



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, March 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: Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin

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

Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, February 18, 2025

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

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

Administrative Reports

City Manager

The following legislation was requested:

An ordinance to enter into an Appalachian Community Grant Program sub-recipient grant agreement with Eastgate Regional Council of Governments for the purpose of the design phase of the downtown revitalization project within the City of Ashtabula.

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 authorizing a contract for stormwater review and inspection engineering design and

construction administration with the GPD Group for the City of Ashtabula in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

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

Discussion: City Manager James Timonere stated this has to do with the City's MS4 permit with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. It will go into the stormwater review plans that any kind of new construction or any disturbance of over an acre has to follow the guidelines of the MS4 permit. The \$15,000 fee is a maximum amount. The cost of reviewing the plans will be passed on to the developer.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a residential Community Reinvestment Area Tax Agreement with David Muraco, 311 Pennsylvania Avenue, Ashtabula OH 4400 at 100 percent for seven (7) years at Permanent Parcel Number 68-406-00-021-00.

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

Discussion: The structure is a duplex.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a commercial Community Reinvestment Area Tax Agreement with Aiken Family Group LLC, 1028/1032 Bridge Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004 at 75 percent for 10 years for remodeling purposes at Permanent Parcel Number 68-410-00-047-00.

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

Discussion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked if the building had ever received a tax abatement in the past. City Manager James Timonere stated it had not received a tax abatement during his tenure. The building currently houses the Made in Ohio t-shirt shop and the 1032 Tattoo shop.

Motion passed.

A meeting will be held on Monday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ashtabula District Library, for Main Avenue building and business owners to discuss the Appalachian Community Grant Program, specifically, the facade portion. Representatives from LDA and Eastgate will be there to answer questions. The City has until October 2026 to spend the funds.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

No report.

Clerk of Council

No report.

City Council Committee Reports

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee Exploring Racism as a Public Health Crisis will be 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

March 5

April 2

May 7

June 4

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

Committee Chair Jodi Mills provided the report. The committee hosted Ashtabula Area City Schools Superintendent Lisa Newsome, who gave an update on the roof collapse at Lakeside High School, and Dr. John Patterson, who spoke about the Fair School Funding Plan. The committee voted to draft a resolution in support of the Fair School Funding Plan.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills made a motion to bring the resolution out of committee. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked if cracks in the roads are sealed as she has seen this done in other cities. City Manager James Timonere stated the city does crack sealing. Typically, the focus is on roads that have been paved within the past few years.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked if Superintendent Lisa Newsome discussed the graduation rates, academic achievements of students, or attendance rates. Committee Chair Jodi Mills stated the presentation focused only on the roof collapse.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked if the hotline to report potholes is active. City Manager James Timonere stated the phone number is 440-992-7100 and is available on the City's website on the Public Works page.

Streetlight outages can be reported on the City's website. Residents are asked to specify that the lights are replaced with an LED head per the City's contract with the Illuminating Company.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 27

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR FULFILLING OHIO'S CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE TO FUND A THOROUGH AND EFFICIENT PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 28

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM SUB-RECIPIENT GRANT AGREEMENT WITH EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE DESIGN PHASE OF THE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 29

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR STORMWATER REVIEW AND INSPECTION ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION WITH GPD GROUP FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000

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

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; 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 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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 Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills 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 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that City Council members previously discussed moving forward with finding a firm to conduct an equity audit for the City. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated she and City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper received an email from an individual who conducts these types of audits, and she asked how Council would like to proceed. President John Roskovics asked if the individual provided a cost estimate or an explanation of what the audit entails. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated it was just a broad overview. President John Roskovics asked if that information could be shared with council members. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated the email can be shared; however, when council decides to proceed with the equity audit, it will have to go through a bidding process. A request for proposal will have to be put together and then put out to bid. President John Roskovics stated more information is needed before a request for proposal can be compiled. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked for clarification on what exactly an equity audit is and what will be learned from it. Council President John Roskovics stated council members will need to determine what all is entailed before moving forward. Council President John Roskovics asked council members to review the email from the firm and compile questions they would like answered.

New Business

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked who inspects the railroad underpasses and how information on those inspections can be obtained. City Manager James Timonere stated the railroad inspects them and if City officials are in communication with the railroad regarding two of the underpasses regarding the next steps for repairs.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated that Our Lady of Peace Parish is hosting its Lenten Fish Dinners every Friday during Lent from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Our Lady of Peace Community Center. The menu is available online at olopparish.org.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills attended the 5th Annual Feed Our Vets event at Norman D Banquet Center. She met with Director Traci Bidwell who offered to give Council members a tour of the facility next week. Libby Jenkins of the Veterans Service Commission also discussed the programs that the office provides. Greg Elliott, also of the Veterans Service Commission, contacted her to offer assistance to veterans in the City who need assistance with housing, food, or clothing. His information was forwarded to City Manager James Timonere and Police Chief Rob Stell.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated the Annual City Clean Up will take place on Saturday, May 17 from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills reminded residents of the time change on March 8. She also stated that

the Cleveland Clinic will be offering free cancer screenings and educational opportunities in Ashtabula County.

Public Communications on General Matters

Rebecca Quirke, Ward 2, stated the call for more industry in Ashtabula raises environmental concerns, especially given the high cancer rates being reported in the area. Ms. Quirke also stated she attended the Ad Hoc wage gap, and it was engaging and provided a lot of information.

Cindy Herda, 517 Hulbert Ave, asked if there had been any discussion about repairing the roads around the new Riverbend Hotel. She owns a property on South Hulbert Avenue, and it is a very dangerous road, especially in the winter when there is snow and ice. City Manager James Timonere stated the City blocks off the road when road conditions are dangerous. Eventually, the brick will be stripped, and the road will be paved. However, it is not on the schedule for this year. Even after it is paved, the road will still need to be shut down when there is snow and ice due to the steep hill.

Jennifer Shannon, West 3rd Street, discussed concerns about her street. City Manager James Timonere stated West 3rd Street is on the list to be paved this year. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if there were any grant programs available to redo the street with brick since it's historical. City Manager James Timonere stated there are not any grants, and it is too costly to replace the brick.

Bill Callahan, of Pierpont, spoke about the Connect Your Community program, and the Ashtabula Community Technology Action Center, located in the Huntington Bank building off West 44th Street. The program offers free computer classes hosted by Oak Hill Collaborative. Classes are held every Wednesday and Friday at 1 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Classes consist of email basics, online safety, Microsoft Office and more. Participants can earn a free laptop after taking five classes. For more information and to register for classes, residents can visit www.oakhillcollaborative.com or call 330-406-0731.

County Commissioner JP Ducro discussed the upcoming Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic. Council members are invited to come and do a walk-through of the clinic to see how it works. The event is on March 22 and March 23 at Lakeside Junior High School. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked about the parking process. Commissioner Ducro said there would be individuals in the parking lot directing visitors to the clinic. Visitors will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis and will be given a number as they arrive. Visitors will receive a text when it is their turn to come in.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m. by Council President John Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, March 17, 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:

March 17, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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