



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, December 1, 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 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

Work Session Minutes, November 17, 2025

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, November 17, 2025

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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

President John Roskovics requested a Resolution for Rev. Peter Nielsen, of St. Peter's Church, for his upcoming retirement.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to prepare a Resolution for Rev. Peter Nielsen; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: President John Roskovics stated that Rev. Nielsen has served the community and his church for a long time and done a lot of wonderful things.

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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo requested a Resolution for the Ashtabula Chapter of Zonta International in support of their efforts to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to prepare a Resolution for the Ashtabula Chapter of Zonta International; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated that the Zonta Club recently lit the Lift Bridge orange as part of its 16 Days of Activism campaign. November 25 to December 10 marks the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign. The campaign begins on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and ends on Human Rights Day.

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.

City Manager

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance to repeal Codified Ordinance Section 951.03 entitled Solid Waste Disposal, Rates, Collection and Disposal, for the passage of replacement legislation to impose new charges for rubbish disposal in the City of Ashtabula, effective January 1, 2026.

An ordinance enacting new Codified Ordinance Section 951.03 entitled Solid Waste Disposal Rates, Collection and Disposal, in order to increase efficiency and impose new charges for rubbish disposal in the City of Ashtabula, effective January 1, 2026.

An ordinance repealing Codified Ordinance Section 951.09 for the purpose of enacting replacement legislation that will provide for new rates and charges for leasing commercial containers, effective January 1, 2026.

An ordinance enacting new Codified Ordinance Section 951.09 for the purpose of enacting new rates and charges for leasing commercial containers, effective January 1, 2026.

An ordinance repealing, in its entirety, Codified Ordinance Section 951.10 for the purpose of replacement legislation enacting new rates and charges for Transfer Station rates, effective January 1, 2026.

An ordinance enacting new Codified Ordinance Section 951.10 for the purpose of enacting new rates and charges for Transfer Station rates, effective January 1, 2026.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: City Manager James Timonere stated that the ordinances would increase the City's garbage disposal rates, commercial container rates, and transfer station rates. He suggested they be presented for a first reading at the meeting and presented for passage at the December 15th meeting.

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.

City Manager James Timonere discussed the upcoming Ohio EPA grant application for recycling bins. The City is seeking funding to complete the second phase of its curbside recycling program. The projected cost of the 2,800 recycling bins is estimated at \$167,000. The City is eligible to apply for \$133,600 in grant funding with a \$33,400 match. An additional \$133,000 is needed for refuse containers. The City cannot use the solid waste containers as match funds as it did during the first phase of the recycling program. The total project cost is estimated at \$300,000, with \$166,400 coming from the Sanitation Fund. City Manager James Timonere stated he has had several conversations with the Ohio EPA about the grant application and had it reviewed by them as well. He stated he is confident in the application as the EPA is aware of the need to get the program completed. City Manager James Timonere stated the rate increases are necessary to complete the recycling program. The City will be notified early next year whether it receives the grant and will receive grant agreements sometime in April. After that point, the project can begin. The City has two years to perform the grant project. City Manager James Timonere stated that he does not want to wait two years and would like to get it done next year. The containers will need to be hot stamped with the City's logo and the Ohio EPA's logo and serial numbers, so the containers can be tracked.

President John Roskovics stated that he recently saw that the County is advertising for a new director of the Ashtabula County Land Bank and asked if that would affect any of the City's projects. City Manager James Timonere confirmed that Alex Iarocci is moving on to a new position. He stated that the City will be stepping in to help administer a lot of the Land Bank grants.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked for an update on the status of the new ladder truck the City purchased. City Manager James Timonere stated that the delivery date has been pushed back to August from the original March/April timeline. He noted that the City locked in the price at \$1.8 million three years ago, while the current price for the same truck would be \$2.2 million.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

The following legislation was formally requested:

An ordinance authorizing a reward for the Assistant Finance Director for extra duties, extended work hours, work on weekends, and lost paid time off during the transition in the City of Ashtabula Finance Department.

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 to make supplemental increases to appropriations in the W.P.C. Fund, S.C.M.R. Public Works Fund, Court Special Projects 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 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero 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

No report.

City Council Committee Reports

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

NO DECEMBER MEETING

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

NO DECEMBER MEETING

Committee Chair Kym Foglio provided the report.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

(4th Tuesday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

NO DECEMBER MEETING

Committee Chair Jodi Mills provided the report.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

December 11

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

Presentation of Legislation

President John Roskovics previewed the legislation

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

Jacob Dinsmore, of W. 54th Street, opposed the tax abatement for the Airbnb property, stating that it was purchased in March and could have been a family home instead of a short-term rental. He expressed concern about setting a precedent for investors purchasing new properties for Airbnbs.

Megan Humphrey, co-owner of Point Break LLC with an Airbnb on Thayer Avenue and a commercial property on Bridge Street, stated that she never sought tax abatement for her properties. She argued that the applicants are from out-of-town and are essentially absentee landlords who would not reinvest in the community. She stated that she and her brother both live locally and are personally invested in the community. She stated that every dollar they make on their properties is invested back into the property.

Tim Leehan, of North Kingsville and member of a group that developed the townhomes on Bridge Street, spoke in support of the tax abatement program. He stated it has spurred 40 to 50 new constructions in the City over the past seven years. He argued that abatements make housing more affordable by reducing monthly costs by \$200 to \$300 and each incremental extra \$100 pushes a lot of people out of being able to afford a home.

Blake Hinkle, of Ward 1, stated that details surrounding each tax abatement matter. He stated that someone coming to the City in good faith to open a short or long-term rental is entirely different than a short-term rental from people who live out of town. He also stated it is important for society to protect its most precious resources, including but not limited to housing. Mr. Hinkle stated that it is a mischaracterization to say that short-term rentals are in the same league as long-term rentals or single-family homeownership.

Anthony Oquendo, of Ward 1, stated that Airbnbs generate bed tax revenue and suggested Council needs to decide what kind of City they want Ashtabula to be regarding housing development. He also suggested setting guidelines for tax abatements.

Steve Chase, of Ward 1, suggested using a sliding scale for abatement based on the type of development and its location. He stated that short-term rentals do bring revenue to local businesses.

Austin Clark, of Columbus Avenue, asked if the proposed sanitation rate increase was per billing cycle, weekly, or monthly. City Manager James Timonere clarified that it is an increase to the monthly charge.

Ryan Lencl, of Main Avenue, suggested a more targeted, strategic approach to tax abatement rather than the current all-of-nothing system. He stated that different businesses do not bring the same value to the City and each one should be viewed independently.

JP Ducro, of Elm Avenue, agreed that a more strategic approach to tax abatement is necessary. He stated that he would like to see guidelines for different areas throughout the City.

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 - 190 (SECOND READING)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH VENICE ELITE PROPERTIES, LLC. FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS LOCATED AT 231 LAKE AVENUE, ASHTABULA, OH 44004

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo requested Ordinance No. 2025-190 be voted on separately.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the reading of the legislation; 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.

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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

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

Legislation passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 196 (SECOND READING)

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 113.16 TITLED REVITALIZATION DISTRICT IN ORDER TO ENACT NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 113.16 EXPANDING THE DISTRICT

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 197 (SECOND READING)

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 113.16, TITLED REVITALIZATION DISTRICT

President John Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2025-196 and 2025.197.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; 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 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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.

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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 199

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE ASHTABULA CODIFIED ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 200

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO ENTER INTO A MUTUAL RELEASE AND SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS WITH JENNIFER POCIASK FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$350.00

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 – 201

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A REWARD FOR THE ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR FOR EXTRA DUTIES, EXTENDED WORK HOURS, WORK ON WEEKENDS, AND LOST PAID TIME OFF DURING THE TRANSITION IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FINANCE DEPARTMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 202

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE W.P.C. FUND, S.C.M.R. PUBLIC WORKS FUND, COURT SPECIAL PROJECTS 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

President John Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2025-199, 2025-200, 2025-201, and 2025-202.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo 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 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 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation;
Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills 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.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 203

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 951.03, ENTITLED SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, RATES, COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, FOR THE PASSAGE OF REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION TO IMPOSE NEW CHARGES FOR RUBBISH DISPOSAL IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 204

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 951.03, ENTITLED SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL RATES, COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, IN ORDER TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND IMPOSE NEW CHARGES FOR RUBBISH DISPOSAL IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 205

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 951.09 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION THAT WILL PROVIDE FOR NEW RATES AND CHARGES FOR LEASING COMMERCIAL CONTAINERS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 206

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 951.09 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING NEW RATES AND CHARGES FOR LEASING COMMERCIAL CONTAINERS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 207

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 951.10 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION ENACTING NEW RATES AND CHARGES FOR TRANSFER STATION RATES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 208

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 951.10 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING NEW RATES AND CHARGES FOR TRANSFER STATION RATES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

Ordinance No. 2025-203, 2025-204, 2025-205, 2025-206, 2025-207, and 2025-208 were presented for a first reading.

President John Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2025-203, 2025-204, 2025-205, 2025-206, 2025-207, and 2025-208.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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 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.

Unfinished Business

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero inquired about the status of the flashing speed limit signs for Bridge Street. City Manager James Timonere stated that officials have researched the signs, and the project will likely move forward in the Spring. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked where the signs would be located. City Manager James Timonere clarified that the signs would be portable and battery operated, allowing them to be moved throughout the City.

New Business

Liquor License Transfer - Fazal Inc to Zufash Khan Inc., Uni-Mart, 4000 Park Avenue

The business is located in Ward 4. There were no concerns.

Liquor License - Los Compadres Inc., 4700 West Avenue

The business is located in Ward 3. There were no concerns.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated that the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association will host a member and friends event at the new Shenanigans Sports Hall on Main Avenue on December 2. Shenanigans will also host Sneak Peek Saturdays on December 6 and December 13 from noon to 5 p.m. Holidays in the Harbor will be on December 13 and December 14, featuring an ice skating rink, horse-drawn carriage rides and other activities. The Lights on the Lake walk-through will be on December 5 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Public Communications on General Matters

Blake Hinkle, of Ward 1, expressed concern about how Council handles public comments during a meeting. He stated that the process feels arbitrary. He also questioned why there is not more of a concern for the "have not" in the community.

Steve Chase, of Ward 1, challenged Council members to be better prepared for meetings. He also advocated for a graduated scale for tax abatement rather than an all-or-nothing approach. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that, since her first term, she has urged Council to reconsider the tax abatement process and has consistently voted against 100 percent for 10 years. She also stated that she was prepared for the meeting, but feels it was not realistic to have 30 minutes to go through 43 pages of documents.

Anthony Oquendo, of Ward 1, followed up on his previous concerns about homeless encampments in the Gulf. City Manager James Timonere confirmed that staff and the Solicitor's Office are addressing those camps, with contact already made and assistance offered.

JP Ducro, of West Prospect Road, stated that there is not a shortage of short-term rental properties in Ashtabula City, especially in the Harbor area. He believes there is a shortage of permanent housing, whether they are rentals or owner-occupied houses. He suggested an evaluation of the use of the property each year of the abatement. For example, if the occupancy status changes from owner-occupied to a rental over the course of the seven-year abatement, then the abatement percentage would be adjusted.

Ryan Lencl, of Main Avenue, questioned the significant increase in bed tax collection from last year to this year. City Manager James Timonere attributed the increase to the new hotel. Mr. Lencl asked for data on how many Airbnbs were operating in the City and how they were being tracked. JP Ducro explained that the County uses software to track short-term rentals and noted there are close to 600 rental options in Ashtabula County.

City Manager James Timonere provided clarification about the tax abatement process, explaining that Ohio law allows for 100 percent abatement for 15 years, but Ashtabula caps residential at up to 100 percent for seven years and commercial at 75 percent for 10 years. He stated that applications included information about property ownership, intended use, and whether the property will be a primary resident, secondary, rental, or short-term rental. He stated that abatements are not promised beforehand and are subject to Council approval. Commercial abatement must be approved by Council prior to any work being done.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 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