



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2025 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 John Roskovics. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills 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, 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

City Manager James Timonere presented the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 11

A RESOLUTION HONORING BRENDA SANDERS ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

Motion: Council President John Roskovics moved to adopt the Resolution; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, January 21, 2025

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

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

Work Session Minutes, January 21, 2025

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

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

Administrative Reports

Council President John Roskovics stated he called Congressman Dave Joyce's Office to express concern about the cuts in federal funding.

Council President John Roskovics stated in light of the recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids in the surrounding areas, residents are reminded that anyone living in the United States has rights. ICE agents need a warrant to enter a residence. They may enter a business, but there are certain restrictions.

City Manager

The following legislation was requested:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD group to provide design engineering and bid assistance services for the Appalachian Community Grant Program Main Avenue Streetscape Project for an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing a memorandum of understanding modifying the collective bargaining agreement between FOP Lodge 26 (Patrol Officers, Dispatchers and Captains and Lieutenants) and the City of Ashtabula to clarify eligibility for the sick leave buyout program.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement between the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners and the City of Ashtabula for the purpose of providing emergency management services for a period of two years.

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

Discussion: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated the dates were incorrect on the contract.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a service agreement with Lexipol, LLC for law enforcement policy manual updates and training for an amount not to exceed \$29,100.

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

Discussion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked if there will be accountability for the officers taking the training. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated it will be up to the officers' supervisors to ensure the training is implemented.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated officers will also have to take a test after completing each training session.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked for additional information about the training content. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated there are videos officers watch to refresh themselves on training they may have already received but do not always use, as well as new training. The training can be tracked.

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated some of the training covers scenarios that may have never happened in Ashtabula, but the scenarios are happening elsewhere, and it is important for officers to receive the training. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated it is important to keep our officers as safe as possible.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if the service agreement is something that will continue yearly. City Manager James Timonere stated it is an annual agreement. The first year is more expensive due to the onboarding.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked if the training is part of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training that law enforcement officers are required to complete. City Manager James Timonere stated there may be elements of the CIT training incorporated in it, but this training is to ensure officers are trained on departmental policies and procedures as well as to make sure the departmental policies are in compliance and up-to-date with state regulations.
Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter in Community Reinvestment Area Tax Agreements with:

- Chad and Jill Heiser, 1042 Bunker Hill Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004 at 100 percent for seven years
- Romero D. Siler, 1219 Scott Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004 at 100 percent for seven years
- DSTRANS Inc., 1449 Bridge Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004 at 100 percent for seven years
- DSTRANS Inc., 1447 Bridge Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004 at 100 percent for seven years

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

City Manager James Timonere asked for a voice vote to reappoint Jim Triskett to the Administrative Review Board with a term to expire on 12/7/2029. Council unanimously approved the appointment.

City Manager James Timonere stated officials are still waiting to hear whether the City will receive any funding from the November snowstorm.

City Manager James Timonere stated Senator Sandra O'Brien is trying to do away with the 2 percent bed tax the county collects for economic development. These funds are brought into the community by visitors, not by residents unless they choose to stay at a hotel or Air B&B in the county. These funds are used to further economic development and tourism. City Manager James Timonere requested City Council members pass a resolution opposing this.

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

Discussion: City Manager James Timonere clarified that it is the county bed tax, not the city's.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper if a resolution was the appropriate document or if council members should write a letter. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated a resolution will have more impact. City Manager James Timonere stated a resolution will also be documented in the meeting minutes, whereas a letter would not.

Motion passed.

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated her office received notification today about House Bill 26, which is co-sponsored by State Representative Sarah Fowler Arthur. The Bill would require state and local law enforcement agencies to assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers upon request. It would require local law enforcement agencies to report illegal aliens and detain them upon request. Any state or local agency that failed to comply or any municipality that enacted legislation that would hinder employees from complying with the Patriot Act, an executive order of the President pertaining to Homeland Security or from cooperating with state or federal terrorism investigations, would lose its funding.

Finance Director

No report.

Clerk of Council

No report.

City Council Committee Reports

The Ad Hoc Committee Exploring Racism as a Public Health Crisis will meet on February 20, 2025 and the next Racial Wealth Gap Simulation will be held on February 27, 2025 at Kent State University.

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

February 5

March 5

April 2

May 7

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

March 21

April 18

May 16

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

February 25

March 25

April 22

Committee Chair Jodi Mills provided the report.

Residents are reminded to report streetlight outages to the Illuminating Company and to be sure the lights are replaced with an LED head.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

February 10

March 10

April 14

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

Presentation of Legislation

Council President John 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. 2025 - 12

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GPD GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DESIGN ENGINEERING AND BID ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR THE APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM MAIN AVENUE STREETScape PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.00

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 13

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING TO MODIFY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN FOP LODGE 26 (PATROL OFFICERS, DISPATCHERS AND CAPTAINS & LIEUTENANTS) AND THE CITY OF ASHTABULA TO CLARIFY ELEGIBILITY FOR THE SICK LEAVE BUYOUT PROGRAM

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 14

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED EQUIPMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 15

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY MANUAL UPDATES AND TRAINING WITH LEXIPOL LLC FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$29,100.00

Council President John Roskovics asked for 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 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, 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 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, moved to waive the reading of the legislation; 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.

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.

Motion: None

Unfinished Business

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked if the City was hiring. City Manager James Timonere stated there are several open positions listed on the City's website.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo attended the Stepping Up Initiative meeting. It was discussed that mental health is the underlying cause of homelessness, drug addiction and crime. The meeting was very informative.

Vice President Russell Simeone stated he has received some complaints regarding snow plowing near W. 44th Street and large snow piles.

New Business

CLM&M Inc DBA Shenanigans Sports Hall liquor license request

The business is located in Ward 4. There are no concerns.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated History on Tap will be held at Cloven Hoof Brewery on February 11, 2025 at 6 p.m. The topics will be the lift bridge, the bascule bridge and the Maritime Museum.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated the Ashtabula County Commissioners will hold two meetings on February 12 regarding a new proposal for the Ashtabula County Jail. The meetings will be held at noon and 6 p.m.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated February is Black History Month, and she encourages everyone to learn more about the contributions black Americans have made to the United States. A book and movie viewing about the life of Rosa Parks will be held at the Ashtabula District Library on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 6 p.m. The NAACP is sponsoring an event at Edgewood High School on February 15, 2025 from 12 to 4 p.m.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated February is Heart Awareness Month. The month is dedicated to raising awareness about heart disease and promoting healthy heart habits. The Access to Care Meeting at the Health Department featured a guest speaker, Sonya Vezmar, from the American Heart Association, who will be working locally in the county to raise awareness.

Oakhill Collaborative will be offering computer classes at Huntington Bank on Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information, call 330-406-0731 or visit www.oakhillcollaborative.org/ashtabula.

The Youngstown Business Incubator event for small business taxes was held virtually last month. The event was well-attended and informative. There are new business taxes for 2025. There are ways to sign up for new tax alerts. The ADDA will be working to provide a link on its website. The group is working on securing lenders to assist with the Appalachian Grant program loans.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated that in honor of Heart Awareness Month, she has been walking two miles every day.

Public Communications on General Matters

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. by Council President John Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 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:

February 18, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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