



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Pre-Council Agenda
Monday, March 16, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of a Pre-Council Meeting

Call to Order

The Pre-Council meeting of the Ashtabula City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President John Roskovics.

Roll Call

Members Present: President John Roskovics, 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: Vice President Russell Simeone

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

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

President's Report and Regular Meeting Review

Administrative Reports

City Manager

City Manager James Timonere presented the following ordinances for consideration:

- An ordinance to enter into a contract with Brobst Enterprise Inc for 2026 yard waste disposal services.
- An ordinance to purchase three used police vehicles from the Geauga County Board of Commissioners.
- An ordinance authorizing the continuation of eight Community Reinvestment Area Tax Incentive Agreements as recommended by the Tax Incentive Review Council.
- An ordinance to dispose of obsolete equipment from the Water Pollution Control Department.

City Manager James Timonere requested a voice vote to appoint Anthony Oquendo to the Parks and Recreation Board with a term expiring May 21, 2029.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, 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.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero inquired about the cost of a fireworks display for the Fourth of July during the 250th anniversary celebration. City Manager James Timonere explained that the Wine and Walleye fireworks cost \$12,500, with the Parks and Recreation fund contributing \$7,500 and the Lift Bridge Community Association contributing \$5,000. For a July 4 display, the quote was approximately \$30,000. City Manager James Timonere emphasized needing an immediate decision and funding source of Council wished to move forward. The timing

would be July 2 or July 3, since July 4 was already booked.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills inquired about the obsolete equipment disposal, with City Manager James Timonere confirming most would be scrapped as old electronics.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked for clarification about legislation requiring two readings. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper stated that all legislation requires first and second readings unless Council moves to waive the second reading, which is what's anticipated with the items on the consent agenda. If Council does not do that, then they get read the first time tonight and then a second time at the next meeting.

Finance Director

No report

City Solicitor

No report

Clerk of Council

No report

City Council Committee Reports

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation

(1st Wednesday @ 5:30 p.m.)

Members: Chair DiGiacomo/Council Liaison to Parks and Recreation Board; Vice Chair Mills; Holman

April 1

May 6

June 3

July 1

Committee Chair Jane DiGiacomo provided the report.

Committee Chair Jane DiGiacomo moved to support the Parks & Recreation Board's recommendation to allocate \$12,000 of Parks Levy funds for improvements to Veterans Memorial Park and Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Cornelius Park.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, 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.

Finance & Personnel

(3rd Friday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

March 20

April 17

May 15

June 19

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked for clarification about her expected role at the upcoming meeting. President John Roskovics explained that policy discussion from the recent executive session would be more appropriate for the Finance and Personnel Committee. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated that the executive session was convened under false pretenses. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that the purpose of the executive session was to share the summary and outcome of exit interviews she conducted with two former employees. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated that the only information that was presented during the executive session was Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman's own summary. There were no documents signed by the individuals that were subject to the interviews. No information containing the date, time or location of the interviews was provided either.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio made a public records request for all the documents from the exit interviews.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

(4th Tuesday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

March 24

April 28

May 26

June 23

Safety Forces

(2nd Thursday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

April 9

May 14

June 11

July 9

Committee Chair Terence Guerriero provided the report.

A comprehensive presentation was given by Chief Rob Stell and officers from the Ashtabula Police Department, along with representatives from Square One Health, regarding their collaborative homeless outreach program.

Chief Rob Stell explained that three years ago, they estimated approximately 80 homeless individuals in the community, but through their efforts, they have reduced that number significantly. The program began with two officers working in plain clothes to build rapport with the homeless population, which proved successful in gaining trust. The initiative expanded to include multiple agencies with nine to 10 members, including partnerships with Square One Health, whose representatives accompanied officers in the gulf area to provide direct assistance.

Officers Tim Bruckman and Ryan White described their approach of introducing themselves, listening to individual needs, and connecting people with services including Square One, Signature Health, and other organizations. They emphasized that many individuals who received help have not returned to the area, with some relocating to their original communities.

The next phase involves bringing services directly to individuals rather than expecting them to navigate to service locations independently. This approach addresses barriers like transportation, lack of phones for appointments, and mental health challenges that prevent follow-through on scheduled services. The team tracks individuals through ongoing investigative reports completed by patrol officers, creating a running total to compare year-to-year data and identify recurring versus new cases.

Square One Health representatives Kristy Hosken, Jennifer Stofan, and Dwayne Turnquist acknowledged their organization's role in contributing to the problem initially, but emphasized their commitment to being part of the solution. They described their current practices of not allowing clients to simply leave facilities to become homeless locally and encouraging out-of-area clients to return to their home communities where services are available.

Chief Rob Stell noted that most current homeless individuals are now from the Ashtabula area, contrasting with three to four years ago when the majority came from other states and regions.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President John Roskovics stated that the Planning Commission meets Thursday with a couple of items on the agenda. The Historic Preservation Commission met last week with one or two Main Avenue businesses attending, which he viewed positively for establishing uniform guidelines and improvements for that area.

Discussion of New Business/Proposed Legislation

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero stated that the Safety Forces Committee would provide the Solicitor's Office with proposed legislation for house addresses on alleys, likely requiring two readings with an effective date of September 1 to give residents all summer to implement the requirements.

Discussion of Old Business/Legislation on for 2nd Reading

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo stated that at the last meeting during the discussion about cell phones for councilors, it was stated that none of the surrounding areas offered cell phones, except for the County Commissioners. She stated that she received confirmation that Ashtabula Township does provide cell phones for the trustees.

Discussion for the Good of the Order

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked for Council's support of Phil Tomko's, of Ashtabula Regional Medical Center, mobile mammography grant application. The program provides cancer screening services through Cleveland Clinic's mobile unit, addressing barriers like transportation, cost, and work schedules by delivering services directly to communities, workplaces, and faith-based institutions.

Motion: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills moved to support ARMC's mobile mammography grant application. President John Roskovics seconded.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, 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.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo inquired about City policies requiring utilities to restore entire lanes rather than just patching cuts. City Manager James Timonere explained that full lane restoration depends on timing relative to planned paving and the size of utility cuts. He noted current challenges with Aqua's lead service line replacement grant work, which is creating multiple cuts in close proximity on some roads, requiring ongoing discussions about proper restoration methods.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. by President John Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, April 6, 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:

April 4, 2026

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council