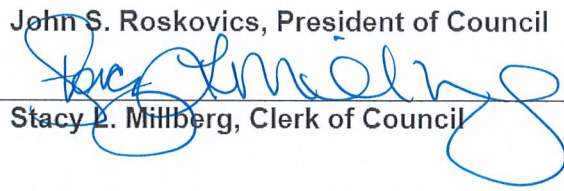
January 6, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

John A. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:


Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council