



## **City of Ashtabula**

Ashtabula City Council

Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Council Chambers

4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

### Minutes

#### **Opening of Committee Meeting**

##### **Call to Order**

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council Public Works/ Public Utilities/ Cable/ Schools Committee was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Mills.

##### **Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Chair: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Member: Council President John Roskovics

**Absent:** Vice Chair: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero

**Officers Present:** City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg

**Ashtabula Department Heads Present:** Water Pollution Control Superintendent Mark Verzella, Public Works Superintendent John Melnik

**Visitors:** 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.

#### **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors**

##### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager James Timonere stated the Public Works Department has been focusing on snow and ice removal. City officials are working to ensure the City is secure with road salt. An additional 900 tons will be delivered, exhausting the City's quota for the year. City Manager James Timonere stated officials are looking at other distributors to purchase salt if needed. During a typical snow event, approximately 200 to 400 tons of salt is used depending on how much snow is falling. Distribution of salt is also an issue.

City Manager James Timonere submitted a list of roads to be paved to GPD Group and now will work on narrowing that list down. The list that was submitted totaled approximately \$2.4 million. The City will have approximately \$900,000 available for paving this year which will include, design engineering and construction administration as well as the paving. The City has already committed to completing the other half of Columbus Avenue this year, which will cost approximately \$186,000.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked if the City had any grant funding available to assist with the paving cost. City Manager James Timonere stated there are no state paving projects this year; however, both Aqua Ohio and Dominion have some line replacements planned and officials are working to explore possible cost sharing with those entities.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked if Collins Boulevard will get completed this year. City Manager James Timonere stated it will be done in 2026.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked where the road salt is delivered from. Public Works Superintendent John Melnik stated Morton's Salt is in Fairport Harbor and is mined under Lake Erie. City Manager James Timonere stated the City tries to end the year with a surplus of salt. The contract for 2025 allowed orders to be placed beginning in September of last year. Public Works Superintendent John Melnik stated the last four to five years, the City has experienced mild winters which allowed them to reduce the amount of salt. City Manager James Timonere stated the City started the year with 750 tons. The salt is stored at the dome on West Avenue but will need to be moved eventually.

City Manager James Timonere stated the list of roads to be paved this year will not be extensive due to the cost. Public Works Superintendent John Melnik stated the changing temperatures and the freeze and thaw has a big impact on the roads. There has been a lot of cracking since the snow storm in November.

The City passed a renewal levy for roads last year. City Manager James Timonere stated he would never recommend to put a new levy on the ballot instead of a renewal.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked if State Road is a state route. City Manager James Timonere stated only a small portion is considered a state route. The City's responsibility as far as plowing and maintaining is from between E. 41st Street and E. 42nd Street south to Route 84. When it comes to paving, the City's responsibility is from E. 46th Street north to between E. 41st Street or E. 42nd Street.

## **Water Pollution Control Report**

### **WPC Report**

Water Pollution Control Superintendent Mark Verzella provided the report. The 12,000 hour service was completed on the centrifuge the week of December 16, 2024. The reverse osmosis system in the lab had a leak that was repaired on January 21. The overhead door for the maintenance center is on back order. A temporary door is up. Estimated delivery of the door is mid-February. No installation date is scheduled at this time.

The Outfall relocation efforts are underway. Permits were submitted to Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Approval was received from ODNR and officials are still waiting for the final response from Army Corps of Engineers and OEPA.

The completion of annual facility reports are ongoing for industrial pretreatment, air permit, sanitary sewer overflow, mercury pollutant minimization program, and annual sewage sludge. Most of the reports are due by early March.

Officials had a meeting on Ohio Wastewater Monitoring on January 21 to discuss updates on continued sampling efforts. Sampling will continue for the foreseeable future. Results from the sampling efforts can be viewed on the Ohio Department of Health's website.

Crane inspections were completed in December 2024.

Leadership Ashtabula County will tour the facility on February 21 at 8:30 a.m.

Lateral repair projects for the collection system went out for bid in late 2024 but are currently on hold due to weather conditions. The Ohio Avenue Extension sewer project is ongoing.

### **Public Works Report**

Public Works Superintendent John Melnik provided the report. Public Works staff have been keeping up with snow and ice removal as needed. Staff will continue to work on patching potholes created from the weather. City Manager James Timonere stated the City will need to purchase at least two garbage trucks soon. The City currently has four trucks.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked for an update on providing curbside recycling services to the areas of the City where it is not currently available. City Manager James Timonere stated it is still being discussed as far as routes and if it is possible; however, it will all come down to cost. City officials are working with the county Solid Waste District to look at possible grant funding options to help offset the cost.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills stated she received a compliment from a resident on E. 44th Street regarding the snow removal.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked for an update on the light pole at Veterans Park. City Manager James Timonere stated the pole came in last week and the staff is working with the Illuminating Company to coordinate installation.

### **New Business**

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked for an update on the schools. City Manager James Timonere stated he has been in touch with Ashtabula Area City Schools Superintendent Lisa Newsome. Crews have begun disassembling the roof at Lakeside High School to continue the investigation. Everything is going well at the two locations the high school has been moved to. City Manager James Timonere state he has not heard any complaints regarding traffic in those areas. Public Works staff have been treating those roads as needed and accommodating their needs.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked for an update on the cable poles. City Manager James Timonere stated the final tally was 173 and there are very few left that need to be addressed.

### **Next Meeting**

**February 25, 2025**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m. by Committee Chair Mills.