



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
4717 Main Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Regular Meeting

- **Call to Order**
- **Prayer**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Moment of Silence (if needed)**

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Councilor Holman offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Vice President Michael Speelman, President John Roskovics

Absent: Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Finance Director Traci Welch, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

Absent: none

Motion: President Roskovics moved to excuse the Ward 2 Councilor's absence from the meeting; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Sunshine Law Certification

A quorum was established as defined by Ashtabula City Council Rules of Order. The meeting met the requirements of the Ohio Sunshine Laws Open Meetings Act.

Presentations/Announcements

Special Guest Presentation - Kim Fedler, Community Cat Coalition of Ashtabula County (CCCAC)

Ms. Fedler announced it had been two years since a group of ladies came to a City Council meeting to discuss community cats. The group began to meet at Lakeway Restaurant on a regular basis

beginning in January of 2020. That year, CCCAC was responsible for the Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) of 510 cats, raised roughly \$19,000 in order to complete the TNR project, and helped more than 70 people deal with cat communities in their neighborhood. In 2021, CCCAC efforts resulted in the TNR of 621 cats and raising \$25,000, which included several CCCAC members donating thousands of their own money. Ms. Fedler provided birth charts to emphasize the change of the life cycle when TNR is used within cat communities. For easy figuring, 1100 cats were fixed. Half of the cats getting fixed are female, so 550. The normal litter size is four to six kittens and cats normally produce litters two to three times, resulting in 4,400 kittens per year. This essentially means CCCAC's efforts prevented 8,800 births. Second generations of births were not considered in the figuring but there would be exponentially greater since kittens can start breeding by five months of age.

Ms. Fedler provided maps to demonstrate the concentration of community cat locations and where CCCAC was most active throughout the City and County of Ashtabula. This year, CCCAC became their own non-profit entity, opened a bank account and post office box, and maintain a Facebook page (Community Cats Coalition of Ashtabula County). Donations and volunteers are greatly appreciated. Contact information for CCCAC is as follows: Mail correspondence to CCCAC PO Box 2011, Ashtabula, Ohio 44005 or email CCCAshtabula@gmail.com. The group's goals for 2022 include increasing control of the community cat population and expanding into their own building for the cats and kittens around the county. The closest rescue and TNR facilities are an hour or more away. Relying on less than twenty volunteers, they could use more help in 2022 as well as donations. The successful "Shed Sale" fundraiser is scheduled for May 21 & 22, 2022. Monetary donations can be sent to the PO Box, or paid through PayPal at PayPal.me/CommCatsCoAshCo or CashApp at \$CommCatsCoAshCo.

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Roskovics asked for a motion to go into an executive session before proceeding with the meeting.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to convene executive session for the purpose of personnel/compensation; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion:

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Vice President Speelman, President Roskovics

Nays: None

The Councilmembers present exited the room to convene the executive session. Once convened, President Roskovics reconvened the public portion of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

February 7, 2022

Clerk of Council Senskey presented minutes from the February 7th Regular meeting.

Motion: Vice President Speelman to approve the minutes; Ward 1 Councilor Foglio seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Ayes: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Hearing no corrections to the minutes, they were approved as presented.

Administrative Reports

City Manager

City Manager Timonere formally requested the following:

An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to move certain employees up a pay step or grade for the purpose of ensuring their pay is not decreased as a result of recent Union negotiations

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request Approve the City Manager's request; Vice President Speelman seconded.

Discussion:

VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion carried.

An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into Memoranda Of Understanding approving amendments to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between AFSCME Local 1197 and the City of Ashtabula related to Article 4 Union Security/Deduction Of Union Dues and Article 34 Temporary Employees

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Vice President Speelman seconded.

Discussion:

VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion carried.

City Manager Timonere was going to request entering into a contract with Columbiana Chrysler Jeep Dodge for the acquisition of a Dodge Ram 3500 for Water Pollution Control, but the absence of a Councilmember would prevent a unanimous vote from occurring which is required after passing Ordinance 2021-109.

Garbage pick-up is on schedule and did not change because of Monday's holiday. The Ashtabula City Health Department received the 2020-2021 Community Service Award from Kent State University - Ashtabula. Dean Stocker presented the award during a recent Board of Health meeting. The presentation was delayed last year because of the pandemic. City Manager Timonere congratulated ACHD for the recognition and continued dedication. Potholes are a city-wide problem due to the increase in freeze and thaw periods. Individuals may call the Pothole Hotline at 440-992-7100. To assist the Public Works staff in identifying the area, please be as specific as possible and include an address or nearest intersection when reporting a pothole. Calls are logged daily while Public Works staff is out patching. Information can also be found on the City's website <https://www.cityofashtabula.com/public-works>. East 23rd Street has issues due to Aqua's water line project, but the hope is for its completion before the 2022 paving program.

City Solicitor

Finance Director

Clerk of Council

***Guest on DEDC - Why Mosquitoes Buzz In People's Ears: A West African Tale

***Update on Public Records Act & Open Meetings Act

*****2022 Municipal Officials Seminar March 26**

*****IIMC Conference Grant to attend the 2022 Annual Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas**

Clerk of Council Senskey went with Ward 4 Mills to meet and visit the Dragon Empowerment Center's Community Resource Coordinator, Jennifer Bunnell. Ms. Senskey will be a "Guest on DEC" on a Facebook video later in the year. She advised the Council about training and learning opportunities offered by the Ohio Municipal League. She also announced a grant she received for the 2022 IIMC Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. The conference is in May, she will hear many great speakers and participate in educational sessions pertinent to the clerk profession.

City Council Committee Reports

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation

- **Report of February meeting**
- **Next meeting: March 8, 2022, 4:00 p.m. featuring special guest, Brad Blair, Project Consultant – Ashtabula Capital Access Program (ACAP)**

Ward 4 Councilor Mills reported on the February meeting, minutes submitted and viewable on the City's website. The next meeting is March 8, 2022, featuring a special guest, Brad Blair, Project Consultant with Ashtabula Capital Access Program.

Finance & Personnel

- **Report of February meeting**
- **Next meeting: March 18, 2022, 8:30 a.m.**

Ward 1 Councilor Foglio reported on the February meeting, minutes submitted and viewable on the City's website. As a result of the executive session earlier in the meeting, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio made a motion to request City Solicitor Cooper draft a new contract for Finance Director Welch.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to request City Solicitor Cooper draft a new contract for the Finance Director; Vice President Speelman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Discussion:

It is a requirement to file municipal income tax beginning at age 18. City job postings, requirements, applications, and directions on how to apply are posted on the City website

<https://www.cityofashtabula.com/employment>. The City bidding process for the Mack trucks will be eliminated because of the way the cooperative sourcing agency, Sourcewell collects bids. This quicker process is approved per the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and ensures the purchase of two or three Mack trucks City Manager Timonere needs for Public Works. He is planning to fund the purchase through local financial institutions and will report more information and ask for legislation at the next Regular Council meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 18th at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Public Works

Next meeting: February 28, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Safety Forces

Next meeting: February 28, 2022, 8:45 a.m.

Presentation of Legislation

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

Overview / Discussion

Reading of Legislation

Since City Manager Timonere canceled his formal request to enter into a contract with Columbiana Chrysler Jeep Dodge for the acquisition of a Dodge Ram 3500 for Water Pollution Control, its corresponding legislation, Ordinance 2022-27, was pulled from the presentation.

Council President Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by Consent Agenda.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Haines moved to request Consent Agenda; Ward 1 Councilor Foglio seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2022-23 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2022 FORD F550 TRUCK AND AERIAL TRUCK PACKAGE FROM UTILITY TRUCK EQUIPMENT, INC., IN AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,719.00 (City Manager, requested 2/7/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-24 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DESIGN ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE 2022 PAVING PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$98,804.00 (City Manager, requested 2/7/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-25 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 WITH B.S.E. ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACING STREETLIGHTS WITH LED FIXTURES AND REPAIRING DAMAGED UNDERGROUND WIRING ON AND AROUND PARK AVENUE (City Manager, requested 2/7/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-26 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH CORY NAGLE, FOR COMMERCIAL TAX ABATEMENT AT 50% FOR 10 YEARS FOR THE EXPANSION OF RETAIL SPACE WITHIN 1569 LAIRD DRIVE (City Manager, requested 2/7/2022)

~~Ordinance No. 2022-27 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH COLUMBIANA CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A DODGE RAM 3500 FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (City Manager, requested 2/22/2022)~~

Ordinance No. 2022-28 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN AFSCME LOCAL 1197 AND THE CITY OF ASHTABULA RELATED TO ARTICLE 4 UNION SECURITY/DEDUCTION OF UNION DUES AND ARTICLE 34 TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES (City Manager, requested 2/22/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-29 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MOVE CERTAIN EMPLOYEES UP A PAY STEP OR GRADE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING THEIR PAY IS NOT DECREASED AS A RESULT OF RECENT UNION NEGOTIATIONS (City Manager, requested 2/22/2022)

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion: City Manager Timonere explained Ordinance No. 2022-24. The contract with GPD Group is to secure their services. The bid package won't be assembled until the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) makes a determination about State Route 84. A meeting with GPD and ODOT is scheduled for March 7. This wait delays the bidding process and is a concern.

VOICE VOTE: Waive the reading of the legislation in its entirety.

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion: Vice President Speelman moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor Holman seconded.

Discussion:

ROLL CALL VOTE Waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation.

Yeas: Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Vice President Speelman, President Roskovics

Nays: None

Motion carried.

ROLL CALL VOTE Adoption of legislation

Yeas: Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Vice President Speelman, President Roskovics,

Nays: None

Legislation adopted.

Unfinished Business

Ward 3 Councilor Holman revisited Council steps forward since passing Resolution No. 2021-11, declaring racism a public health crisis. She said racism affects every one of us. "There is diversity in each of our Wards." She went on to say, "Racism impacts education, literacy, poverty, health disparities, housing, the economy, and each of us has a responsibility to do something, as it can and will make a difference in improving our City." Council President Roskovics suggested a task force and Council can discuss this at the next Regular Council meeting.

New Business

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Council President Roskovics went to see the new mural at the Ashtabula Municipal Court. He congratulated them on the beautiful work of art now displayed in the courtroom. He delivered a welcome letter to one of the new businesses and is glad to see more businesses opening in the City. He was excited to see that Ashtabula County Medical Center is expanding on to the current facility. He feels ACMC is dedicated to growing in Ashtabula.

City Manager Timonere announced the Remote Area Medical (RAM) free clinic is on April 2nd and 3rd will be at the Lakeside High School facility. They offer vision, dental, and medical services. No identification is required to be seen, it is first-come, first-served.

Ward 1 Councilor Foglio announced Our Lady of Parish will be providing Lenten fish fry meals on Fridays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Ordering is available on-site or by calling the office, 440-992-0330.

Public Communications on General Matters

Speaker 1: James asked for a status update about the homeless issue. City Manager Timonere responded that he is involved in a task force with several of the local agencies and the Ashtabula Police Department has also formed a task force. Several outreach missions to different areas where the homeless are congregating have resulted in a better understanding of their mental health issues. The winter has made it easier to interact with individuals because they seek shelter from the cold. Organizations throughout Ashtabula City and Ashtabula County are looking at increasing resources for the homeless situation. It is an ongoing process.

Speaker 2: Cindy and Larry Herda purchased an old house on the south side of Hulburt between Marianne's and Rennick's one and a half years ago. They haven't been able to get to the house since Christmas due to snowfall. Neither plowing nor salting has helped the situation. They are refurbishing the house to sell and are concerned about the future of the road and access to the house for emergency vehicles as well as new homeowners. They invested in the area and are looking to improve the portion of the road they need to use. City Manager Timonere said the City planned to demolish the house and vacate the street before the Herda's purchased it. At this time, the City is discussing a partial fix with the Architectural Review Board (now called Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission) since it is in the Historic District.

Speaker 3: Ed questioned why he is paying property tax for Ashtabula Township and the City of Ashtabula. City Manager Timonere explained portions of the City that are called "unincorporated". Those areas were annexed into the City, but were never made incorporated. There are unincorporated areas of the City with Ashtabula Township and Saybrook Township. The properties in the unincorporated areas pay a small amount of property taxes to the townships and are able to vote on the townships' ballots. The property taxes collected are paid to Ashtabula County. The County distributes the taxes collected to the City of Ashtabula and Ashtabula and Saybrook Townships. It would be very difficult for the County Auditor to figure out the taxes paid in the unincorporated areas of the City. If the City incorporated those areas, the City would have to pay restitution to the townships for the finances they would lose for a period of many years. Ed also reported that the plow trucks are plowing when there is no snow and causing sparks. City Manager Timonere remarked that drivers try to get as close to the curb as possible.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, March 7, 2022, 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.


Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey

Attested By:


~~Vice~~ President of Council, ~~John S. Reskovics~~ Michael D. Speelman

Date Approved:

7 MARCH 2022