



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Council Chambers

4717 Main Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Committee Chair Haines.

Roll Call

Members Present: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines

Absent: President John Roskovics

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

Absent: none

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.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

Special Guest Presentation

Brad Blair, Project Consultant – Ashtabula Capital Access Program (ACAP)

Ashtabula Capital Access Program (ACAP) has the goal of being a small business development center. ACAP is a program within NEO (New Entrepreneurs Opportunity) Fund, which is an Ashtabula-based non-profit organization that provides educational programs for those interested in starting a new business in Ashtabula. NEO Fund also made loans to small start-up businesses. ACAP supports small businesses by offering advisory and mentorship resources, networking and financing. ACAP gets to know the company/client, requiring information a commercial banker would collect, then underwrites and talks to lenders on behalf of the company/client. Once the initial request is supported, ACAP meets with the company/client regularly for progress reviews. ACAP acts as a communication channel, supporting business clients to connect with lenders, economic development partners, other business owners, and local governments. Other start-up services ACAP offers are legal business formation, building business plans, and financial forecasts. Advisory services include ongoing financial reviews and mentoring, and cyber-security. In the area of financing, Ashtabula County offers a diverse selection of funding sources and ACAP helps determine the best type of funding for each client's needs. The ACAP website, <http://www.ashtabulacapital.com/> which has many forms to assist with building a business plan. A potential ACAP client may result from taking the NEO Fund classes and referrals come from lending institutions. Since its inception, ACAP has helped 27 clients overall and currently has 17

clients. When seeking help from ACAP, there is no charge to the client. ACAP obtains financing through alternative sources that support ACAP's operations. Current businesses can also utilize ACAP programs. NEO Fund holds a monthly networking event to help grow small businesses. Past graduates are not afraid to share their experiences with new entrepreneurs.

Unfinished Business

- **Parks & Recreation Board - member vacancy**
- **Revision of Codified Ordinance Chapter 759 Temporary Stores to include food truck language**

City Manager Timonere's appointment for the Parks & Recreation Board remains vacant, he has no updates at this time.

Revision to Codified Ordinances Chapter 759, Temporary Stores, is ongoing. City Manager Timonere wants to determine what a food truck proprietor receives for the fee and definitions for food truck set-ups. The Temporary Stores legislation was put in place to prevent "pop-up" businesses from taking away from "brick and mortar" businesses that pay license fees. Food trucks are becoming more of a draw to the area. Committee Chair Haines is excited to see food trucks in the City and looks forward to further discussion.

New Business

Committee Chair Haines and Vice Chair Mills are in the beginning stages of organizing a cleanup day for the City. They are seeking community members, businesses, and organizations to join a cooperative cleanup effort. Mr. Sal Jackson joined the discussion and has been organizing neighborhood cleanups for the past several years. He'd like to help get an early start on the project and believes it will restore pride to the City. The proposed date is Saturday, April 30th, and will begin in the morning. Firm details will be discussed at the next meeting. A degree of coordination and record-keeping is necessary, depending on the refuse materials collected or it could cost the City extra money. The cleanups will be held on public areas only, not private residences. Several weekends would be needed to get around all the Wards. Seeing people cleaning the community is contagious and perhaps encourages citizens to help clean up their neighborhood. City employees will likely begin cleaning parks in early April, depending on the weather.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

Special Guest: Mary Gonia-Glauser, Executive Director, Ashtabula County Animal Protective League

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m. by Committee Chair Haines.

Submitted by:
Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey