



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Council Chambers

4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Committee Chair Jodi Mills.

Roll Call

Members Present: Chair: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Member: Council President John Roskovics

Absent: Vice Chair: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg, Finance Director Vladimir Kan

Department Heads Present: Water Pollution Control Superintendent Mark Verzella, Public Services Superintendent John Melnik, Water Pollution Control Assistant Superintendent Carl St. Angelo

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

City Manager's Report

City Manager James Timonere provided the report. The park season is coming to an end. The parks got a lot of use this year. The City is looking at purchasing a mini excavator. The overall cost, including additional options such as a trailer to haul it and bucket attachments, will be approximately \$100,000. The City will see a return on its investment within about a year and a half due to the cost savings from having to contract various jobs that can be done in-house with the equipment. The equipment will allow staff to do five-foot to seven-foot digs and will be used for things such as lateral repairs and catch basin repairs. The equipment will be used by the Water Pollution Control Plant as well, for sanitary line repairs. The cost will be shared between the two departments. City Manager James Timonere stated that if he could get all the information together by the end of the week, he would present it for Council's consideration at the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked when the lifeguard contract was over for the season. City Manager James Timonere stated that after Labor Day the beach will no longer be guarded. The concession stand contract runs through Labor Day as well. The water and utilities at the parks will be shut off in October. Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked if there were any repairs that would need to be completed at any of the parks. Public Services Superintendent John Melnik stated that his staff tries to keep up with most repairs at the parks as needed. She asked if the Clifford Kadon Presidential

Park had its community garden this year. City Manager James Timonere stated he believes it did but has heard that the My Neighborhood Collaborative group may be disbanding. He stated that if the group does not do the garden again, the City will plant grass in its place.

President John Roskovics asked about work being done on Westshore Drive. Public Services Superintendent John Melnik stated that the public works staff is completing repairs to sinkholes in that area.

City Manager James Timonere stated that Karvo has completed the paving throughout the City and is working on completing its punch list. He stated that officials are keeping an eye on the Aqua Ohio project on West 19th Street, and hopefully it will be completed in time for Koski to pave the street before it gets too cold.

President John Roskovics noted that repairs on Cemetery Road look nice. City Manager James Timonere stated that the City partnered with Saybrook Township as each entity owns a portion of the road to complete the repairs. The repairs are temporary and efforts are underway to obtain funding to pave the road.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked if the conversion of the Walnut Boulevard pickle ball courts was complete. City Manager James Timonere stated he believes it is finished.

Water Pollution Control Report

WPC Report

Water Pollution Control Superintendent Mark Verzella provided the report. The contractor is preparing everything to be submitted for GPD Group's approval on the Outfall Relocation Project. A temporary roadway will be constructed, so traffic can be maintained to the Kinder Morgan property. Discussions are ongoing with Amendola Engineering to set up a meeting to get the response generated for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the Mixing Zone Study. Annual maintenance was completed on the primary settling tanks. The west final settling tank is back in service after preventive maintenance and the east final settling tank is out of service for preventative maintenance. Crews are replacing the valve and piping in the grease pit for sludge withdrawal. This will result in a cost savings of \$20,000 to \$30,000 by not having to contract it out. Several lateral replacement projects have been completed. Initial budget discussions are underway with the City Manager's Office for 2026. Water Pollution Control Superintendent Mark Verzella stated that things do not look terrible; however, the costs of some of the chemicals are unknown, and there have been some additional tariff expenses on some of the products that have been ordered. The City will host the fall meeting of the Northeast Section of the Ohio Water Environment Association (OWEA) in September. The event will include facility tours, speaker sessions, and contact hours for licensed wastewater operators. This is the first time the event has been hosted in the City. Approximately 100 to 150 people are expected to attend. The mercury testing for industrial pre-treatment has been completed. The testing consists of seven days of low-level mercury sampling for dental facilities in the City. Ammonia and phosphorus spectrometers have been sent out for annual calibration and certification.

Public Works Report

Public Services Superintendent John Melnik provided the report. He stated that the recent addition of Eric VantVeer to the Motor Maintenance Division staff really made a difference. The snow plows are all ready to go for winter. Public Works staff continue to complete sinkhole repairs and catch basin repairs. Staff is receiving feedback from bus drivers regarding low-hanging tree branches, and crews have been out taking care of them. The committee and other City staff members will tour the Public Works facility after the September committee meeting.

City Manager James Timonere stated that the road salt price for this year increased by approximately \$2-\$3 per ton. The cost this year is \$52.45 per ton. Public Services Superintendent John Melnik noted that the cost last year was \$47 per ton. There are approximately 1,000 tons in the bin right now and 1,500 tons was requested as a summer delivery.

City Manager James Timonere stated he will be asking Council members to submit their top three roads for next year's paving project. The City's responsibility for the Collins Boulevard project is approximately \$300,000 and will need to be paid for in January.

Curbside leaf bag pick-up will resume on September 22 with pick-up starting in the Harbor. Resident are asked to not drop leaf bags off at Public Works once curbside pick-up resumes.

New Business

Next Meeting

September 23, 2025

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m. by Committee Chair Jodi Mills.