



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, July 21, 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 7:00 p.m. by Council President John Roskovics. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills 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 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, July 7, 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.

Administrative Reports

City Manager

A voice vote was requested for the lateral hiring of Maria Sharp as a patrol officer for the City of Ashtabula Police Department.

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.

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to enter into a change order agreement with Capp Steel for ADA parking spaces near the inclusive playground at Walnut Beach for additional work needed due to the relocation of the playground from the original design for an additional amount of \$1,388.00 from fund 233.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: The original location of the playground was moved, which created additional concrete work.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD for the purpose of providing design engineering and bid services for the capital improvement plan- WPCP Improvements - Phase 1 from the City's engineering firm, GPD Group in an amount not to exceed \$691,700.00 with payment for this expense to be made from the WPC Capital Fund 504 and is contingent upon approval of a WPCL Loan to pay for this expense.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: This expense covers the design engineering and bid services for Phase 1 of the Water Pollution Control Plant Improvement project. The amount of the WPCL Loan will be determined after the design is determined. Once construction begins, the design loan will be rolled into the construction loan. These expenses were expected when the rate study was conducted.

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing the purchase of a Super Products Camel Max Series Sewer Cleaning Combo Truck from MTECH for an amount not to exceed \$599,732.69 from WPC Capital Fund 504.

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

Discussion: The current truck has exceeded its useful life. It has been out of service since April and is not feasible to repair. It will take five to six months to build the truck.

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a contract with Brobst Tree and Stump Service for tree removal in various locations for an amount not to exceed \$15,150.00 from Fund 205.

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

Discussion: This is for 10 trees in seven different locations. Work will begin in September or October.

Motion passed.

City officials have been in discussions with the United States Coast Guard regarding Station Ashtabula. The station has not been staffed this season. Coast Guard officials have indicated Station Ashtabula will not be manned for the next two to three years, due to staffing issues. The City Manager has been in touch with U.S. Senator Jon Husted, U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno and Representative David Joyce. In the meantime, City officials are looking at alternative ways to address potential issues on the lake.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills requested a resolution in support of staffing the U.S. Coast Guard Station Ashtabula to be sent to U.S. Senator Jon Husted, U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno and Representative David Joyce; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

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.

City staff have been discussing logistical ways to offer recycling throughout the rest of the City. Public Works staff will do a demo run with an arm truck this week to see if it is a good fit for the City. Vice President Russell Simeone asked for a rough cost estimate to supply the rest of the City with trash bins. City Manager James Timonere stated the cost would be approximately \$500,000. The City would need to purchase between 3,000 and 3,500 bins for both trash and recycling. Grant funding will only cover the recycling bins, not the trash bins. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked if it would be more cost-effective if only residents that request to recycle receive bins. City Manager James Timonere stated that would not be an option under the county program.

City Manager James Timonere stated that the Wine and Walleye Festival is July 25-27 and the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) will be effective Friday. He provided a short PowerPoint presentation as an overview of how the DORA would work.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked for any updates on the old Municipal Building. City Manager James Timonere stated the City is still looking for funding to take the building down.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked if a flashing light could be installed on Bridge Street to help with the speed issues. He also noted that there is a large pothole on Harbor Avenue between East 21st Street and East 22nd Street. Also, in the same area, he suggested installing a deer crossing sign.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated she received a call from several residents regarding a sinkhole on Walnut Boulevard. City Manager James Timonere stated staff have been in contact with residents to obtain permission to go into their yards to repair it. The project is ready to go out for bid soon. She also stated that she received a call regarding parking near the Riverbend Hotel. Parking spaces are utilized by hotel visitors and are unavailable to anyone else. City Manager James Timonere stated that the hotel parking lot is open now and should help. The Harbor area is seeing an increase in visitors this summer and parking continues to be an issue. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated that she also received a concern that there were no lifeguards on duty at Walnut Beach over the weekend. City Manager James Timonere stated that the YMCA has been struggling to hire lifeguards. They are hoping to have the beach staffed soon.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked if the City needed legislation to prohibit E-bikes from riding on sidewalks. She stated that the Ohio Revised Code prohibits e-bikes from being ridden on sidewalks with peddle-assist enabled. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that the City doesn't need additional legislation. Law enforcement should cite e-bike riders for being on the sidewalk. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo also stated that there has been a rise in safety issues on residential streets, including speeding, reckless driving and the illegal use of off-road vehicles such as go-karts, dirt-bikes and four-wheelers. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper encouraged residents to call and report incidents when they occur. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated she has also received complaints about individuals sleeping on sidewalks. She also asked what the City's policy is on people sleeping in gazebos. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated the City passed legislation that prohibits people from sleeping in the gazebos. Residents should call the police department and report it.

Vice President Russell Simeone asked if bike racks could be installed on Main Avenue when the streetscape project is completed. He also stated he received concerns regarding the visibility of the

lines on the bike lane on West Avenue. City Manager James Timonere stated the striping would be refreshed soon, and he would look into some possible signage options.

Council President John Roskovics stated he was happy to see the grass cut at the Wenner Field property as well as the Carlisle's parking lot downtown.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if the Safety Forces Committee could discuss the traffic issues on Bridge Street.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked if the Lift Bridge was on a particular schedule. City Manager James Timonere stated it goes up every 30 minutes unless commercial traffic is requesting passage. The river has the right-of-way. Commercial traffic includes the police department, fire department, U.S. Coast Guard, or any commercial fishing vessel. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked if there was any data available to show the number of commercial requests because it seems like the bridge is going up more frequently than it is supposed to. City Manager James Timonere stated that it could take 15–20 minutes for boat traffic to clear before the bridge can go down. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if there was some kind of signage that could be installed to notify tourists of the Lift Bridge. City Manager James Timonere stated there is a sign at the end of Route 11 indicating a draw bridge ahead.

City Solicitor

A voice vote was requested to sign onto the amicus brief supporting Cincinnati's position in the pending Ohio Supreme Court lawsuit, Miller v. Cincinnati.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Finance Director

The following legislation was formally requested:

A resolution adopting an amended City of Ashtabula, Ohio Investment Policy.

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

Discussion: The limit is 30% of the City's portfolio

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing an interfund emergency advance from the General Fund to the Water Pollution Control Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$358,488.89 to purchase a sewer jet.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the Finance Director's request; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: This is a no-cost interest-free advance that will be paid back annually over the next five years.

Motion passed.

Clerk of Council

Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg reminded Council members of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Buckeye PACE facility on Thursday, July 24 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

November 5

December 3

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

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

November 25

December 23

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

August 11

September 8

October - TBA

November 10

December 8

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

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked for additional discussion on Resolution No. 2025-134 and Resolution No. 2025-135. President John Roskovics suggested tabling the two items until more information is obtained.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman requested that acronyms be spelled out in the legislation.

Reading of Legislation

Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg presented the following legislation for the council's consideration.

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 134

AN RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION 2025-91 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 135

A RESOLUTION IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON SMALL BOX RETAIL/DISCOUNT STORES

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to table Resolution No. 2025-134 and Resolution No. 2025-135 and to return them to the Community Development / Economic Development / Parks & Recreation Committee for further discussion and modifications; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 136

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN AMENDED CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO INVESTMENT POLICY

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 137

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER #1 WITH CAPP STEEL ERECTORS, INC. TO CONSTRUCT ADA PARKING AT WALNUT BEACH

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 138

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GPD GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DESIGN ENGINEERING AND BID SERVICES FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - WPCP IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE 1

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 139

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO MAKE AN INTERFUND EMERGENCY ADVANCE FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$358,488.89 TO PURCHASE A SEWER JET

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; 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.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo 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 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

City Manager James Timonere stated that the Wine and Walleye Festival is July 25-27 in the Harbor.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated that the Lift Bridge Community Association will host a clean-up on Tuesday, July 22 at 8:30 a.m. to prepare for the Wine and Walleye Festival.

Public Communications on General Matters

Steve Chase, City Fire Marshal and resident of the Harbor, discussed the zoning moratorium for small box retail stores that Council is considering repealing and replacing. He stated that the City has had zoning issues for years. The moratorium is simply putting a pause on things, so the zoning can be updated. He encouraged Council to simply add a definition of a small box store to the moratorium.

Patrick Haywood, of the Harbor area near W. 15th Street, suggested putting a solar-powered sign on Bridge Street that monitors speed to help address the issue. He also suggested exploring other entities to contract lifeguards. City Manager James Timonere stated that the City has a contract with the YMCA for lifeguards; however, officials are exploring other possible options. Mr. Haywood also suggested installing cameras in the gazebos to deter people from sleeping there. He also asked if a mural could be painted on the concrete block on the Lift Bridge. City Manager James Timonere stated there has been some discussion about it.

Gary Stuyvesant, of Columbus Avenue, expressed his support of the DORA. He discussed the sinkhole on Columbus Avenue. He also discussed the ongoing situation with the homeless camp in his neighborhood.

Austin Clark, of Columbus Avenue, stated that the traffic light located at E. 6th Street and Columbus Avenue is very difficult to see because of the late day sun when driving west on E. 6th Street. He asked if a traffic light could be installed on the utility pole so it is more visible. City Manager James Timonere stated that there was a similar situation at Five-Points. He stated that staff would look into it and see if anything could be done.

Regina Anderson Tackett, of 1838 E. 46th Street, discussed her concerns regarding arrows that were painted on E. 46th Street to indicate a right turn and a left turn onto State Road. Her concern was that the street was a two-lane street, and she did not believe two vehicles should be turning onto State Road at the same time.

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 Monday, August 4, 2025 in Council Chambers. There will be a Work Session at 5:30 p.m. The Pre-Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

August 4, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council