



## **City of Ashtabula**

Ashtabula City Council

Public Works / Public Utilities / Cable / Schools Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 28, 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 8:30 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:** Public Services Superintendent John Melnik

##### **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 Water Pollution Control report in WPC Superintendent Mark Verzella's absence. The Outfall Relocation Project is approximately 75 percent complete. The contractor is currently backfilling the roadway and working to restore the site. Staff is coordinating with Control Associates to procure and install the new outfall flow meter. The UV disinfection system will be shut down and winterized at the end of the month. The Xylem purchase was revised to remove tariff-related language after review by the Solicitor's Office. Preventative maintenance completed includes replacement of the heater on the skid steer and replacement of air lift cylinders for the tailgate on the Freightliner dump truck. The fuel pump and injectors were rebuilt and installed on the generator the week of October 17. The generator was tested and ran successfully. The plant generator was re-wired to the facility's electrical substation on October 18. The rental equipment was returned the week of October 20. Maintenance crews are performing oil changes on all collection system generators. Annual industrial pre-treatment inspections with Verdantas are underway. Permit renewal review has begun with new permits expected to be issued by the end of the year. Technical justification is ongoing.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked for clarification on the recent purchase of UV system equipment. City Manager James Timonere stated the purchase was for replacement bulbs to ensure the system is ready for next year.

City Manager James Timonere stated that he met with Chris Tolnar from GPD on Monday to discuss ongoing and upcoming projects. Karvo still has a few items to complete on their punch list for the paving project. City Manager James Timonere stated he is expecting a significant decrease in the final bill as there were a lot of things that were removed from the project. Sidewalk repairs on Main Avenue are planned for next year. Sidewalk replacement and repairs on West Avenue will be coordinated at the same time. Plans are underway to demolish the concrete

building at the Sanitation Department and replace it with a hoop-style roof system over the pit. The camera system and ground loops for the traffic signal at the Lake Avenue, West Avenue, West 19th Street intersection will be replaced with a radar system. The project will cost upwards of \$40,000 and will be placed out for public bid. City Manager James Timonere stated that he will be sending the list of paving requests to GPD to determine next year's paving project. The participation legislation for the Collins Boulevard project will be on the agenda for the November 3 Regular Council meeting for Council's consideration. The City's cost for the project will be approximately \$385,000. The total project cost is approximately \$1.4 to \$1.5 million with a Small Cities grant covering the majority of the cost.

## **Water Pollution Control Report**

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## **Public Works Report**

Public Service Superintendent John Melnik provided the report. Public Works staff continues to fill potholes, complete patching and curbside leaf bag pickup, and tree stump removal. Curbside leaf bag pickup will end on November 24. The asphalt plant will be closing in December, giving PW staff some time to keep hot material going for pothole patching and some resurfacing to prepare for the winter months. Discussion took place about several roads that need some repairs, including East 23rd Street and Amsden Court. PW Superintendent John Melnik stated that 1,000 feet of ditching work was completed at Maretti Estates and another 1,000 feet was completed on East 7th Street.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero stated he was not happy with the condition of East 7th Street. It was paved approximately three years ago and is not a heavily traveled road. PW Superintendent John Melnik stated that he would have the staff put crack sealer on the road.

PW Superintendent John Melnik stated that the new piece of equipment recently purchased is being used to install the playground equipment at W. 38th Street Park.

PW Superintendent John Melnik stated that the turbo on the street sweeper is faulty. Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked about purchasing a new one. City Manager James Timonere stated that eventually the street sweeper will need to be replaced. The cost for a new one is approximately \$300,000. He also stated that all the work being done on the street sweeper is under warranty.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills asked for an update on the Recycling Program. City Manager James Timonere stated that Council would have the budget by the end of the week so they can see what he and the Finance Director are predicting. He stated that he is in the process of applying for the EPA grant; however, the City will still need approximately \$100,000 for matching funds. He stated that a rate increase is unavoidable.

## **New Business**

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero stated that he has received numerous calls about the Ashtabula Area City Schools' bond issue on the ballot. Committee Chair Jodi Mills stated that the school district has held town hall meetings to discuss the issue. City Manager James Timonere stated that a lot of misinformation is circulating. He stated that essentially, the insurance company wants to keep the walls, replace the roof and remodel the building. The school district does not agree and wants to demolish the building and rebuild the academic portion and then reinforce the roof on the back area of the building. The cost to reinforce the back area of the building is approximately \$11 million and the cost to rebuild the front academic area is approximately \$45 million. The bond proceeds will cover the gap between the insurance settlement and the actual cost of the project. If less money is needed, the bond will be scaled back. The district will only use what is needed.

## **Next Meeting**

### **November 25, 2025**

The December meeting is canceled.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 a.m. by Committee Chair Jodi Mills.