



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, April 21, 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 7:02 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, 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, April 7, 2025

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

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

Administrative Reports

President John Roskovics stated City Council will hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of Personnel: Employment.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to request an ordinance appointing James Goffe as the Director of Finance for a three-year period at a salary of \$92,000 per year; President John Roskovics seconded.

Discussion: City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper asked when Council would like the contract to start. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated she would contact Mr. Goffe and advise Ms. Cooper of a starting date.

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.

City Manager

City Manager James Timonere asked for a voice vote to waive the tipping fees for the Ashtabula River clean-up held on Saturday, April 12 as the City's contribution to the event.

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.

The following legislation was requested:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with IEN Risk Management Consultants, LLC for the purpose of providing health insurance consulting services for the City of Ashtabula to be paid for from Fund 602.

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 to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding amending the January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Ashtabula and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ashtabula Lodge No. 26 ("FOP").

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: The years of service held in another department will be recognized for calculating vacation time for lateral transfers.

Motion passed.

An ordinance repealing existing Codified Ordinance Section 141.11 for the purpose of enacting replacement legislation regarding years of service requirements for lateral transfers to the Police Department.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

An ordinance enacting new Codified Ordinance Section 141.11 for the purpose of enacting replacement legislation regarding years of service requirements for lateral transfers to the Police Department.

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

Discussion: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if the reason for the change was due to it being difficult to find candidates with three or more years of experience. City Manager James Timonere stated that it was. Additionally, the City recently gave a Civil Service entrance exam where six people sat for the test. Two people have accepted offers elsewhere. Once they accept an offer at another agency, they will have to wait three years before they can get hired as a lateral transfer, under the current legislation. The City will have seven openings in the Police Department by the end of the year.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Karvo Companies, Inc. with a mailing address of 4524 Hudson Dr., Stow, OH 44224 for the purpose of providing street paving for the City of Ashtabula for an amount not to exceed \$928,371.50. Funding for this project will be taken from Funds 212, 209, and 219.

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

Discussion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked who ensures the City is getting what it's supposed to with the paving projects. City Manager James Timonere stated GPD Group handles all the construction engineering, contract administration and site overview for the project. Streets included in this year's paving project include: Thayer Avenue between E. 13th Street and W. 15th Street; E. 17th Street east of Columbus Avenue; Harmon Avenue; Franklin Avenue from Bridge Street to W. 3rd Street; W. 3rd Street from Lake Avenue to Franklin Avenue; W. 32nd Street from Station Avenue to Ann Avenue; W. 34th Street from Lake Avenue to Station Avenue; Fern Avenue from State Route 20 to W. 47th Street; Chestnut Avenue; Pleasantview south of Carpenter Road; E. 44th Street from State Road to Rodgers Road; McCreery Avenue; W. 50th Street from West Avenue to Jefferson Avenue; Stark Avenue; and, McKinley Avenue.

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to prepare and submit an application for financial assistance with the Ohio Department of Development and to execute the agreements as required for the Home Technical Assistance Program.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: The grant will assist with the cost of the Master Plan update.

Motion passed.

Leaf bag pick-up has started.

The City Manager has submitted the formal application for the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) for the Harbor District. Now that the application has been submitted, there will be time for the public and Council members to discuss the application.

Ward 2 Councilor Terrence Guerriero stated that there is a very large pothole on Harbor Avenue between E. 21st Street and E. 23rd Street that needs to be addressed now that hot mix can be purchased. City Manager James Timonere stated he would have the Public Works staff look into it.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked if a permit is required to hold an event at one of the City parks. City Manager James Timonere stated that a permit is required, so the City is aware that the event is taking place. There is no cost.

President John Roskovics reminded Council members that the City Manager provided Council with a list of 12 items he is requesting moratoriums on while the City updates its zoning. He encouraged Council members to think about any concerns they may have and bring them up for discussion.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated that the moratoriums will be the topic of discussion at the May 7 Community Development / Economic Development / Parks & Recreation Committee meeting. City Manager James Timonere stated the 12 items he provided were suggestions and the Council will ultimately decide which ones they would like to move forward with. The moratoriums would be temporary until the zoning update is complete. City Manager James Timonere anticipates that it will take between one year and one and a half years.

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper provided an update on the Victim's of Crime advocate that will be shared between the City and the County. The County has received grant funding to cover the cost of its portion and Ms. Cooper expects to present an ordinance authorizing the contract at an upcoming meeting.

Finance Director

City Manager James Timonere provided the report in Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin's absence.

The following legislation was requested:

An ordinance to make supplemental increases to appropriations in the Court Special Projects Fund and all other funds listed on Exhibit A for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2025.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to make supplemental increases to appropriations in the General Fund, Permanent Improvement Fund and all other funds listed on Exhibit A for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2025.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the Finance Director's request; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

Clerk of Council

No report.

City Council Committee Reports

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

May 7

June 4

July 2

August 6

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

Committee Chair Kym Foglio provided the report. Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin updated the committee on the City's expenses and revenue as well as its investments. The committee also discussed a Charter change to increase the City Manager's purchasing limit. The committee agreed on a proposed increase of \$75,000. The issue will have to be placed on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

April 22

May 27

June 24

July 22

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

May 12

June 9

July 14

August 11

Committee Chair Terrence Guerriero provided the report. The committee discussed golf cart legislation and decided the matter should be presented to Council for the decision to proceed or not.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked for Police Chief Rob Stell's position on golf carts, as when the discussion began a few years ago he was opposed to the idea. Chief Stell stated that he was opposed to it a few years ago, but he has changed his position now and feels it will encourage tourism as long as it is restricted to certain areas where it is safe. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo questioned whether allowing golf carts is a good idea with the current staffing situation in the Police Department. Chief Stell stated that hopefully the staffing issues will be temporary as the City is working on filling the vacancies in the department. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked for the City Manager's position on the matter. City Manager James Timonere stated that he does not think allowing golf carts throughout the entire City is a good idea, but he suggested looking at the areas that make sense. Council President John Roskovics stated that the discussion has been ongoing for some time and Council needs to make a decision whether it wishes to proceed with legislation. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked for the rationale behind which streets golf carts will be allowed on, and raised other safety concerns. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that the golf carts would have to be registered and pass a safety inspection conducted by the Police Department. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated that her concern is that Bridge Street is a narrow street. She believes the DORA will pass and allowing golf carts will be a mistake. City Manager James Timonere stated that Council can spell out the legislation however they choose. Whatever Council comes up with, such as what roads they can drive on, which areas they can be in, the times that they can operate, etc. Council has the ability to put whatever it wants in the ordinance. Golf carts are currently not being cited as the issue has been in the discussion phase. City Manager James Timonere stated that if Council decides not to proceed with legislation, the Police Department will begin issuing citations.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to have golf cart legislation drafted; 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.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

The Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission approved the plans for Carlisle Park by the river. A sign was approved for a new barber shop as well.

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 - 50

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE(S) TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO AMEND THE JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, ASHTABULA LODGE NO. 26 ("FOP")

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 51

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 141.11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION REGARDING YEARS OF SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR LATERAL TRANSFERS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 52

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 141.11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION REGARDING YEARS OF SERVICE REQUIRED FOR LATERAL TRANSFERS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 53

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 54

AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH IEN RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 55

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS AS REQUIRED FOR THE HOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 56

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KARVO COMPANIES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$928,371.50 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAVING CITY STREETS

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 57

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE COURT SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND AND ALL OTHER FUNDS LISTED ON EXHIBIT A FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 58

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND AND ALL OTHER FUNDS LISTED ON EXHIBIT A FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 59

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO, THE QUESTION OF A RENEWAL OF A TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE-TENTHS (0.3) MILLS FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS, FOR EACH DOLLAR OF TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COST OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS BY APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE ASHTABULA COUNCIL ON AGING, INC., A NONPROFIT OHIO CORPORATION WITH TAX-EXEMPT STATUS UNDER SECTION 501(c)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 5705.19, 5705.191 AND 5705.25 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE; SAID LEVY TO APPEAR UPON THE TAX DUPLICATE OF SAID CITY OF ASHTABULA, ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO, FOR THE TAX YEARS 2026 TO 2030, INCLUSIVE

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 60

A RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025, THE QUESTION OF THE RENEWAL OF AN EXISTING TAX LEVY AT A RATE OF ONE AND ONE-HALF (1.5) MILLS PER YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS FOR PARKS AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES

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 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo 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

New Business

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked that a flag pole be erected at Smith Field. City Manager James Timonere stated there is a flag pole at Smith Field. The pulley system needs to be repaired, and then a flag will be displayed.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that a Kite Fest will be held at the Ashtabula Public Library on May 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event provides an opportunity to learn how to fly and build kites. The event is open to children from the ages of 6 to 14. Participants will receive a free kite or toy airplane.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines stated that the Ashtabula Arts Center is hosting an "Empty Bowls" event on Friday, April 25, 2025. Money raised from the event will benefit Feed Our Vets.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated that a volunteer fair will be held at the Ashtabula Public Library on Friday, April 25, 2025 from noon to 2 p.m. The event will provide an opportunity to learn about various volunteer opportunities that are available throughout the county.

Council President Roskovics stated that the Ashtabula Area Chamber of Commerce will host ribbon-cutting ceremonies at Harbor Medical Clinic and Harbor Gardens on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at noon.

Public Communications on General Matters

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. in Council Chambers for a Special Meeting for the purpose of Personnel - Employment. The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on Monday, May 5, 2025. The Pre-Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

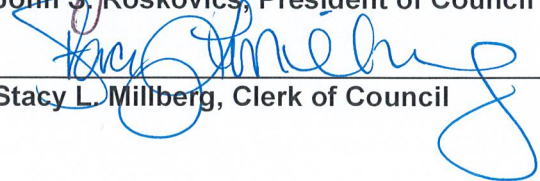
May 5, 2025

ATTESTED BY:



John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:



Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council