



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, March 2, 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 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Russell Simeone.

Prayer

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo offered the opening prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio led a moment of silence for Jeanne Marie Bento, the first female to be elected to the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners.

Roll Call

Members Present: 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: President John Roskovics
Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Finance Director Vladimir Kan, Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg

Vice President Russell Simeone asked for a motion to excuse President John Roskovics.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to excuse President John Roskovics; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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.

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.

Reading of Legislation

Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg read the legislation titles to be considered at the meeting.

Motion to Approve the Order of the Agenda

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to approve the order of the agenda; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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.

Special Items

Communications

Citizen Comment and Community Announcements

Anthony Oquendo, of Ward 1, recommended Council members use an app-based solution like RingCentral rather than having a City-issued cell phone. He explained that such apps would allow Council members to receive calls and messages on their personal phones while maintaining separate government lines, with only the app and government emails subject to open records requests. Mr. Oquendo also expressed disappointment about CSX's unwillingness to cooperate on maintenance of the Lake Avenue underpass, suggesting there might be creative legislative solutions to require them to maintain the structure to a decent appearance standard. City Manager James Timonere clarified that he had not spoken directly to CSX, but rather the Surface Transportation Board regarding some of the cosmetic issues with the underpass. He explained that CSX had indicated they would no longer communicate with the City directly and had referred them to a web page outlining how the City could pay for cosmetic improvements to the underpass structure.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked follow-up questions about Mr. Oquendo's phone app recommendation, confirming that it would still require Council members to use their personal phones and that there would be basic charges for the service.

Councilor Comments, Liaison Reports and Meeting Announcements

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo announced that the Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for May 25, 2026, noting participation from the Lakeside Band and 400 to 500 little league players. She encouraged businesses and organizations to participate, stating there was no fee and no firm cutoff date established yet. The Parks and Recreation Board is organizing the event, with the next planning meeting scheduled for March 23 at 4:30 p.m.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman proposed scheduling the Racial Wealth Gap Simulation for Council members, suggesting either finding additional dates or scheduling it as a Work Session before a Regular Council meeting. She noted that at least three Council members had already attended, with others expressing interest. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo and Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero supported holding it on the same night as a Regular meeting.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Pre-Council Meeting Minutes, February 17, 2026

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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, the minutes were approved as presented.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, February 17, 2026

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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, the minutes were approved as presented.

Resolutions

New Business

For Passage

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 42

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH SCOTT & LINDA LESTER FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS LOCATED AT 1021 MICHIGAN AVENUE, ASHTABULA, OH 44004

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 43

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH DAMON HARRIS FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS LOCATED AT 3348 BRIANNA COURT, ASHTABULA, OH 44004

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked that Ordinance No. 2026-42 and 2026-43 be handled separately should Council choose to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda.

Vice President Russell Simeone asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2026-42 and 2026-43

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: 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: 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 Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Legislation passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 44

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ENVISION GROUP, LLC. FOR PURPOSE OF PREPARING A ZONING AND PLANNING CODE UPDATE

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 45

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH

GPD GROUP OF AKRON, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE 2026 PAVING PROGRAM

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 46

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AFSCME LOCAL 1197 AND THE CITY OF ASHTABULA TO CLARIFY DEPARTMENTAL SENIORITY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND REMOVE OBSOLETE SUPERVISOR POSITIONS LISTED WITHIN THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 47

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JOHNSTONS TREE SERVICE LLC FOR THE REMOVAL OF TREES IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 48

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LAMPION COMPANIES TO REPAIR DAMAGE AND REPLACE SIGNALIZATION AT THE INTERSECTION E. 24TH ST. AND HARBOR AVENUE

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 49

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2026-04 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 – 50

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 51

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 52

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF A MEMORIAL SIGN HONORING JERRY MAUNUS TO BE POSTED AT THE ASHTABULA HARBOR TOPKY PICKLEBALL COURTS, ASHTABULA, OHIO

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 53

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF A SIGN HONORING THE ROBERT MORRISON FOUNDATION/MOLDED FIBERGLASS CORPORATION FOR THE CREATION OF THE “FIBERGLASS BODY” FOR THE “CORVETTE” TO BE PLACED ON MAJOR STREETS AND ROADS WHERE THEY ENTER THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 54

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM SUB-RECIPIENT GRANT AGREEMENT WITH EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE MAIN AVENUE FAÇADE PROGRAM/PROJECT WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

Vice President Russell Simeone asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2026-44 through 2026-54.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo inquired about the specific wording for the memorial signs being authorized. City Manager James Timonere explained plans to standardize all city entry signs, incorporating various honors including Urban Meyer, Connie Schultz, and the new MFG sign, along with traditional civic organizations

like Lions Club and Rotary Club. He indicated signs would be placed at specified locations in the City's ordinances, estimating between four and six locations. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked questions about the Community Reinvestment Area applications, specifically whether applicants were required to be first-time homebuyers, whether "owner-occupied" meant primary residence, and whether the City inquired about multiple property ownership. City Manager James Timonere confirmed they do not ask about first-time buyer status or multiple property ownership, and that owner-occupied means the property serves as the applicant's primary residence.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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: 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: 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.

First Reading(s)

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 55

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY IN ORDER TO RENEW THE GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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.

Continuing Business/Public Hearings

Second Reading(s)

Administrative Approval Votes

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo announced that May 9 would be the City Clean Up day, with emails going out soon to past participants. She connected this to America's 250th Anniversary celebration, proposing "250 Beautify" as a City motto to encourage ongoing cleanliness efforts. She also stated that the Ashtabula Arts Center is collecting water bottles for a pop culture art project.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio shared that March is dedicated to Developmental Disabilities Awareness, with the Lift Bridge being lit orange in recognition. She also noted that March is Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month, sharing her personal connection through her son, who was diagnosed with advanced progressive MS at age 33 and is now 38. She provided education about the disease, explaining that it attacks the brain and spinal cord, affecting walking, dexterity, memory, and bodily functions, with no current cure available.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio also presented historical items to the City, including an original 1930s photograph of the Ashtabula Police Department, which she gave to Chief Rob Stell for display. She also donated a 1949 Roberts Rules of Order book that belonged to the Ashtabula City Council of Parents and Teachers, which she gave to Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills reminded everyone that daylight saving time is this weekend. She also announced two upcoming Master Plan Steering Committee meetings: a committee meeting on Tuesday, March 10, and a public forum on Thursday, March 26 at 6 p.m. in the Blue and Gold Room at Kent State University. She encouraged attendance at both meetings, emphasizing that the second meeting would build on new information and data. She also noted that the GO Bus service had started that day.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman commented on the need for collective learning regarding executive session procedures following a previous meetings, indicating she would work with the Solicitor's Office to improve the process.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. by Vice President Russell Simeone.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, March 16, 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:

March 16, 2026

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council