



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, May 5, 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 7:01 p.m. by Council President John Roskovics. Council Vice-President Russell Simeone 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Absent: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin, Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to excuse Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

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

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio and Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero presented the Resolutions.

President John Roskovics announced an Executive Session would convene off-camera to discuss personnel and employment.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve an executive session; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 62

A RESOLUTION HONORING GERALD CORNELIUS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 63

A RESOLUTION HONORING JAMES OATMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 64

A RESOLUTION HONORING JAMES JANEK ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, April 21, 2025

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

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

Special Council Meeting Minutes, April 23, 2025

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

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

Administrative Reports

President John Roskovics asked for a motion to add Ordinance Number 2025-68 to the agenda. An ordinance repealing ordinance 2025-61 which appointed James Goffe as Director of Finance.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to approve the President's request; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to request an ordinance to employ Vladimir Kan as Director of Finance, effective May 19, 2025; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

President John Roskovics announced the City Council will convene a Special Meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 5:15 p.m. for the purpose of Personnel: Employment.

City Manager

City Manager James Timonere asked for a voice vote to approve the lateral hiring of Brenden Adams as a Patrol Officer at the Step 3 Pay Grade for the City of Ashtabula Police Department.

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to enter into a contract with Hudson Communications LLC., of Pierpont, Ohio, to purchase radios and related equipment for the Ashtabula Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$13,810. Funding for this project will be taken out of Fund 412.

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 to vacate a portion of Boyd Street at the request of Mr. and Mrs. Penna to improve access to their home.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Acrisure Insurance Agency, 41 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH, as a manager for the City of Ashtabula's Liability, Property, Casualty, and Auto Insurance Program for up to a period of three years.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

The following legislation was requested for a future meeting:

An ordinance to enter into a commercial Community Reinvestment Area Tax Agreement with KSS Enterprises LLC (Childcare Center) at 5614 Poplar Avenue with a requested 75 percent for 10 years.

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

Discussion: There is a total investment of \$585,000 and there are eight full-time and seven part-time employees. This notice was sent to the school board with no comments received back. This is a new location for Kids Only Learning Center. The site is a former church, so there has been no property tax collected as churches are exempt. Property taxes will be collected for the 2025 tax period, which will be collected in 2026, for the current value of the property. The abatement will be for the difference between the current value and the new value once the renovations are completed.

Motion passed.

An ordinance requesting the continuation of 10 commercial tax abatements at the recommendation of the Tax Incentive Review Council.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing the City Manager's office to prepare and file an application for an Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks public recreation grant in the amount of \$25,762 for bleachers at Massucci Field.

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

Discussion: None.
Motion passed.

Work on the inclusive playground at Walnut Beach is finishing up. The land has been leveled out and hydro-seated. The playground company is scheduled to do a final inspection. City officials are working with the Ashtabula County Board of Developmental Disabilities, who funded the playground, to coordinate a ribbon-cutting ceremony soon.

Residents are reminded that only leaf bags are accepted at the transfer station. Large limbs and branches are not accepted. Curbside pickup is underway. Residents that have large limbs they need to dispose of are asked to contact Public Works to make arrangements for pick-up.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin provided an overview of the Finance Department's accomplishments during her two years as Finance Director. The Finance Department, in conjunction with the City's investment committee, hired Meeder investment management firm, to manage the City's cash investments. A new staff member was appointed to oversee accounts receivable and banking functions, enhancing the segregation of duties. A new cash policy was implemented, outlining a procedure for cash transactions and establishing a timeframe for cash deposits. An audit of the City petty cash accounts was conducted and new policies and procedures for petty cash accounts were established. The Finance Department initiated an investigation into questionable practices within the court system. The Finance Department has implemented policies and procedures for the management of purchasing cards. Delinquent tax accounts have been identified and efforts are underway to help residents bring those accounts current. Accounts that remain delinquent have been sent to the Attorney General's Office for collection. More than \$800,000 has been collected with approximately \$700,000 still pending. An audit of the Landlord Registry was conducted to identify landlords that had not been filing taxes. Approximately 24 landlords, who were previously unaware of their filing obligations, are now in compliance.

Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin expressed her gratitude to the City of Ashtabula and its residents for giving her the opportunity to serve as Finance Director. She also thanked her staff, City officials and City Council members.

President Roskovics stated that Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin would be missed and thanked her for her service to the City.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman attributed Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin's accomplishments to her formal education and her many years of experience serving other municipalities. In addition, she stated that she had the ability to stay focused and do her job extraordinarily. She has been professional and competent and shown a lot of integrity. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman wished Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin peace and blessings in all of her future endeavors.

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

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools
(4th Tuesday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics
May 27
June 24
July 22
August 26

Committee Vice Chair Terence Guerriero provided the report. Members of the Ashtabula Area City Schools provided an update on the district's progress. GPD Group updated the committee on a number of projects that will be completed in the City.

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics
May 12
June 9
July 14
August 11

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

Presentation of Legislation

Council President John Roskovics previewed the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

Council President Roskovics asked for a motion to add Resolution 2025-62, 2025-63, and 2025-64 to the agenda.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

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 - 65

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH

**HUDSON COMMUNICATIONS, LLC. TO PURCHASE RADIOS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT
FOR THE ASHTABULA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 66

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE, FOR THE PURPOSE
OF VACATING A PORTION OF BOYD STREET**

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 67

**AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ACRISURE INSURANCE FOR THE
PURPOSE OF MANAGING THE CITY OF ASHTABULA'S LIABILITY, PROPERTY, CASUALTY,
AND AUTO INSURANCE FOR UP TO A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS**

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 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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 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 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: Boyd Street is a paper street that was never developed.

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 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Legislation passed.

Motion: None

Unfinished Business

New Business

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated she received a request for a sign recognizing Ashtabula as the birthplace of the Corvette. The request was referred to committee.

Vice-President Russell Simeone stated he received a request for a loading and unloading area on Main Avenue. He also received a request for bike racks on Main Avenue. City Manager James Timonere stated it is something the City can look into during the streetscape project on Main Avenue.

Liquor Permit Change in Stock Ownership: Klafters Inc dba Smoker Friendly

The business is located in Ward 5. There were no concerns.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated that the Catholic Charities Men Who Cook event is on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at Saint John School. Election Day is Tuesday, May 6, 2025. She wished all mothers and grandmothers a Happy Mother's Day. She also recognized single fathers who play the role of both mother and father, those that have lost their mothers and all mothers that have endured the loss of a child. She encouraged everyone to remember their neighbors and coworkers as well.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio congratulated Harbor Medical Clinic and Harbor Gardens, which recently celebrated ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Harbor Medical Clinic celebrated an expansion and Harbor Gardens celebrated three years in business.

Public Communications on General Matters

Clerk of Courts April Mariotti Daniels spoke to council about her title department's responsibilities in titling golf carts. She stated she would be having a meeting with her senior staff to develop guidelines for what is needed to title golf carts and other similar vehicles.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, for a Special Meeting beginning at 5:15 p.m. in Council Chambers. The next Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025. The Pre-Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. A Public Hearing on the City Manager's application for a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 6 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

May 19, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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