



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Public Hearing
Monday, May 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of Public Hearing

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Roll Call

Members Present: President John Roskovics, 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: Vice-President Russell Simeone, Finance Director Vladimir Kan

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.

Purpose of Public Hearing

President John Roskovics provided the purpose. The Public Hearing is being held to take public comments on the application of the City Manager to establish a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA).

City Manager James Timonere stated that the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area gained popularity during the COVID pandemic. He explained the process. The application has been filed with City Council. The Public Hearing is held and then Council will vote on the matter at the June 2 Regular Council meeting. The DORA would allow patrons of any participating liquor establishment to purchase a drink and take the drink with them, in a designated DORA cup, when they leave the establishment. They would be permitted to walk around the designated area and patronize other participating businesses with their beverage. Patrons would not be permitted to bring drinks to any other liquor establishments. Participating businesses will display a DORA sticker indicating beverages are allowed. Businesses that do not wish to participate will also display a sticker indicating this. The area for the DORA will include the area between the Bum Boat, going across the Lift Bridge and taking into account the public restrooms and transient dock, and continuing along Bridge Street to Lake Avenue all the way to Fire Chicken. There will be signage displayed to indicate the permitted area. Each participating business will be responsible for the cost of the cups. The City will cover the cost of the stickers and other signage.

The City has the ability to suspend the DORA as it sees fit. The specifications, such as permitted times, the time of year, etc., can also be modified at any time.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked how the potential for intoxicated persons will be monitored and if it will potentially impact the police department's ability to respond to other needs of the City since staffing will likely be an issue this summer. City Manager James Timonere stated that the district car in the Harbor would be responsible for patrolling the area. There would not be a designated officer assigned to the DORA. Any business that holds a liquor license is responsible for not over-serving individuals as well as refusing service to someone who is presenting as intoxicated. There are certain regulations that these establishments are required to follow and that will not change with the DORA.

Public Hearing Notice

Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) Application

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

Discussion

Questions/Comments

Closing Remarks

Council will vote on the establishment of the DORA at the June 2, 2025 Regular Council meeting.

Adjournment

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:29 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, June 2, 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:

June 2, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council