



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, July 7, 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 6:59 p.m. by Council President John Roskovics. Vice President Russell Simeone offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed for former City of Ashtabula employee Jean Meola.

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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Absent: None.

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.

Presentations/Announcements

Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, June 16, 2025

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

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

Public Hearing Minutes, June 23, 2025

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

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

Administrative Reports

President Roskovics stated that City Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. on July 21, 2025, before the Regular Council meeting, to go over council procedures with Assistant Solicitor Catherine Colgan. On August 4, 2025, City Council will hold a work session, at the request of the Ad Hoc Committee:

Exploring Racism as a Public Health Crisis. The work session will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated that she was contacted over the weekend by a local business owner who was interested in opening a convenient store in the former Circle K building on Route 20 and Woodman Avenue. The business owner was denied a permit due to a moratorium that was passed on June 2, 2025. The business owner stated to Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo that he signed a lease on May 18 and purchased all the coolers and supplies at a cost of \$52,000. He also told her he had contacted City officials prior to signing the lease and was given the OK to proceed, but when he tried to obtain a permit, it was denied. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked for clarification on the timeline as it was her understanding if something was in the "pipeline" it would not be affected by a moratorium. City Manager James Timonere stated the first contact his staff had with this particular business owner was to inquire about obtaining a license for a cigarette store. He was advised to contact the Ashtabula County Auditor's Office and the health department to obtain a license. The business owner returned to apply for a permit to open a convenience store after the moratorium was in place. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated she would like to repeal and replace the existing moratorium to exclude convenient stores. Vice President Russell Simeone stated that he does not feel this is a black and white issue and there are some gray areas. He stated that it was his understanding that the moratorium on small-box retail stores was being passed to limit stores like Dollar General from opening until the zoning was re-written. He did not think it included convenient stores. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo agreed. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that the original legislation that had everything listed in it defined small-box retail stores as having a certain square footage. It did not define it by activity, so anything under that certain square footage would be considered a small-box retail store. When Council decided to divide the legislation into individual resolutions, that language was omitted. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that Council could direct the Solicitor's Office to prepare legislation to repeal and replace the small-box retail store moratorium, and then give the Solicitor's Office some direction on what to include in the legislation. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that it may be premature to repeal and replace the legislation. If the business owner can provide documentation that they submitted an application prior to the moratorium being in place, it may not be necessary. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that the proper paperwork would clear the issue up; however, she does not believe the business owner in question submitted anything to the City prior to the moratoriums being passed. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated she would need some documentation indicating the business owner applied for the proper permits prior to the moratorium being in place to consider repealing and replacing it. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio agreed. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo argued that banning this particular business from opening will affect the neighborhood as residents need stores within walking distance. City Manager James Timonere stated that there are multiple dollar stores and convenient stores within walking distance of that neighborhood.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo made a motion to repeal and replace the moratorium on small-box retail stores; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: Vice President Russell Simeone stated he thinks this particular moratorium needs to be rewritten regardless, as it is very vague in defining small-box retail stores.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Motion passed.

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated the Solicitor's Office needs to know what Council wants in the replacement legislation. She stated that Assistant Solicitor Catherine Colgan provided the following

definition for small-box retail stores: "Small-box retail/discount stores. Small-box retail/discount store means a retail store that has a floor area of more than 5,000 square feet and less than 12,000 square feet and that offers for sale (1) a combination and variety of convenience shopping goods and consumer shopping goods; and (2) the majority of the items in the inventory at a price not to exceed \$10. A small-box retail/discount store does not include a pharmacy, a hardware store, or specialty items and food items as a primary product (i.e., consignment, meats, fruits, vegetables, seafood, cheese, or oils and vinegars)." City Manager James Timonere stated the original legislation that he drafted, and that went through committee, stated the moratorium was for convenience and/or dollar stores. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated it seems like the legislation is being rewritten simply to accommodate this particular business. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that the Solicitor's Office will draft the repeal ordinance as well as the replacement ordinance to include the previously stated definition of small box retail. If Council would like anything changed, a second reading can be requested on the ordinance, so those changes can be made. City Manager James Timonere suggested that Council repeal the moratorium at the next meeting and then take some time to decide what to include in the replacement legislation.

City Manager

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to repeal and replace 2025-120 regarding compensation, salaries, and wages to employees of the City of Ashtabula and the Ashtabula City Health District.

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

Discussion: The last payroll ordinance passed contained a clerical error regarding when it was effective.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a contract with Marucci & Gaffney Excavating Co. in the amount of \$534,729.00 as bid, for the WWTP Emergency Outfall project. Funds will be taken from Water Pollution Fund 504.

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

Discussion: This portion of the project will add a gravity-fed system, so the pumps will not need to be used. The goal is to eventually make this permanent.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Hudson Communications for the purpose of unfitting three Dodge Durangos for the Ashtabula Police Department in an amount not to exceed \$40,526.67. Funding for this expense will be made from Fund 412.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a contract with Ziegler Heating & Cooling for the purchase of a new heating/cooling unit at the fire department for an amount not to exceed \$16,240.00 to be made from Fund 412.

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

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if there were any updates on the status of the Coast Guard

presence in the Harbor. City Manager James Timonere stated the City did receive communication from the Coast Guard after it did not see any activity at the Coast Guard Station. The Coast Guard indicated there are staffing issues, and they have not been able to staff the Ashtabula station. City Manager James Timonere stated he has contacted our state legislators and is waiting for a response as to the next steps.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked for an update on the Main Avenue facade project. City Manager James Timonere stated he had a meeting with Eastgate and the City of Geneva. He is hoping to have the sub-recipient grant agreement by the next Council Meeting. Approximately 24 businesses will be recipients of the grant funds. The project has to be completed by October 2026.

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated she sent the definition of small-box retail to all Council members. If there is anything anyone would like to change, the changes should be emailed to Assistant Solicitor Catherine Colgan only.

Finance Director

Finance Director Vladimir Kan clarified some items in the 2026 Tax Budget. The base rate of health insurance remained the same. However, the Cobra rates decreased by 10 percent because officials decided to use a portion of the reserves in the medical fund.

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to repeal and replace Ordinance No. 2025-123 to make supplemental increases and decreases to appropriations in the general fund, WPC Capital and ESID Special Improvement District, and all other funds listed on Exhibit A for current expenses and other expenditures with reconciled and updated expense reports of the City of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2025.

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

Discussion: The Finance Department was informed by the Ashtabula County Auditor's Office that there were some discrepancies in the expenses since the beginning of the year. The discrepancies were all located and corrected. This ordinance reflects the corrected balances.

Motion passed.

Clerk of Council

Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg reminded Council members of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Star Beacon's new office on Friday, July 11 at 11 a.m.

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

August 6

September 3

October 1

Finance & Personnel

(3rd Friday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

Committee Chair Kym Foglio provided the report. Finance Director Vladimir Kan provided the committee with updates on the City's expenses and revenue. A rate increase for sanitation services was discussed as well as the purchase of a new sewer jet.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

(4th Tuesday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

July 22

August 26

September 23

October 28

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

July 14

August 11

September 8

The July 14, 2025 meeting is canceled.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

Presentation of Legislation

Council President John Roskovics previewed the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

Overview / Discussion

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that a motion to amend the golf cart legislation is needed before it can be voted on.

Motion: President John Roskovics made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 2025-125 to include Columbus Avenue as a permitted street and to exempt special events from the inspection process; Vice President Russell Simeone 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

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 - 124

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 380, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 380

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 125

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING REPLACEMENT CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 380

Council President John Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2025-124 and 2025-125.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by

consent agenda; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, 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

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Legislation passed. Effective in 30 days due to 4-3 vote count.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 126

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING 2025-120 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 127

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 128

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2026, AND SUBMITTING THE SAME TO THE ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO BUDGET COMMISSION

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 129

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MARUCCI & GAFFNEY EXCAVATING CO. FOR THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL EMERGENCY OUTFALL PROJECT

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 130

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2025-123 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 131

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, WPC CAPITAL AND ESID SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, AND ALL OTHER FUNDS LISTED ON EXHIBIT A FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES WITH RECONCILED AND UPDATED EXPENSE

REPORTS OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 132

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HUDSON COMMUNICATIONS TO UPFIT VEHICLES FOR ASHTABULA POLICE DEPARTMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 133

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ZIEGLER HEATING & COOLING FOR THE PURCHASE OF HVAC UNIT AT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Council President John Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2025-126, 2025-127, 2025-128, 2025-129, 2025-130, 2025-131, 2025-132, 2025-133.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, 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:

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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated the Our Lady of Peace Festival is July 11, 12 and 13 at Mt. Carmel Church. The Kingsville Little League 11 and up girls team will be advancing to the state tournament.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated that Bands on the Beach is on Thursday, July 10 at Walnut Beach. G.O. Community Development Corporation will hold its Back to School giveaway event on August 16 at 3703 Station Avenue from 10 a.m. to noon.

President John Roskovics stated that the Buckeye Senior Center would be opening soon and two new businesses, the Bagel Barn and a new florist, opened on Lake Avenue.

Public Communications on General Matters

Steve Chase, city fire marshal and Harbor resident, discussed his concerns regarding the possibility of repealing and replacing the moratorium on small box retail stores. He stated the reason the moratoriums were put in place is to stop the expansion of businesses that are bad for the community. He stated that he is in favor of the moratoriums because he is one of the people responsible for trying to clean up the City. The moratorium was put in place to hit pause while the zoning is updated.

Heroldine Scruggs, of Cleveland Avenue, shared concerns about rehabilitation housing in her neighborhood. She also questioned when her ward would receive trash and recycling bins. City Manager James Timonere stated the rehabilitation houses must be licensed by the state. The City is working on ways to fund trash and recycling bins for the rest of the City as well as providing recycling services for the entire City. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holmas asked if the budget that was passed included funds for recycling. City Manager James Timonere stated that it does not include those costs.

Linda Hines, of Bridge Street, discussed safety concerns regarding the traffic on Bridge Street. She stated there is a lot of semi-truck traffic and motorists do not obey the 25 mph speed limit. She stated there are also children riding motorized scooters on the sidewalks and in her driveway. She is requesting a dedicated police officer to patrol Bridge Street. She also suggested re-routing the semi-trucks so they do not travel on Bridge Street. City Manager James Timonere stated the officials will look into the possibility of re-routing the semi-truck traffic. The police department is close to being fully-staffed again after several retirements. The department also has a motorcycle, which may be an option to help patrol Bridge Street once an officer is trained on it.

Kelly Lunneberg, of Walnut Boulevard, shared concerns regarding the entertainers that were at the recent Pride Festival at Walnut Beach. She stated that the festival indicates it is "family friendly," but she believes the performers are inappropriate for children.

Gary Stuyvesant, of Columbus Avenue, stated the homeless camp in his neighborhood continues to be an issue. The camp has grown since he addressed Council about it two weeks ago. There are now many people living on the property. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that as long as the property owner gives the individuals permission to be on the property, city officials have done everything they can.

Jeremy Baruffa, former resident and owner of an IT company, introduced himself in response to the RFP for IT services for the City.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.
Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, July 21, 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 21, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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