



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council
Safety Forces Committee
Monday, March 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, Vice Chair: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Member: Council President John Roskovics

Absent:

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, 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 consistent with past years at this time of year. The civil service entrance exam is scheduled for March 23. There will be several vacancies within the department due to retirements. Details are still being finalized for the promotional exam for lieutenant. The exam included some general knowledge and law enforcement-related questions. The test is purchased and administered by an outside company. There are currently two lieutenants but two more will be added during the promotional process.

APD February 2025 Stats

Fire Department – Chief’s Report

Chief Shawn Gruber provided the report. Stats remain average for this time of year. The fire department will need to look at purchasing a back-up squad in the future. The second out squad is declining and will need to be replaced soon. The new fire engine is expected by March 2026.

AFD February 2025 Stats

City Manager’s Report

City Manager James Timonere has been working with Chief Rob Stell to update the seniority policy for lateral transfers, so potential transfers will not lose their vacation time from other departments. This will also allow current employees that have transferred to receive their vacation time from their previous department.

City Solicitor's Report

Unfinished Business

Golf cart legislation

City Manager James Timonere has been working on mapping out roads where golf carts will be permitted in the City. The goal is to keep golf carts off of the main roads and heavily traveled roads, but still allow people to get where they need to go. Essentially, golf carts will be permitted to cross those roads or, if someone lives on those roads, they can get to one of the side streets off of those roads. City Manager James Timonere does not recommend allowing golf carts on roads with a speed limit of 35 mph or higher.

Ryan Humphrey, of Walnut Boulevard, urged committee members to reconsider allowing golf carts in the City. He cited Put-in-Bay as an example, stating the area could be upscale but is more of a party area because of the golf carts. He stated that if the area was near a golf course or was a gated community, golf carts would make sense. He feels like golf carts are already a nuisance on Bridge Street and people use them as a way to get out of OVI citations.

City Manager James Timonere stated golf carts will have to have turn signals and lights and be certified by the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office as legal to be on the road.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated the committee is trying to establish rules to help eliminate many of the concerns that Mr. Humphrey has.

City Manager James Timonere stated another concern to be considered is parking for golf carts.

New Business

Next Meeting

April 14, 2025

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m. by Committee Chair Guerriero.