City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Public Hearing
Monday, June 23, 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, Vice-President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo
Absent: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills
Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Finance Director Vladimir Kan, 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

Presentation of the 2026 Tax Budget

The Tax Budget is due to the Ashtabula County Budget Commission by July 16th of this year and is required by Ohio Revised Code 5705.17, which gives the County Auditor the property tax the City is eligible for. The budget is used by the County Budget Commission to fix property tax rates and certify that the requested millage for levies on the property tax is needed for the upcoming fiscal year.

- This budget includes a history of the City's revenues and expenditures for 2023 and 2024. It also provides the City's projected financial position at year-end 2025, as well as anticipated revenue and proposed budget appropriations requested for the fiscal year 2025.
- It is a well-balanced and responsible balance that reflects the 3-year average and considers expected inflation in 2026 for the majority of the line items.
- The 2026 Tax Budget provides for:

1. Up to 6% is accounted for in the projected salaries for the union employees in order for the City to be competitive in wages and salaries with the comparable municipalities. Up to 6% is accounted for non-union employees.
2. Medical insurance payments that we discounted at 5% because the renewal rates remain flat in the fiscal year starting July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, and the City will use the medical consultants' recommendations on using a portion of the reserves in the consortium.

3. The General Fund is projected to assume all deficits in the following funds:

- Police & Fire Pension,
- Police Levy,
- Public Works,
- Street Lighting,
- Food Service,
- Probation
- Planning & Community Development,
- And the Parking Deck Fund.

- If all estimated revenue is received and there are no increases in expenditures, the following significant funds will end 2025 with the following estimated carryover into 2026:

1. General Fund, $ 6,205,642.66
2. Public Health Fund, $37,453.11
3. Permanent Improvement Fund, $801,073.40
4. Paving Levy Fund, $658,78754
5. Sanitation Fund, $8,490.09
6. Wastewater Fund, $1,435,746.43
7. WPC Capital Fund, $497,432.72
8. Park Levy Fund, $251,670.55

- Fiscal Year 2026 will require a set of new actions to offset a shortfall of up to $260,000 for the sanitation enterprise fund.
- The formal budget process will begin in August.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

Discussion

Questions/Comments

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked why the revenue projections were lower than normal. Finance Director Vladimir Kan stated the projections are based on the three-year average. City Manager James Timonere stated another reason is that a number of income tax accounts were sent to the Attorney General's Office for collection and the City has been receiving those funds. That will begin to taper off.

President John Roskovics asked what is considered "other income" as listed under revenue on the report. Finance Director Vladimir Kan stated that it includes bed tax, house/trailer tax, and the senior levy.

President John Roskovics asked about the projected carry-over. City Manager James Timonere stated a $4,250.000.00 cash balance is projected, which means the City will be deficit spending by approximately $1.9 million, according to this budget. As officials start working through the budget process, they will start honing in on certain things to narrow that number down.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked how this budget compares to last year. City Manager James Timonere stated he expects the City to be spending more due to union negotiations. Finance Director Vladimir Kan stated that he expects most of the fund balances to go down due to union negotiations and possible increases as well as projected inflation.

President John Roskovics asked how HB 335 would affect the budget if it passed. City Manager James Timonere stated it would take a significant hit.

Jacob Dinsmore, Ward 4, asked where trash bins and the recycling program fall in the budget. City Manager James Timonere stated officials are looking at funding and other logistics.

Rebecca Quirke, Ward 2, asked if the opiod funds coming into the City would go into the General Fund. Finance Director Vladimir Kan stated that the Opiod Fund is a separate fund. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that the question is outside the scope of the public hearing and should be asked at a Regular Council meeting. Ms. Quirke asked if there were any plans in the budget to make City Council positions full-time positions. City Manager James Timonere stated that would require a charter change.

Closing Remarks

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.
Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, July 7, 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: July 7, 2025

ATTESTED BY: John S Roskovics
John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY: Stacy L. Millberg
Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council