



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Special Meeting
Monday, December 1, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Council Chambers
4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of Special Meeting

Call to Order

The Organizational Meeting of the Ashtabula City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President John Roskovics.

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.

Statement of Purpose

At 6:30 p.m. on the first day of December following a regular municipal election, or if such day be Sunday, on the day following, the Council shall meet at the usual place for holding the meetings of the legislative body of the City for the purpose of organization.

City Council - Member Roster

Review / Amend / Vote to Accept

Council reviewed the member roster, which contains names, term lengths, phone numbers, and city email addresses. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo noted that her phone number was incorrect and provided the correct phone number: 440-415-3752.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman raised concerns about publishing her private phone number. She stated that she had researched the Ohio Revised Code, Council Rules, City Charter, codified ordinances, and Robert's Rules of Order and could not find any requirement that Council members must publicize their private phone numbers or use them for public business. She requested to use the Legislative Office phone number instead of her personal number.

President John Roskovics explained that publishing phone numbers had been the practice for years to allow residents to reach their Council members directly with concerns, even on evening and weekends. He stated that when Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman was elected four years ago, he provided his phone number for Ward 3 residents because of Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman's concerns about her private phone number. President John Roskovics stated that now that this is the beginning of her second term, he felt it was a good time for her to provide a phone number where Ward 3 residents could reach her directly. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

maintained that using the Legislative Office phone number would be sufficient, with the Clerk of Council fielding calls and forwarding them appropriately.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo suggested the possibility of providing Council members with City-issued cell phones. City Manager James Timonere stated that doing so would be an additional cost of \$3,360 per year for all Council members.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper to confirm that it is not a legal requirement for her to publish her personal phone number. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that there is no legal requirement in the City Charter of Rules of Council that requires Council members to provide their personal phone numbers to the public, though it has been Council practice.

President John Roskovics asked for a voice vote to accept the City Council Member Roster as presented, without a phone number for Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Committees of City Council

Committee Roster: Review / Amend / Vote to Accept

President John Roskovics stated that all committees would remain as they were previously established, as he did not receive any requests from councilors to change committees. It was noted that the Safety Forces meeting time needed to be updated to the second Thursday of each month rather than Mondays.

President John Roskovics asked for a voice vote to accept the Committee Roster.

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.

Monthly Meetings: Determine Day/Time of meetings; Chairs/Vice-Chairs

Council discussed the monthly meeting days, times, and chairs and vice-chairs. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman expressed opposition to the scheduled meeting times, stating that they do not provide enough flexibility for residents who work during business hours to participate in committee meetings. She noted that meetings scheduled at 5:30 p.m. or later would be more accessible to the public.

President John Roskovics asked for a voice vote to approve the monthly meeting times, chairs and vice-chairs for standing committees of Council.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Committee Purposes: Review / Amend / Vote to Accept

Council reviewed the Committee Purposes. It was noted that there were some references in the document that need updating. The My Neighborhood Collaborative group referenced in the Community Development / Economic Development / Parks & Recreation Committee description no longer exists and will be removed. The reference to Ashtabula County Medical Center will be updated to reflect the new name of Ashtabula Regional Medical Center. There was also a reference to the second floor of the Municipal Building, which needed updating since Council has moved locations.

President John Roskovics asked for a voice vote to accept the Committee Purposes.

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.

Goal Setting

President John Roskovics suggested that committees could discuss their goals when they meet. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman recommended having not only committee-level goals but also ward-specific goals and council-wide goals. She proposed holding a future work session to discuss organizational and cultural norms for how Council would work together in the coming term. President Roskovics suggested Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman request a work session during the Regular Meeting.

City Council Rules of Order

Review / Amend / Vote to Accept

Council reviewed the Rules of Order. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman identified several sections that needed updating, including Rule 11 (Pre-Council Meetings) which listed meetings at 6 p.m. rather than the current 6:30 p.m. practice, and Rule 16 regarding meeting locations that still referred to the second floor of the Municipal Building. City Manager James Timonere clarified that Rule 11 also indicates that the Pre-Council Meeting time is 6 p.m. "Unless otherwise ordered by the Council President and Council Vice-President," which was the reason for the time change.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman also raised a question about Rule 17, which states the Clerk of Council serves as official parliamentarian if they are a member of the National and Ohio Association of Parliamentarians. President John Roskovics clarified that Clerk of Council Stacy Millber has only been Clerk for a year and has not yet obtained that certification, so currently, parliamentary questions are referred to the City Solicitor.

Given time constraints, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper advised that Council needed to have rules in place to start the term, and amendments could be made at a future meeting. President John Roskovics stated that Council would schedule a work session with the City Solicitor's Office to discuss agenda format changes and amendments to the Rules of Council could be discussed at that time.

President John Roskovics asked for a voice vote to approve the City Council Rules of Order.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Administrative Matters

Pre-Council and Regular Council Meeting Agendas / Procedures

Legislative Process

December 2025 Calendar

Closing Remarks

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, December 15, 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:

December 15, 2025

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council