



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, September 15, 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 Roskovics. Vice President Russell Simeone offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed for Patty Donato, Planning Commission Chair, who passed away this week. Additionally, a moment of silence was observed for the political violence, gun violence and other heartbreaking acts happening across the country.

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, September 2, 2025

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; 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

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

Administrative Reports

City Manager

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 2025-147 and replacing it with Ordinance No. 2025-170 for the purpose of correcting the funding accounts for the resurfacing of a portion of W. 19th Street by Koski Construction. Expenses will be paid out of Funds 209, 212, and 219 in an amount not to exceed \$190,889.60.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: Work will begin as soon as the water line project is completed.

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 Rocky Road Paving, with a mailing address of 3142 Padanarum Road, Geneva, OH 44041, to complete road deck repairs from various projects. Funding for this will be paid through Fund 412 in an amount not to exceed \$18,250.00.

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

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Rocky Road Paving, with a mailing address of 3142 Padanarum Road, Geneva, OH 44041, to complete road deck repairs for September 2025 from various projects. Funding for this will be paid through Fund 503 (\$3,900.00) and Fund 412 (\$12,600.00).

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

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with United Rentals, mailing address 44691 State Route 14, Columbia, OH 44008, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, to provide a backup generator and the necessary accessories to provide power to the Water Pollution Control Plant in the event of a power failure while permanent generator is being repaired. This will be paid for from Fund 503.

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

Discussion: The backup generator is being rented because the cost to replace the generator is several million dollars. The generator may be replaced as part of the improvement project underway at the Water Pollution Control Plant.

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 a commercial Community Reinvestment Area Tax Agreement with Rebecca Rogers for a commercial addition at 1601 West Prospect (Beckers Restaurant), Parcel Number 05-302-00-131-00 at 75 percent for 10 years.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to approve the City Manager'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 to enter into a residential Community Reinvestment Area Tax Agreement with Venice Elite Properties, LLC for residential new construction at 231 Lake Avenue, Parcel Number 68-406-10-010-00 at 100 percent for seven years.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to approve the City Manager'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.

Leaf Bag pickup will begin on September 22 and continue through November.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if the street sweeper was still out of service. City Manager James Timonere stated that it is still out of service. There have been delays with getting parts.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated she has been getting complaints of excessive speeding on side streets. She asked if the roving speed sign that is being used is tracking data. City Manager James Timonere stated that data is not being collected.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated she has received multiple complaints from residents on Jefferson Avenue of a black Jeep driving over 70 mph on the street.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked about the sinkhole on Walnut Boulevard on the Lavek property. City Manager James Timonere stated that the City is absorbing all the cost to repair this; however, there is no indication that the City owns the sewer line causing the sinkhole. City officials believe the line was installed when that portion of the City was part of Saybrook Township.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked for information on the house at 5504 Jefferson Avenue as she has received concerns from residents regarding the property. City Manager James Timonere stated that the house is owned by an individual in Alabama. The owner has paid a vacant property registration; however, the owner is delinquent on the registration for this year. City staff has mowed the front yard but has not been able to get to the backyard to mow. The owner is also delinquent on the taxes for this year as well. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked if there was legislation Council could enact, so the neighbors don't suffer. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper discussed the legal procedure for citing property owners for noncompliance.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance renewing, effective tax year 2026, and continuing for a period of five years, an existing special assessment upon all real property in the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, in order to pay a portion of the cost of providing street lighting.

Motion: President John Roskovics 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.

A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

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 to make supplemental increases to appropriations in the General Fund, Streetlight Assessment 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: 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.

Clerk of Council

The August 18th Regular Council meeting minutes were approved as presented at the September 2nd Regular Council meeting. After the minutes were approved, Ward 3 Councilor Holman asked that the minutes be amended to include questions she asked regarding the selection process for committee appointments and the names of the councilors that previously served on various hiring committees. For the Clerk to amend the August 18th Regular Council meeting minutes for the purpose of satisfying Ms. Holman's request, Council must move and second the request.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to approve the Clerk of Council'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.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Bagel Barn on Lake Avenue on Friday, September 26, 2025 at 1 p.m.

City Council Committee Reports

The Ad Hoc Committee: Exploring Racism as a Public Health Crisis held a work session at 5:30 p.m. titled Strengthening Ashtabula Through Evidence-Based Governance for Positive Organizational Impact. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman provided the report. The Committee updated and reported on the work it has been doing the past several months and answered questions. Transitioning the Ad Hoc Committee into a standing entity was also discussed.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman also stated that she conducted exit interviews on two former employees and had the report to share with Council.

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

October 1

November 5

December 3

Committee Chair Jane DiGiacomo provided the report. The homeless situation was discussed. The discussion on tax abatements continued.

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

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

October 9

November 13

December 11

Committee Chair Terence Guerriero provided the report.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President Roskovics provided the report. The Planning Commission will meet on September 18 to discuss three items, including an in-home daycare center in a residential area, Bid Dog Bounce plans to relocate to a former church on Park Avenue, and a convenience store on Route 20 and Woodman Avenue.

Presentation of Legislation

President John Roskovics previewed the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

Austin Clark, of Columbus Avenue, asked why Columbus Avenue was not paved with a waterline replacement like W. 19th Street would be. City Manager James Timonere stated that the City received a refund from the State of Ohio for the Route 84 project and also came in under budget with the current paving project which allowed the City to fund its portion of the project.

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 - 168

AN ORDINANCE RENEWING, EFFECTIVE TAX YEAR 2026, AND CONTINUING FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS, AN EXISTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT UPON ALL REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, IN ORDER TO PAY A PORTION OF THE COST OF PROVIDING STREET LIGHTING

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 169

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2025-147 REGARDING PAVING OF W. 19TH ST. FOR THE PURPOSE OF CORRECTING THE FUNDING ACCOUNTS

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 170

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KOSKI CONSTRUCTION, CO. FOR THE RESURFACING OF A PORTION OF W. 19TH STREET

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 171

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 172

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT 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 - 173

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ROCKY ROAD PAVING FOR VARIOUS STREET CUT ROAD RESTORATIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 174

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ROCKY ROAD PAVING FOR VARIOUS STREET CUT ROAD RESTORATIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 175

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH UNITED RENTALS FOR A BACKUP GENERATOR AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT

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 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.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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 4 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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

Vice President Russell Simeone asked why the food truck on Lake Avenue was not permitted to operate there. City Manager James Timonere stated that the food truck legislation does not allow it to operate as there is not an existing business on the property. City staff is in discussions with the property owner and business owner about timeframes to get it removed.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper for an update on the payroll ordinance that was tabled on August 4 due to concerns about the training costs for a new hire in the probation department. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that her office was asked to draft a contract for reimbursement of educational expenses.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, and Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills conducted a 90-day evaluation with Finance Director Vladimir Kan on September 9.

Ward 4 Jodi Mills asked if the food truck registration process is underway. City Manager James Timonere stated he just received a clean copy of the legislation and will review it. He does not believe the food truck network is aware of the process at this time.

New Business

A. Louis Supply Resolution celebrated 120 years in business. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo requested that a resolution be drafted and presented to the business.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo requested a resolution be drafted and presented to Capp Steel Erectors for their work on the inclusion playground at Walnut Beach.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Motion passed.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio recognized and thanked Square One Health for cleaning up Cleveland Avenue.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that members of Messiah Lutheran Church also cleaned up a portion of Ward 3.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated that a clean-up at Walnut Beach will take place on Saturday, September 20, as part of International Coastal Clean Up Day.

Public Communications on General Matters

Joyce Higgins, of Adams Avenue, discussed issues at a neighboring property. Her property is behind the property located at 5504 Jefferson Avenue that was discussed earlier.

Scott Yamamoto, Ashtabula County Auditor, introduced himself and discussed his background. He thanked Finance Director Vladimir Kan for his work with the Budget Commission.

Patrick Haywood, of Columbus Avenue, expressed interest in being on the Safety Forces Committee as well as the Planning Commission. President John Roskovics stated that the Safety Forces Committee is a standing committee of council and citizens are not permitted to serve on council committees. City Manager James Timonere directed Mr. Haywood to the City's website where the various boards and commissions are listed. He advised him to complete an "Interest To Serve" form and submit it to the Clerk of Council for any boards and commissions he is interested in serving on, and he would be considered as seats become open.

Dwayne Turnquist, of Tryon Road and Vice President of Club Agape, discussed some properties on Main Avenue that Club Agape owns.

Jen Stofan, director of nursing at Square One Health, and Kristy Hosken, director of operations, discussed the misconceptions surrounding patients being released from Square One facilities without a place to go or discharge plan. Mrs. Stofan stated that no one leaves their facilities without a discharge plan. She stated that the Square One staff has made great strides in helping the homeless situation, not contributing to it. Mrs. Hosken stated there have been many times that the staff has provided transportation for individuals to take them where they need to go so they do not become homeless. Mrs. Stofan stated the community needs to work together to solve the homeless problem instead of continuing to place blame.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, October 6, 2025 in Council Chambers. The Pre-Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

October 6, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council