



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Special Meeting
Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of Special Meeting

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Ashtabula City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Prayer

Council President Roskovics offered the opening prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo
Absent: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin, Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to excuse Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills; 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

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.

Statement of Purpose

City Manager Timonere stated he is cautiously optimistic that the General Fund will be in the black by just over \$1,000. It is a very tight General Fund budget. Mr. Timonere stated when looking at a budget with government funding, it is a balancing act across all of the funds. The expenses in the Sanitation Fund have risen over the years. The City will be negotiating a new contract with Waste Management and landfill costs are expected to rise. The City has not adjusted any fees or rates for curbside pick-up since 2018 so that may be a possibility going forward. The budget looks good but it will be imperative to stay within the budget and exercise cost-saving measures. Mr. Timonere stated he has been working with City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper to determine whether funds the City receives

from the Opioid Settlement Fund can be used for personnel costs for one of the detectives.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero questioned why the budget has to continuously be adjusted throughout the year. City Manager Timonere stated there are a lot of appropriations ordinances throughout the year because of the way the budget ebbs and flows. Appropriations ordinances are not only for expenses but also for adjusting revenues. Appropriations ordinances are a balancing of the budget based on the revenues and expenses that come in throughout the year.

Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin stated a budget is a projection. There may be departments that spend more and some that spend less than what was projected.

City Manager Timonere stated when requests for appropriations are made, it doesn't necessarily mean they are asking for more money. It means certain line items need more money and it becomes a balancing issue. Funds are being taken from a line that isn't using it and moving it to a line that needs it.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated a large amount of money is being spent on the GPD project. Ms. Holman questioned whether the City had any plans on how that was going to be paid for. City Manager Timonere stated the rate study that was done is a projection of the funds that will be needed to pay off loans that will be acquired to do those projects. Planning for the first phase of the repairs will begin in 2025. The rate increase will go into effect January 1, 2025 and those funds will be used to pay the debt.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated the spending with the courts continues to be an issue. The court is projected to operate at a deficit of \$793,000 for 2025. City Manager Timonere stated the municipality needs to fund the court; however, the level it is being funded at and continues to increase at is the issue. If Council approves the budget, it gives the court the authority to spend \$1.24 million this year. Mr. Timonere stated that if the court continues to ask for increases throughout the year, at some point, someone will have to say "no." Mr. Timonere stated he is not thrilled with the budget but he is content with how it sits.

A Special Meeting is being held to approve the 2025 budget.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

Presentation of Legislation

President Roskovics previewed the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communication 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 - 165

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO FROM JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

Council President Roskovics entertained a motion to waive the reading of the Legislation.

Motion: Council President Roskovics moved to waive the reading of the Legislation; Vice President Simeone 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 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None.

Legislation passed.

Closing Remarks

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, January 6, 2025 in Council Chambers. City Council will hold a Work Session at 5:30 p.m. The Pre-Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

January 6, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg
Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council