



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council
Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting
Friday, May 16, 2025 at 8:30 AM
Council Chambers
4230 Lake Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council Finance and Personnel Committee was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Committee Chair Kym Foglio.

Roll Call

Members Present: Chair: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Vice Chair: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines, Member: President John Roskovics

Absent: none

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Assistant City Solicitor Catherine Colgan, Finance Director Vladimir Kan, Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg, Assistant Finance Director Carolyn Sheldon, Water Pollution Control Superintendent Mark Verzella, Chief Rob Stell

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

Introduction of New Finance Director Vladimir Kan

Committee Chair Kym Foglio introduced the City's new Director of Finance, Vladimir Kan.

Finance Director's Report

Assistant Finance Director Carolyn Sheldon provided the report. Real estate taxes were received in April. The City grossed \$3,051,125 and paid \$92,692 in fees to the County. Court fines are down, but the Finance Department received a journal entry from the court stating the minimum fines will be increased beginning May 5. Income tax collections were down this year. The Finance Department processed 3,310 income tax returns. The total outstanding on returns is \$110,942. Collections, including interest collected, from the Ohio Attorney General's Office is \$813,797. The outstanding balance of accounts with the Ohio Attorney General's Office is \$482,756. Revenues and expenses are tracking where they should be.

City Manager's Report

The seasonal employees have been hired and have begun working. The chief's exam was certified by the Civil Service Commission on May 15. There are two candidates for the position. Chief Shawn Gruber will be retiring in April or May of next year. The entrance exam for the police has not been

certified yet as there are still candidates that need to complete the physical agility test. The police department is still actively looking for lateral transfers. City Manager James Timonere stated he has been discussing other options with Chief Rob Stell to alleviate some of the workload of the officers. The police department will also be giving a lieutenant test in approximately six to eight weeks. All five union contracts for City employees will be negotiated at the end of the year.

Vice-Chair Jane DiGiacomo suggested offering a retention bonus to employees.

Chief Rob Stell stated the hourly rate is important. The City offers a pension pick-up, and he suggested eliminating that and converting it to what it would equate to towards an hourly rate.

City Manager James Timonere stated that there is a lot that will need to be discussed during contract negotiations. The City may even consider opening up the police contract earlier.

Vice-Chair Jane DiGiacomo asked when the code enforcement officer would be hired. City Manager James Timonere could not provide an exact date, but stated officials are getting close to being able to hire a code enforcement officer.

The City will be doing some work for Conneaut Creek Ship Repair, which will net approximately \$250,000.

New Business

Old Business

Assistant City Solicitor Catherine Colgan stated she would have an ordinance for the May 19, 2025 Council meeting to amend Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg's contract to allow for flex time as well as an education reimbursement agreement. She also discussed a change to the composition ordinance regarding the number of lieutenants in the police department.

Motion: Vice-Chair Jane DiGiacomo moved to make the suggested change to the composition ordinance regarding the number of lieutenants in the police department; Committee Chair Kym Foglio seconded.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Human Resources Position and Update on Replacing Assistant Finance Director

City Manager James Timonere stated it will Finance Director Vladimir Kan's decision on an assistant finance director. He suggested waiting until Finance Director Kan gets settled before discussing it further.

Next Meeting

June 20, 2025

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 a.m. by Committee Chair Kym Foglio.