



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council
Safety Forces Committee
Monday, February 10, 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 Safety Forces Committee was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Terence Guerriero.

Roll Call

Members Present: Chair: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Member: Council President John Roskovics

Absent: Vice Chair: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio,

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg

Ashtabula Department Heads Present: Police Chief Robert Stell, Fire Chief Shawn Gruber

Visitors:

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

Special Guest Presentation

Police Department – Chief's Report

Chief Rob Stell provided the report. Calls for service are up for this time of year. The annual calls for service are in line with previous years. Calls for service have declined over the past several years. The Police Department is currently hiring lateral transfers and has received one application thus far. The civil service entrance exam is scheduled for March 23.

City Manager James Timonere stated officials have been working on a formal policy that will allow potential applicants, who transfer from another agency, to transfer their vacation time.

City Manager James Timonere asked for clarification on the number of juvenile arrests in the annual report and whether that number represented the number of juveniles that were transported to the Diversion Center. Chief Rob Stell stated the number reflected in the report does not necessarily mean the juveniles were transported to the Diversion Center.

2024 Annual Report

January 2025 Stats

Fire Department – Chief's Report

Chief Shawn Gruber provided the report. The stats are in line with previous years except for the fire loss amount, which was due to the large ship fire.

Committee Chair Terence Guerriero asked what the typical response time is. Chief Shawn Gruber stated between 4 to 8 minutes depending on the location of the incident and other factors such as traffic and weather. Response times take longer in the Harbor due to there not being an easy way to get there from the Fire Station.

Committee Chair Terence Guerriero stated it has been discussed recently that Community Care Ambulance may be moving the location of its headquarters. City Manager James Timonere said that is a possibility; however, CCAN has one unit dedicated to the City that will remain stationed at a central location in the City.

Chief Shawn Gruber stated he will be retiring in 2026. Candidates for the position of chief will have to take a promotional test, which consists of an oral board exam. The board recommends the top two candidates to the City Manager, who makes the final hiring decision. Chief Shawn Gruber stated he would like to have the test administered this summer so he will have time to train the incoming chief on some of the administrative tasks. The City Manager has to request, through the Civil Service Commission, that the test be given.

2024 Annual Report

City Manager's Report

City Manager James Timonere stated he has started mapping out areas where golf carts will be permitted. He will be working with Chief Rob Stell and Chief Shawn Gruber on finalizing the maps.

City Solicitor's Report

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated her office still has not been able to hire a victim advocate. Arlene Serrano moved over to her office from the Municipal Court Clerk's office, but will be helping train her replacement one day a week. The Solicitor's Office is busy going through police reports and filing charges.

Council President John Roskovics asked if there was a time limit as to when charges can be filed. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated she typically has one year to file charges on misdemeanor cases and longer for felony cases. The Solicitor's Office also handles reports from within the Sheriff's Office's jurisdiction.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Committee Chair Terence Guerriero asked about the possibility of installing side-mount traffic lights at the intersection of Lake Avenue and Route 20 in addition to the ones already there due to the sun making visibility difficult. City Manager James Timonere stated he is not sure that is an option because of the multiple lanes. City Manager James Timonere stated he will reach out to the Ohio Department of Transportation to discuss options.

Next Meeting

March 10, 2025

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m. by Committee Chair Guerriero.