



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 23, 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 Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Committee Chair Jodi Mills.

Roll Call

Members Present: **Chair:** Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, **Vice Chair:** Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, **Member:** Council President John Roskovics

Absent: none

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

Department Heads Present: Water Pollution Control Superintendent Mark Verzella

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 Jame Timonere provided the report, including the Public Works report. Staff are starting to get the plow trucks ready for winter. The parks are winding down for the season. Water will be shut off at all City parks in late October. Staffing levels are good across all City departments. The street sweeper is still out of service for repairs. There were issues with the rear engine that runs the controls for the vacuum and sweeper operations. It is in the process of being rebuilt, but there have been delays in getting parts. There are still a few items on the punch list for Karvo to finish, and then the paving project will be complete. The water line project on Carpenter Road is close to being done and then Koski will mill and pave the road.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked if the mini excavator and trailer had been received. Water Pollution Control Superintendent Mark Verzella stated that the trailer had to be built and will not be delivered for a few more weeks. There were also some delays in prepping items for the mini excavator.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked how many plows would be on the roads this winter. City Manager James Timonere stated that there are 10 or 11 pieces of equipment and six to eight employees to operate them. He stated that depending on the budget, he would like to add another MAC plow to

the fleet next year. He has also been discussing converting the chassis from the current sewer jet into a plow.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills also reported a pothole on West 53rd Street on the south side of the road.

Water Pollution Control Report

WPC Report

Water Pollution Control Superintendent Mark Verzella provided the report. The Outfall Relocation project is ongoing. The contractor is actively working to excavate and install the new outfall structure. The tentative deadline for completion is October 31. There were some adjustments needed on site, but the cost should not be impacted. Staff is also working to get a battery or solar-powered radar level indicator that will communicate the current system at the facility, so the EPA can be notified when water goes out into the lake. The EPA had some additional comments on the mixing zone study that were not expected. Amendola Engineering is preparing a revised proposal to accommodate those requests. The cost difference has already been accounted for in next year's budget.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked if the new outfall would be up and running while the mixing zone study was being done or if it had to be completed first. WPC Superintendent Mark Verzella stated that once the pipe is installed, the new outfall would be in service when hydraulic capacity is reached on the current outfall. He stated that it currently flows 4,000 feet out to the lake through the broken pipe. Whenever that backs up, the water will flow out the new outfall and the EPA will need to be notified when that happens. Once the mixing zone studies are complete, a permit modification request will be sent to the state. After the state approves it, the old outfall can be abandoned and the new outfall will operate 100 percent. WPC Superintendent Mark Verzella stated it would be approximately 18 months before the new outfall is in use full-time.

WPC Superintendent Mark Verzella stated that staff replaced the sodium aluminate lines as well as installed two new access structures for future maintenance on the chemical system. Preventative maintenance was also completed on the east final settling tank and was expected to be back in service Tuesday. Troubleshooting continues on the generator. An emergency backup generator is on site and wired for power. Cummins was on site to continue troubleshooting and repair efforts.

President John Roskovics asked if the generator was part of the overall improvement project at the plant. WPC Superintendent Mark Verzella stated it was, but it was a low priority since it was in good working condition. It may need to be moved up on the priority list now.

Additional preventative maintenance was completed at the plant, including toxicity testing, which is done quarterly. Crews were working on a lateral replacement on W. 8th Street with assistance from Public Works. WPC staff will complete background sampling as part of the technical justification. The process is expected to be completed by September 26.

WPC Superintendent Mark Verzella noted that the county Household Hazardous Waste Collection would take place on September 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at A-Tech.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills stated that the recent Northeast Section of the Ohio Water Environment Association meeting that was hosted in the City seemed to be well-received by the municipalities in attendance.

Public Works Report

New Business

President John Roskovics stated that he saw on Facebook that Lighthouse Baptist Church was starting a school and asked if the City Manager had additional information. City Manager James Timonere stated his staff has been working with the church to find a location for the school.

Next Meeting

October 28, 2025

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m. by Committee Chair Jodi Mills.