



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, March 21, 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 March 21, 2022, Regular meeting of the Ashtabula City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Councilor Foglio offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, President Roskovics

Absent: Vice President Speelman

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

Absent: none

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to excuse Vice President Michael Speelman from the meeting; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed

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.

Approval of Minutes

March 7, 2022

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

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the minutes; Ward 3 Councilor Holman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Ayes: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, 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 an ordinance to authorize the continuation of eight (8) Community Reinvestment Area Tax Incentive Agreements upon conditions as indicated and in accordance with the Tax Incentive Review Council.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve City Manager Timonere's request; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

City Manager Timonere formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with ODOT to participate in the 2022 road salt contract.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve City Manager Timonere's request; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None Motion Passed

City Manager Timonere formally requested an ordinance to enter into an MOU with Ashtabula County Health Department to provide physical space in an emergency.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve City Manager Timonere's request; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed

These three requests correspond with legislation on the evening's agenda.

City Manager Timonere formally requested an ordinance to authorize the Lift Bridge Community Association to hold the annual Ashtabula Wine & Walleye Festival in the Harbor Historic District on July 22, 2022, through July 24, 2022, in conjunction with the City of Ashtabula.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve City Manager Timonere's request; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion: The Festival Committee has been meeting. Volunteer opportunities will soon be announced.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed

City Manager Timonere formally requested an ordinance to enter into a Community Reinvestment Area Tax Incentive Agreement with Ashtabula Senior Housing LP, with a mailing address of 120 E. Main Street, Ravenna,

OH 44266 for new construction for property located on West 54th St. and Chestnut Ave. for a tax abatement at 50% for 10 years that will create two (2) part-time jobs.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve City Manager Timonere's request; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion: Ashtabula Senior Housing LP offers income-based housing for seniors.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed

City Manager Timonere formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Building Technicians with a mailing address of P.O. Box 266 Madison, OH 44057 for the purpose of providing labor and materials for the WPC Digester Building Roof Project to include a subcontractor for the brick and masonry work in the amount not to exceed \$45,840.00. Funding for this project will be taken from fund 504.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve City Manager Timonere's request; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion: \$34,280.00 for the project is a reimbursement from the insurance company because the roof was damaged during a storm.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed

City Manager Timonere requested the Council's approval to re-appoint David DeGeorge (FSO) to the Board of Health effective retroactive to February 4, 2022, with a term to expire on February 3, 2027.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to Approve City Manager Timonere's request; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed

Ward 1 Councilor Foglio reported some potholes on Westwood Avenue. Public Works has been notified and will rectify the situation within a few days. Ward 3 Councilor Holman called the City pothole number and appreciated how quickly the Public Works staff filled the holes.

City Solicitor

Finance Director

Finance Director Welch announced the deadline to file this year is Monday, April 18th, but you are encouraged to file by April 15th. The Income Tax Department hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. The department will have extended hours remaining open until 6:00 pm on Thursday, April 14th; Friday, April 15th; as well as, Monday, April 18th.

The "File City Income Tax Online" link is now available and is located on the City's website, by selecting the Income Tax Department under the "Departments" heading. If you do not have the ability to scan and upload the requested documents, please make sure to mail or drop them off at our office by the tax deadline for your return to be processed and completed. The tax filing is not complete until the office receives all the necessary documents.

Please remember that all residents over the age of 18 must file a tax return even if there is no tax due.

Finance Director Welch requested an ordinance for the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners for the purpose of collecting transient lodging tax (bed tax) on behalf of the City of Ashtabula. She cited the benefits of the agreement:

- The amount of revenue collected will increase due to software that notifies the County when a new establishment registers on Air BnB or VRBO, as well as 32 other booking sites. We currently do not have this capability.
- The software tracks nights booked on booking sites to compare with what has been reported, to make sure the correct amount is being reported.
- Provides the taxpayer with one spot to report and remit County and Local taxes, which eliminates the inconvenience of preparing 2 reports and 2 payments for each establishment.

The Finance Department does not have the ability to identify city properties being used as transient lodging and relies on property owners to self-report their bed tax. In 2021, the Finance Department collected \$5,745.17. According to Ashtabula County, \$10,309.48 should have been collected. Ashtabula County purchased software to identify transient lodging type properties county-wide. Property owners reported the inconvenience of having to file and pay the bed tax to multiple entities.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve Finance Director Welch's request; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion: President Roskovics does not support the request and does not see an urgency until the Council knows more about the particulars. He feels the City should maintain control of the bed tax collection.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: President Roskovics
Motion carried.

After further discussion, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio withdrew her motion and Ward 5 Councilor withdrew her second.

Clerk of Council

The Ashtabula Municipal Recovery Court is celebrating its 6th graduation ceremony on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at Lakeside Auditorium.

A Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 4:00 pm in Council Chambers.

City Council Committee Reports

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation - next meeting: April 12, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

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

March 8th meeting report

[Link to March 8th](#) Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee meeting - Minutes Tab

Finance & Personnel - next meeting: April 15, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

Ward 1 Councilor Foglio requested a resolution be prepared to honor Jeannie Droese's years of service with the City of Ashtabula City Solicitor's Office. She is retiring in April after 32 years of employment.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to prepare a resolution to honor Jeannie Droese; Ward 3 Councilor Holman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Public Works - next meeting April 25, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Safety Forces - next meeting: April 25, 2022 8:45 a.m.

Presentation of Legislation

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

Overview / Discussion

Reading of Legislation

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

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the disposal of Regular Business Legislation by Consent Agenda; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Ordinance No. 2022-42 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GIANPIERO AND CYNTHIA PIRAS FOR THE POSITION OF CONCESSIONAIRE AT WALNUT BEACH FOR THE SUMMER SEASONS IN 2022, 2023 AND 2024

(City Manager, requested 3/7/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-43 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CT CONSULTANTS IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$16,000 PER YEAR FOR TWO YEARS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA'S WPC INDUSTRIAL PRE-TREATMENT PROGRAM

(City Manager, requested 3/7/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-44 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH EMILY AND FRANKLIN VERDI, FOR TAX ABATEMENT OF \$260,000 OF THE ASSESSED VALUE AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR A NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLING LOCATED AT 3222 BRIANNA COURT, ASHTABULA, OH 44004 (City Manager, requested 3/7/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-45 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY HEALTH

DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE PHYSICAL SPACE IN AN EMERGENCY (City Manager, requested 3/21/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-46 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF EIGHT (8) COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENTS UPON CONDITIONS AS INDICATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL (City Manager, requested 3/21/2022)

Resolution No. 2022-47 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ASHTABULA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2022 (City Manager, requested 3/21/2022)

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

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

Discussion

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, President Roskovics

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

ROLL CALL VOTE Adoption of legislation

Yeas: Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, President Roskovics

Nays: None

Legislation Passed

Unfinished Business

Ward 3 Councilor Holman:

The Star Beacon misquoted Ms. Holman in an article based on her discussion during the March 21, 2022, City Council meeting. She did not say "...she wants to see an employee's job review before giving anyone a raise."

Ward 4 Councilor Mills:

Earth Day is every April 22 and has been celebrated globally since 1970 when it was introduced in the United States by Senator Nelson. People in over 190 countries participate in Earth Day. Mrs. Mills said, "By taking part in activities like picking up litter, we're making our world and our community here in Ashtabula a happier and healthier place to live." Residents can be involved by participating in the Clean Up Ashtabula Day, on April 30th from 9a to noon.

Ward 1 Councilor Foglio:

Clerk Senskey hosted a webinar "UPDATE ON PUBLIC RECORDS ACT & OPEN MEETINGS ACT" attended by Ms. Holman, Mrs. Mills, and Mrs. Foglio. She learned new information, including how new technology affects public records and the Open Meetings Act. Offering training in the conference room was convenient and made for a nice group setting. More webinars can be scheduled for the future.

New Business

Notice of Interest to Serve: Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

The terms of service for the board members of the Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission (AHPC) have expired. An interested city resident submitted a Notice of Interest to Serve on the AHPC. No action was taken.

Other New Business

Ward 4 Councilor Holman:

Ms. Holman is working with City Solicitor Cooper to form an ad hoc committee to explore action steps for City Council's Resolution #2021-11, A Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis. A national organization called GARE (Government Alliance on Race and Equity) is having an information session on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. For more information, review the GARE website, <https://www.racialequityalliance.org/>. Interested community members can contact Ms. Holman or Clerk Senskey.

Ward 3 Councilor Mills:

The RAM (Remote Area Medical) Clinic is on the weekend of April 2 and 3, 2022 at Lakeside High School. The RAM clinic offers free medical, dental, and vision services to everyone. Since 1985, more than 800,000 individuals have received free services from RAM clinics. No ID is required. Doors open at 6:00 a.m.

Ward 1 Councilor Foglio:

Mrs. Foglio and Mrs. Mills attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the new office of Family Pride of Northeast Ohio in Kister Plaza. The facility offers counseling, trauma support, case management, parenting classes, school-based services, and services for seniors.

President Roskovics:

Mr. Roskovics attended the Architecture Review Board (Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission) meeting last week. He was surprised and impressed to learn most of the houses on the old Harbor High School property had been sold. The same builders are planning duplexes on Lake Avenue. People from out of town are purchasing the properties though most have ties to the area.

Several residents inquired about using golf carts around the City of Ashtabula. City Solicitor Cooper said the Ohio Revised Code prohibits golf carts on public roads unless they meet the same requirements as motor vehicles. Golf carts are not defined as motor vehicles because most cannot reach speeds over 25 miles per hour.

Public Communications on General Matters

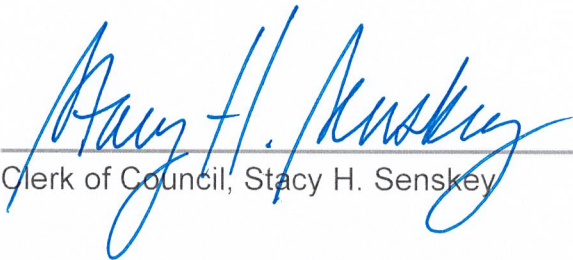
Sal Jackson spoke about his involvement in the neighborhood clean-ups. He has been organizing successful neighborhood clean-ups since 2017. Students and various volunteer groups have helped in the past. He appreciates the efforts of Ms. Haines, Mrs. Mills, and Mrs. Senskey to secure more volunteers for the April 30th Clean Up Ashtabula Day. He asked the Councilmembers to reach out to residents of their neighborhood to join the project. He hopes to see more litter prevention and enforcement of the law. He feels that the efforts to keep our community clean will likely result in more businesses in the area and better retention of residents. As a Realtor, he talks to many people

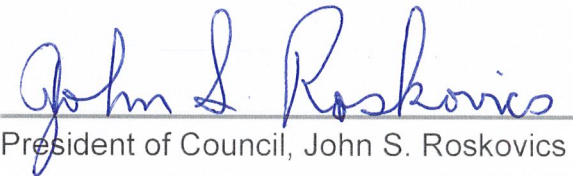
from out of state who comment on the value of the resources of Ashtabula. He'd like more options that deter people from littering. City Manager Timonere said in instances when the City cleans up a property, the property taxes are charged a clean-up fee.

Deborah Hill works at G. O. Community Development Corporation (G.O. CDC) and has volunteered for several years. She wants to start an art program for children ages 10 to 18. Tentatively, the program will start June 6th and there will be no charge. G.O. CDC will offer space in their building, but also hope to provide transportation for students to learn about the arts by visiting museums, art festivals, galleries, and studios. Many times, students may have talent but don't have the funds to learn more. Ms. Hill has a painting in the building's Main Avenue lobby. The G. O. CDC website <https://www.go-cdc.org/> will have more information about the program.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 08:07 PM by Council President Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, April 4, 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.

Attested By: 
Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey


President of Council, John S. Roskovics

Date Approved: 