



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council
Safety Forces Committee
Monday, May 12, 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: Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper

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. Another officer is retiring from the police department. The police department will have eight openings. A job offer was given to one individual as a lateral transfer.

Committee Chair Terence Guerriero asked about the vehicle fleet. Chief Rob Stell stated the department could use approximately six new vehicles.

APD April 2025 Stats

Fire Department – Chief’s Report

Chief Shawn Gruber provided the report. Stats are consistent with the last couple of years. It's also the time of year that the fire department will begin receiving water calls.

AFD April 2025 Stats

City Manager’s Report

The Civil Service test for the fire department was certified. The entrance exam for the police department will be certified soon. Officials will be scheduling a lieutenant test for the police department. The chief test for the fire department was administered. The City Manager will interview

the two candidates before making a decision. The police department is still looking for lateral transfers. Changing the legislation to recognize years of service when calculating vacation time is expected to help.

City Solicitor's Report

Unfinished Business

Golf Cart Legislation

City Manager James Timonere stated he had received concerns from some of the businesses on Bridge Street about golf carts. There does not seem to be much support for golf carts. There are times when they are beneficial, such as running shuttles during festivals, but as an everyday mode of transportation, he is not sure if it is a good idea.

Council President John Roskovics stated that he is in favor of having legislation drafted for council to vote on.

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that the committee needs to determine where they would like golf carts to be permitted, and a timeframe for when they are permitted. Each owner will be required to have their golf cart inspected by local law enforcement, so the police department will have to have a designated person to inspect them. The City will also have to provide stickers for the vehicles indicating they have been inspected. Each vehicle will have to be registered and titled by the State.

Council President John Roskovics suggested the allowable area should be north of the Lake Avenue overpass, extending east to the City Limits and west to the City Limits. The timeframe for allowing golf carts should be May 1 to October 1 each year.

Motion: Council President John Roskovics moved to bring golf cart legislation discussion out of committee for council to vote on; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

New Business

Next Meeting

June 9, 2025

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. by Committee Chair Terence Guerriero.