



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council
Safety Forces Committee
Monday, August 11, 2025 at 8:30 AM
Council Chambers
4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council Safety Forces Committee was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Terence Guerriero.

Roll Call

Members Present: Chair: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Vice Chair: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Member: Council President John Roskovics

Absent: None

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg

Ashtabula Department Heads Present: Fire Chief Shawn Gruber

Visitors: Linda Hines, Patrick Haywood

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.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

Special Guest Presentation

Police Department – Chief’s Report

No report.

APD June 2025 Stats

APD July 2025 Stats

Fire Department – Chief’s Report

Chief Shawn Gruber provided the report. Fire losses are lower than in previous years. They are down approximately 50 percent. Committee Chair Terence Guerriero asked about the mutual aid procedure. Chief Shawn Gruber stated that if Community Care Ambulance is out on a call and AFD's ambulance is out on a call, then mutual aid from Ashtabula Township or Saybrook Township is required.

Chief Shawn Gruber stated that Capt. Steve Chase's last day in the office is August 12. Antonio Feralo will replace him as Fire Marshal and has been working with him to learn the job.

President John Roskovics stated that he saw information on social media for a fundraiser for a

sprinkler system for the old Salvation Army building on Lake Avenue. City Manager James Timonere stated the City has not been involved in that.

AFD July Stats

City Manager's Report

City Manager James Timonere provided the report. The police department is close to being fully staffed. A lot of areas are looking for resource officers in the schools and there is a possibility some officers may leave for those positions. Three officers will retire next year. Two officers were promoted to lieutenant. Another promotional test will be administered for a third lieutenant position. A promotional exam for two positions in the fire department will be administered in January. The SUV for the fire department and three SUVs for the police department have been received and are being upfitted. The new ladder truck should be received by the beginning of next year. The City plans to sell the current ladder truck.

City Solicitor's Report

No report.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Linda Hines, of Bridge Street, discussed concerns about the traffic on Bridge Street due to trucks and vehicles speeding. She presented a petition with signatures from residents and merchants on Bridge Street in support of rerouting truck traffic and installing speed deterrents to encourage motorists to slow down. Ms. Hines suggested portable speed bumps that could be removed during the winter, or flashing speed signs.

City Manager James Timonere expressed safety concerns about putting speed bumps on Bridge Street due to the motorcycle traffic and low-profile vehicles. With regard to rerouting the truck traffic, he stated that the City could ask the director of transportation to look into setting weight limits for trucks; however, it may affect the City's eligibility for federal funding for paving projects on Bridge Street. City Manager James Timonere also stated he is looking into using a freestanding unit that records a vehicle's speed.

Ms. Hines also stated that individuals ride electric bicycles on the sidewalks.

Next Meeting

The Safety Forces Committee will meet on the second Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. beginning September 11, 2025.

September 8, 2025

Adjournment

The Safety Forces Committee meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m. by Committee Chair Terence Guerriero.