



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Pre-Council Agenda
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of a Pre-Council Meeting

Call to Order

The Pre-Council meeting of the Ashtabula City Council was called to order at 6:00 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: Finance Director Vladimir Kan

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

President's Report and Regular Meeting Review

President John Roskovics noted this was the first meeting using the new agenda format. City Manager James Timonere requested that the legislation on the agenda be approved without a second reading.

Councilors' Concerns

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero raised concerns about parking on both sides of West 13th Street in the area of Michigan Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue. He requested that the Clerk add this to the agenda for the next Safety Forces meeting, suggesting parking might be restricted to one side of the street opposite the fire hydrants, from Lake Avenue to Ohio Avenue. He also expressed concerns about the intersection of Harbor Avenue and West 24th Street, noting repeated crashes into the guardrail. He inquired about safety measures that could be taken to prevent accidents, mentioning that despite flashing lights and arrow signs, incidents continue to occur. City Manager James Timonere explained they were waiting for insurance and the Illuminating Company to address the most recent damage.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked about the status of the Main Avenue clock. City Manager James Timonere confirmed the clock is functioning and that he personally winds it every four to five days. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills also asked about cybersecurity training required by recently passed legislation. City Manager James Timonere stated that he would coordinate with his office to inform councilors of the training.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo raised concerns about e-bikes being ridden on sidewalks and questions about licensing requirements. Council discussed that riding bikes on sidewalks is illegal and citations are issued when observed. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper agreed to research whether there are licensing requirements for e-bikes and report back to Council. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo also inquired about regulations for building ponds on private property. City Manager James Timonere stated that ponds are not permitted. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo relayed concerns about ice rescue capabilities given the absence of the Coast Guard during winter months. City Manager James Timonere explained that the Coast Guard has not maintained a winter presence in Ashtabula for approximately 10 years, but the City's fire department has received training in ice rescue.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo requested that the Finance and Personnel Committee discuss providing City-issued cell phones for all council members. She explained that conducting City business via personal devices creates public records risks, exposes private data, and complicates compliance with records retention and Sunshine Law requirements. She argued that City-issued phones would create clear separation between personal and public business, improve transparency, and bring council in line with practices used by other City departments. The discussion included concerns about current public records requests requiring councilors to forward emails and screenshot text messages about City business. Several councilors expressed support for the proposal, noting it would simplify handling public records requests and create better separation between personal and City communications.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to place this item on the agenda for the next Finance and Personnel Committee meeting; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

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 carried.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked the City Manager to provide a quote for the cost of phones.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman raised questions about the rotation for delivering the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance at Council meetings. There was discussion about Rule 27, which stated that the prayer and pledge shall be recited by a member of City Council, the City administration/officers, or a member of the public. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman advocated for creating a structured, fair rotation system.

Phones for Council Members

Administrative Reports

City Manager

City Manager James Timonere expressed appreciation for the hour-long Pre-Council format, noting it allowed for better discussion flow without dragging the Regular Council meeting on. He provided an overview of several ordinances he requested for Council's consideration:

- An ordinance authorizing a contract with MNJ Techonology for Microsoft 365 Business Standard renewals at a cost of a little over \$15,000 for 112 licenses to be paid out of Fund 101.
- An ordinance authorizing the purchase of 15 MDTs and accessories for the police department at a cost of \$38,730 to be paid for with a grant received from the Morrison Foundation.
- Repeal and replace ordinances to correct a clerical error in Section 951.10 of the Codified Ordinances regarding refuse disposal rates at the transfer station.

In the Finance Director's absence, City Manager James Timonere also noted there was an ordinance authorizing changes to appropriations in various funds. Now that the year is closed for 2025, the 2026 budget is being updated to reflect the year-end balances.

Finance Director

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper reported no significant legal actions pending to which the City was a party, no financial rewards awarded against the City, and nothing legal warranting the immediate attention of Council.

President John Roskovics asked for an update on the situation at Harbor Ridge Apartments. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that there had been two lengthy meetings that day, one with HUD in the morning and another with attorneys for Harbor Ridge in the afternoon. She indicated that progress was being made, as attorneys for Harbor Ridge were beginning to understand the scope and extent of the issues, and were asking for additional time to obtain estimates, appraisals, and begin compliance work.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked about the status of several properties previously discussed that are owned by two individuals, one of whom has passed away, and the other is incapacitated. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that an attorney has been appointed through Probate Court to represent one of the estates. They are in the process of sorting out the properties. The Solicitor's Office has agreed, as a friend of the court, to get information and provide it to the attorney.

Clerk of Council

Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg informed Council about upcoming seminars offered by the Ohio Municipal League for newly elected and veteran council members. The closest seminar would be in Independence on Saturday, March 7. She agreed to email details to Council members.

She also clarified the process for community members to be added to the email list to receive meeting agendas, noting they should email here at clerkofcouncil@cityofashtabula.com.

City Council Committee Reports

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio announced that the Memorial Naming Committee would meet on February 10, 2026 at 6 p.m.

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

February 4

March 4

April 1

May 6

Committee Chair Jane DiGiacomo provided the report.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to place the tree legislation on the agenda for a first reading at the February 2, 2026 meeting; 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

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

February 20

March 20

April 17

May 15

Committee Chair Kym Foglio provided the report.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to place penalties and interest legislation for a first reading at the February 2, 2026 meeting; 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: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to place an ordinance to pay the 2025 sanitation invoice out of the current budget on the February 2, 2026 meeting agenda; 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

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

January 27

February 24

March 24

April 28

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

February 12

March 12

April 9

May 14

Committee Chair Terence Guerriero provided the report.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to place an ordinance to relocate the no-parking signs on Washington Avenue, from Bunker Hill to W. 58th Street, on the February 2, 2026 meeting 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

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President John Roskovics reported that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for the previous week had been canceled due to weather.

He shared a success story about a developer and the Architecture Review Board working together on a project in the Harbor area. Initially, the Board had concerns about the developer's plans, but after discussion, the developer adjusted the plans and ultimately decided to purchase additional property in the historic district. As a result of the collaboration, five residences in three different buildings are now planned for development in the area.

Discussion of New Business/Proposed Legislation

Discussion of Old Business/Legislation on for Second Reading

Discussion for the Good of the Order

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, February 2, 2026 in Council Chambers. The Pre-Council meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

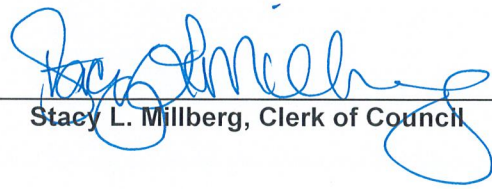
DATE APPROVED:

February 2, 2026

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics
John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:



Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council