



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, March 17, 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. Council President John Roskovics offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Absent: Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo, Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin

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

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to excuse Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Nays: None

The motion to excuse the absence was adopted.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to excuse Vice President Russell Simeone; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Nays: None

The motion to excuse the absence was adopted

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

Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, March 3, 2025

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerrier seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

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

After the minutes were approved, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman requested that the word "simulator" be corrected to "simulation" in reference to the Racial Wealth Gap Simulation mentioned during the public comments.

Administrative Reports

Council President John Roskovics stated that Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin submitted her resignation, effective March 17, 2025. She will stay on through May to satisfy the terms of her contract and assist with training a replacement. City Council will begin an earnest search for a replacement.

City Manager

The following legislation was requested:

An ordinance to enter into a contract with Brobst Tree & Stump Service for yard waste disposal services and/or materials for the City of Ashtabula for an amount not to exceed \$11,400.00.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

A resolution declaring it necessary to renew an existing levy of a three-tenths (0.3) mill tax for a period of five (5) years to assist the Ashtabula County Council on Aging, Inc. with the cost of operating and maintaining its senior citizens service center in the City of Ashtabula.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

A resolution declaring it necessary to renew an existing levy of a one and one-half (1.5) mill tax for a period of five (5) years to provide for and maintain city parks with necessary equipment, staff, and funds for infrastructure.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to amend the agreement with Capp Steel Erectors, Inc. to increase the scope of work for the Walnut Beach Inclusive Playground and Sidewalks Project in an amount not to exceed \$6,025.00.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to approve the City Manager's request; Council President John Roskovics seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

City Manager James Timonere stated once the additional work is completed at the inclusive playground, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held. The City is also hiring part-time seasonal employees. Information can be found on the City's website. The Civil Service entrance exam will be

held March 23, 2025. Ashtabula Fire Department Chief Shawn Gruber is also retiring in 2026 so the City will be conducting a promotional exam for that position. There are two internal candidates that will sit for the exam.

City officials have been working on creating a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). Once the DORA is in place, visitors to that specific area will be able to purchase adult beverages and walk around the area with them. The process is not difficult, but it is lengthy and requires a number of public meetings. Initially, the DORA will be in the Harbor area with plans to designate a second DORA on Main Avenue in the future. City Manager James Timonere stated this has been a big economic driver in other areas that have created them. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked what the timeframe is to have the DORA in place. City Manager James Timonere stated he would like to have it in place by June or July. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked if the DORA would include Walnut Beach. City Manager James Timonere stated it would not be included.

Public Works staff have been working on pothole patching as the weather allows. The 2025 paving program is being assembled by GPD Group and will hopefully be published soon.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if there was legislation or anything the City Council could do to encourage property owners to keep their properties clean, specifically, repeat offenders who are being cited several times. City Manager James Timonere stated he has been discussing this issue with his staff and trying to determine whether the City can declare properties a nuisance.

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated her office filed its first civil petition for injunctive relief against a homeowner who has not kept their property maintained. A large part of the problem with these properties is the owners do not live locally.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

No report.

Clerk of Council

Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg stated that an ordinance to approve current replacement pages to the Ashtabula Codified Ordinances is on the agenda. The legislation includes updates to City Council members and City Officials, adds approved ordinances from 2024 and updates State law changes to the Administrative Code, Traffic Code, and General Offenses Code.

City Council Committee Reports

The Ad Hoc Committee Exploring Racism as a Public Health Crisis will meet March 20, 2025 at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers.

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

April 2

May 7

June 4

July 2

Vice Chair Jodi Mills provided the report. Discussion on food truck legislation continued. Assistant Solicitor Catherine Colgan was the guest and presented updated draft legislation. The legislation is a work in progress and will continue until completed.

City Manager James Timonere provided updates on work that is planned for the parks to prepare for the upcoming season.

The City Clean-up will be held on May 17, 2025 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. with lunch to follow at the Ashtabula District Library, courtesy of Signature Health.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

March 25

April 22

May 27

June 24

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

April 14

May 12

June 9

July 14

Committee Chair Terence Guerriero provided the report. The Civil Service entrance exam is scheduled for March 23, 2025. The committee continued its discussion on golf cart legislation.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

Council President Roskovics provided the report. The Historic Preservation Commission approved a new pavilion at Fat Sally's Warehouse, on the west side of the building, for outdoor markets and other events. A sign was approved for a garage at the top of Morton Drive for Castle Railings and for a new barber shop on Bridge Street. Landscaping was discussed for Carlisle Park and the park on Bridge Street near the river.

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 - 30

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE ASHTABULA CODIFIED ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 31

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR YARD WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES AND/OR MATERIALS WITH BROBST TREE & STUMP SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$11,400

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 32

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW AN EXISTING LEVY OF A THREE-TENTHS (0.3) MILL TAX FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS TO ASSIST THE ASHTABULA COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING, INC. WITH THE COST OF OPERATING AND MAINTAINING ITS SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICE CENTER IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 33

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW AN EXISTING LEVY OF A ONE AND ONE-HALF (1.5) MILL TAX FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS TO PROVIDE FOR AND MAINTAIN CITY PARKS WITH NECESSARY EQUIPMENT, STAFF AND FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 34

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT WITH CAPP STEEL ERECTORS, INC. TO INCREASE THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE WALNUT BEACH INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AND SIDEWALKS NOT TO EXCEED \$6,025.00

Council President John Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda.

Motion: Council President John Roskovics, 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, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence

Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Nays: None

Legislation passed.

Motion: None

Unfinished Business

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked about trees that had been cut down on Columbus Avenue and if they were going to be removed. City Manager James Timonere stated the Illuminating Company assisted the City in removing those trees as they were jeopardizing some of the electrical lines. As soon as the weather permits, the trees will be taken care of.

New Business

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked about the process for posting the Finance Director position. Council President Roskovics stated he provided Council members with a copy of the job description to review. If there are no changes suggested, he would like the position posted by the end of the week.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated the Remote Area Medical Clinic will be held on March 22 and March 23.

Council members and City Officials recently toured the Feed Our Vets facility. Anyone wishing to donate plastic bags, non-perishable food items, and hygiene items, can do so on the third Friday of every month.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that there was an interesting article in the Star Beacon recently regarding Community Reinvestment Areas, also known as tax abatements. She encouraged everyone to read the article.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated a new business, Happy Etchings, located at 142 W. 46th Street, will host a ribbon cutting and grand opening on Saturday, March 29 at 9 a.m.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated there would be a film screening about Shirley Chisolm on March 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Kent State University Ashtabula Campus Stocker Hall in recognition of International Women's History Month.

City Manager James Timonere stated City income tax preparation began March 17 in Council Chambers. City residents who need assistance preparing and filing their City income taxes can come to Council Chambers from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Public Communications on General Matters

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, April 7, 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.

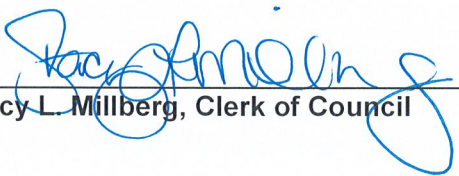
DATE APPROVED:

April 7, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:



Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council