



## **City of Ashtabula**

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, September 2, 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. President John Roskovics 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, August 18, 2025**

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; 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

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

##### **Administrative Reports**

There will be a work session on September 15, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

##### **City Manager**

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Southeastern Equipment Company, Inc., for the

purchase of a Kobelco SK44SRX-7 Compact Excavator and accessories with Sourcewell Contract No. 011723-KBL and State Purchase Program Contract No. ODOT 070-25 for an amount not to exceed \$77,214.00 to be paid out of Fund 412 and Fund 504.

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

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Richmond Trailer Sales for the purchase of a Sure-Trac Pro Series Tilt Trailer for an amount not to exceed \$17,500.00 to be paid out of Fund 412.

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

Discussion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked about the City's return on investment with the purchase of the equipment. City Manager James Timonere stated that the money saved from not having to hire contractors for certain projects will pay for the equipment in approximately one and one half years.

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.

A resolution to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Agreement on behalf of the City of Ashtabula for design of WPC Capital Improvement Plan – Pump Station/ForceMain/EQ Basin, Scope of Work, and designating a dedicated repayment source for the loan in an amount not to exceed \$3,850,000.00 and the fund dedicated for repayment shall be Fund 504.

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

Curbside leaf bag pickup will begin on September 22 and run through the end of November. The schedule is available on the City's website.

### **City Solicitor**

No report.

### **Finance Director**

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to make supplemental increases to appropriations in the General Fund, Water Pollution Capital Fund, and all other funds listed on Exhibit A for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2025.

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

An ordinance repealing Ordinance 2023-04 for the purpose of returning Lt. Palinkas to the full Lieutenant Step 1 pay rate.

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

An ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 2025-143 for the purpose of enacting replacement legislation for providing compensation, salaries and wages to employees of the City of Ashtabula and the Ashtabula City Health District.

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

An ordinance authorizing compensation, salaries and wages to employees of the City of Ashtabula and the Ashtabula City Health District.

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

An ordinance repealing existing codified ordinance section 131.07, for the purpose of adopting a new section 131.07.

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

An ordinance enacting replacement codified ordinance section 131.07.

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

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked about the training conducted in the Finance Department and a timeline on the department's remodel. Finance Director Vladimir Kan stated that so far the training is successful. He is hoping to have it completed by the end of the month. He stated that the loss of trust, integrity and justice are being restored in his department. City Manager James Timonere stated that the furniture for the Finance Department would take about six weeks to be delivered.

### **Clerk of Council**

No report.

### **City Council Committee Reports**

The Ad Hoc Committee: Exploring Racism as a Public Health Crisis will have a work session on September 15, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

### **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**

**September 3**

**October 1**

**November 5**

**December 3**

The Parks & Recreation Board will organize the 2026 Memorial Day Parade.

### **Finance & Personnel**

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

**Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics**

**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**

**September 23**

**October 28**

**November 25**

**December 23**

Committee Chair Jodi Mills provided the report. The committee discussed the purchase of the mini excavator. The City will host the Northeast Ohio Water Environment Association (OWEA) Fall Meeting. Approximately 100 to 150 people are expected to attend. This is the first time the City has

hosted the meeting. Salt prices were also discussed as well as requests for next year's paving project.

#### **Safety Forces**

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

**Members:** Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

**September 11**

**October 9**

**November 13**

**December 11**

#### **Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission**

President John Roskovics provided the report. The Planning Commission denied a permit for the sale of storage sheds and the food truck on Lake Avenue.

#### **Presentation of Legislation**

Council President John Roskovics previewed the legislation.

#### **Additional Formal Requests**

#### **Public Communications on Legislation**

#### **Overview / Discussion**

#### **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 - 159**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE A KOBELCO COMPACT EXCAVATOR AND ACCESSORIES FROM SOUTHEASTERN EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC., FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$77,214.00**

##### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 160**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FOR DESIGN OF WPC CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – PUMP STATION/FORECUMAN/EQ BASIN, SCOPE OF WORK AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN**

##### **ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 161**

**AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, WATER POLLUTION CAPITAL FUND, AND ALL OTHER FUNDS LISTED ON EXHIBIT A FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025**

##### **ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 162**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2023-04 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETURNING LT. PALINKAS TO THE FULL LIEUTENANT STEP 1 PAY RATE**

##### **ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 163**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2025-143 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION FOR PROVIDING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 164**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 165**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 131.07, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING A NEW SECTION 131.07**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 166**

**AN ORDINANCE ENACTING REPLACEMENT CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 131.07**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 167**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE A SURE-TRAC PRO SERIES TILT TRAILER FROM RICHMOND TRAILER SALES**

Council President Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo 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: President John Roskovics moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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**

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked about a tree on a vacant property on Adams Avenue. The tree is not on the tree lawn. The homeowner is deceased. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper asked for the address so it could be referred to the Ashtabula County Treasurer's Office.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated that she spoke with a resident who told her in the City of Niles, there was a problem with absentee landlords and the council passed an ordinance stating that landlords had to live in the city or county. City Manager James Timonere stated that most of the problems the City has are with landlords that live locally, not ones that live out of town.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo commended City employees Amy Coursen and Steve Nelson for going above and beyond to help City residents. Ms. Coursen and Mr. Nelson both work in the Planning and Community Development Department.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated that she has heard concerns from residents regarding the roads, plowing, homelessness, code enforcement, speeding, and recycling in Ward 5.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills also thanked Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development Mary Church and Steve Nelson for helping out with an issue from a resident.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills also suggested councilors provide the City Manager with information they receive from residents when they receive it rather than waiting to bring it up at Council Meetings, to be more efficient.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that at the August 18, 2025 meeting, she asked a series of questions about which councilors served on the hiring committees for Clerk of Council after Stacy Senskey; for Clerk of Council after McKenzie Bergan; for Clerk of Council after Ashley Bell; for Finance Director after Tracy Welch; and, for Finance Director after Marie Yvrose Augustin. She stated that she would still like to have that information. She also stated that she would like the August 18, 2025 meeting minutes amended to include her request as well as additional questions including how councilors are selected to serve on those committees. She asked if they are selected by education, experience, or interest, as examples. She asked about the criteria for selecting councilors for committees. She also asked the City Solicitor for clarification on the procedure for amending the Rules of Council. She noted that the last time the Rules of Council were changed was in 2019. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that at the first meeting in December, Council organizes itself and adopts the Rules of Council. She stated that they can be amended at any time or reviewed by her office.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked again about the procedure for selecting committee members and stated that if there are no specific procedures, what measures can be taken to ensure the process is fair and inclusive. President John Roskovics stated that councilors typically choose the committees they wish to serve on. He stated that no one is forced to be on a committee they do not wish to serve on. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that several of the same councilors appear on each of the committees, and she believes that limits input and representation. President John Roskovics stated that a lot of the time, councilors are selected for the committees because they volunteer. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that she was referring to councilors that have expressed interest in serving on committees and have not been selected, specifically the Master Plan Committee.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated that she was the first councilor to volunteer for the Master Plan Committee because she believes in shaping Ashtabula's future. She stated that she was not selected and believes political affiliation played a role. President John Roskovics stated that he was

offended by Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo's accusation. He stated that his selection had nothing to do with politics.

City Manager James Timonere stated that the Master Plan Committee is something he and his staff have been working on for some time. He clarified that he asked President John Roskovics to select three councilors to sit on the committee. He also stated that the negative commentary is concerning.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated that, up until recently, this Council has worked together with no issues. She volunteered for the committee because updating the zoning is something city officials have been discussing since she has been on Council. She stated it is something she wants to be a part of and feels she is qualified for. She also stated that she has the time to devote to the committee.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that she has received concerns from residents regarding bicyclists riding against traffic rather than with traffic as they should. City Manager James Timonere stated that he will discuss it with the police chief and at the Safety Forces Committee meeting.

City Manager James Timonere stated that due to recent changes in Facebook's retention policy, the City will now be streaming its meetings on YouTube as well.

### **New Business**

The business is located in Ward 2. There were no concerns.

### **Liquor License Request - Family Dollar Stores of Ohio, 848 Lake Avenue**

### **Tell Us Something We Don't Know**

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills reminded residents that it is illegal to park on the front lawns, side lawns, and back lawns of a residence. She also stated that she attended the Community Health Needs Assessment Prioritization Meeting on August 7 at the Ashtabula County Health Department. The assessment is done every three years to help health departments, hospitals, social service agencies, and other organizations and community stakeholders better understand the health needs and priorities of Ashtabula County residents. Characterizing and understanding the prevalence of acute and chronic health conditions, access to care barriers, health disparities and other health issues can help direct community sources to where they will have the biggest impact. Participating organizations will begin to use the data to develop a strategic plan to meet the community's health needs. She stated that the Ashtabula Health Department also has a new suicide and overdose fatality review board, similar to the child fatality review board already in existence. She reminded residents to visit the City's website for information on the various agencies and departments in the City.

President John Roskovics stated that four houses are currently being built on the Wenner Field property. He stated that he attended the Riverbend Hotel's first anniversary event.

### **Public Communications on General Matters**

Austin Clark, of Columbus Avenue, asked for clarification with parking vehicles on the lawn. City Manager James Timonere stated that any vehicle that is parked on a non-approved surface is not permitted. It doesn't matter if it is licensed or not. He stated that if it is not licensed, additional citations will be issued.

Heroldine Scruggs, of Cleveland Avenue, asked who is responsible for sweeping the leaves off the streets. City Manager James Timonere stated that the street sweeper has been out of service for most of the year. It is being repaired.

### **Executive Session (if needed)**

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. by Council President John Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, September 15, 2025 in Council Chambers. A work session with the Ad Hoc Committee: Exploring Racism as a Public Health Crisis will begin 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:

September 15, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council