



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President John Roskovics.

Prayer

President John Roskovics offered the opening prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

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: Finance Director Vladimir Kan

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, 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.

Motion to Approve the Order of the Agenda

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the order of the 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 carried.

City Manager James Timonere requested that the ordinances on the agenda be considered for passage rather than just a first reading.

Special Items

Communications

Citizen Comment and Community Announcements

Anthony Oquendo, Ward 1, raised concerns about the park bylaws and their enforcement. He specifically asked City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper about whether violations of park bylaws would be considered civil or criminal matters and about jurisdiction in township areas of the parks. City Solicitor Cooper explained that the City court has jurisdiction over Ashtabula Township, and criminal offenses occurring there are referred by the Sheriff's Office to

the City. She clarified that the City police department does not have authority in the township, as that is solely the Sheriff's jurisdiction, though City police would have authority in portions of the park owned by the Port Authority or the City. Mr. Oquendo asked about previous citations for encampments in the park. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper explained that those were primarily for fire code violations rather than park bylaw violations. She noted that fire code violations carry more significant penalties (misdemeanor of the first degree) and have been effective in addressing issues in City sections of the park. Mr. Oquendo attempted to get City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper's legal opinion on whether City police could enforce park bylaws within City jurisdiction, but City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper explained she could only provide legal advice to those she works for.

Haroldine Scruggs, of Cleveland Avenue, encouraged more respect between Council and citizens in 2026. She suggested that City officials arrange events to bring the community together. She emphasized the importance of togetherness in the community and encouraged citizens to address their concerns directly to Council. City Manager James Timonere stated that the City had previously tried ward meetings that were not well attended, but he expressed willingness and interest to try them again. Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero noted that he liked the idea of a parade. City Manager James Timonere stated that there is a group currently working with area veterans to bring back the Memorial Day Parade. He also noted that a county-wide committee is organizing events for the 250th celebration, including fireworks and other activities.

Jennifer German, of Ward 4, asked why the public comment portion had been moved to the beginning of the meeting rather than the end. President John Roskovics explained that Council had restructured the agenda to streamline meetings, placing all citizen comments at the beginning to allow people to comment on any topic, including legislation. He noted that Pre-Council meetings are now televised as well. Ms. German also inquired about contact information for Council members and was told that phone numbers and emails are available on the City's website. Ms. German further asked about the status of the Amtrak station development. City Manager James Timonere explained they were in the lobbying stage, working with a group called All Aboard Ohio. They have contacted Congressman Joyce's office and are working to contact Senators Marino and Husted for support. He indicated that more activity would likely occur in the spring, and they would request community support through letters and contacting representatives when needed.

Austin Clark, Columbus Avenue, expressed concern that citizens do not have an opportunity to respond to matters discussed during the meeting if public comment is only allowed at the beginning of the meeting. President John Roskovics explained that the legislation being voted on after the citizen comment portion was already discussed in Pre-Council, and City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper added that most legislation will receive two readings, giving citizens time to review it and address concerns at the next meeting, before Council votes.

Dave Goodale, Harbor Ridge Apartments, raised concerns about the heat situation at the apartment buildings. He asked about security cameras and other issues at the property. President John Roskovics explained that City officials had met with HUD that morning and with Harbor Ridge attorneys that afternoon. City Manager James Timonere explained that City inspectors have spent a considerable amount of time at the property over the past two years, and they have escalated issues to HUD. The Solicitor's Office has charges pending in court against Harbor Ridge. He noted that HUD is heavily involved, and they are hopeful that HUD representatives will inspect the property within the next two weeks.

Councilor Comments, Liaison Reports and Meeting Announcements

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Work Session Minutes, January 5, 2026

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman raised a concern regarding the discussion of committee assignments. She requested clarification that the data she presented was factual information received from the Clerk of Council, as she did not want readers to think she had provided inaccurate information. After some discussion, it was agreed that the minutes would be amended to indicate that Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman distributed a document showing committee participation with data she received from the Clerk of Council.

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

The amended minutes were approved.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, January 5, 2026

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: President John Roskovics asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that the moment of silence for Michael Charney was led by 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 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

The amended minutes were approved.

Resolutions

New Business

First Reading(s)

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 11

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER AN AGREEMENT WITH GPD GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ENGINEERING DESIGN, PLAN PREPARATION, AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR WEST AVENUE SIDEWALK PROJECT

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 12

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 951.10 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION CORRECTING AN ERROR IN THE RATES AND CHARGES FOR TRANSFER STATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 13

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 951.10 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CORRECTING AN ERROR IN THE RATES AND CHARGES FOR TRANSFER STATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 14

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MNJ TECHNOLOGIES DIRECT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWING MICROSOFT 365 BUSINESS STANDARD

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 15

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MNJ TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE PURCHASE OF 15 MOBILE DATA TERMINALS AND ACCESSORIES

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 16

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL CHANGES TO APPROPRIATION IN THE GENERAL FUND, STATE HIGHWAY 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, 2026

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 1 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.

Continuing Business/Public Hearings

Second Reading(s)

Administrative Approval Votes

Amended Council Rules

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to adopt the amended council rules; 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.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo highlighted several community events:

- Bat Boy, the musical is running at the Ashtabula Arts Center through February 1, 2026.
- The Ashtabula Arts Center is hosting a comedy night fundraiser featuring comedian Dan Brown on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the show starting at 7:45 p.m.
- The NEO Fund will host its first monthly networking meeting on January 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at Framed on Main. NEO Fund provides education and support for entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated that there would be a free pasta dinner, donated by Becker's, at Messiah Lutheran Church on January 23, 2026, from 5 to 7 p.m. She also noted World War II veteran Clifford Harp's 100th birthday and Feed Our Vets' sixth annual fundraiser on March 7, 2026, at Normandy Banquet Center. She shared positive feedback about the City's snow plowing efforts, noting that a plow driver had helped a resident whose car was stuck. She encouraged residents to check on neighbors during the cold weather.

City Manager James Timonere provided information about snow removal operations, noting they had requested 3,000 tons of salt this year and have already used 2,400 tons. He mentioned that salt becomes less effective below 22 degrees. He explained that the City has 99 center lane miles to plow, with most neighborhood roads requiring at least three passes to clear properly. He stated that there are sections of Route 20 that could take 10 passes to clear. He highlighted that the three new trucks purchased by the City have significantly improved the fleet, and they are planning to retrofit the old sewer jet truck for additional plowing capability, possibly adding a wing plow to help clear main streets more efficiently.

President John Roskovics also expressed appreciation for the sanitation department workers who continue their collection duties despite extreme temperatures.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. by President John 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

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council