



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, March 16, 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 President John Roskovics.

Prayer

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio offered the opening prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed for former Ward 3 Councilor Alice Cook.

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

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

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to excuse Vice President Russell Simeone. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

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.

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 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the order of the agenda; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

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 carried.

Special Items

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 56

A RESOLUTION HONORING CHIEF SHAWN GRUBER ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

City Manager James Timonere and Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero presented the Resolution.

President John Roskovics asked for a motion to accept Resolution No. 2026-56.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to accept Resolution No. 2026-56. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

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 carried.

Communications

Citizen Comment and Community Announcements

Anthony Oquendo, of Ward 1, requested clarification about the Wine and Walleye Festival arrangements. He questioned why the City would pass an ordinance for the Lift Bridge Community Association to hold the festival while also providing fireworks funding. City Manager James Timonere explained that the City owns the trademark for the Wine and Walleye Festival, requiring annual permission for organizations to use it. Regarding the fireworks, the City contracts for the display because it's more efficient, with the Parks and Recreation levy contributing \$7,500 and the LBCA converting the remaining \$5,000 of the \$12,500 contract.

Sarah Brower, of Ward 2, followed up on her previous request for a resolution limiting cooperation with ICE and Border Patrol. She referenced sending emails including a copy of East Cleveland's resolution and expressed disappointment with responses suggesting such an ordinance might violate the FBI Safe Streets Task Force agreement with the police department and jeopardize funding.

T Gallo, on behalf of Betsy's Bees, also spoke in support of a resolution limiting cooperation with ICE.

A River Road resident continued reading a letter in support of a resolution limiting cooperation with ICE.

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper clarified her position, stating she did not say such a resolution would violate the task force contract. Her concern was that without investigation, she could not determine the impact on the multi-jurisdictional task force involving FBI and DEA agents, or on officers working with the Marshal Service fugitive squad. She noted the task force's effectiveness in removing drugs, guns, and violent criminals from the streets and emphasized that conversations with the police chief and FBI field office would be necessary to assess any impacts. President John Roskovics expressed concern about maintaining the task force relationship while acknowledging immigration concerns. He suggested exploring middle-ground options like a council position paper that could show support without potentially problematic resolution language.

Liz Penna, asked about data center development in Ashtabula and the status of the Racial Wealth Gap Simulation efforts for Council. City Manager James Timonere explained that data center developers need significant acreage that the City does not possess within its boundaries. While surrounding townships and counties might attract facilities due to access to natural gas, Lake Erie freshwater, and power, Ashtabula City proper lacks sufficient space. He mentioned a boutique data center had previously shown interest in the old municipal building, but the project was not financially feasible. Regarding the racial wealth gap simulation, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that the Ad Hoc Committee: Exploring Racism as a Public Health Crisis had been seeking Council participation but had difficulty coordinating dates. The committee proposed conducting the simulation during a Council work session. She also stated that draft legislation to transition the Ad Hoc Committee: Exploring Racism as a Public Health Crisis to a permanent entity was shared with councilors and awaiting feedback before bringing it for a first reading.

Julia Barton, Hatches Corners Road, also spoke on behalf of Betsy's Bees.

Councilor Comments, Liaison Reports and Meeting Announcements

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman requested dates when Council members would be interested in participating in a Racial Wealth Gap Simulation. After some discussion, the simulation was scheduled for April 6 at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Pre-Council Meeting Minutes, March 2, 2026

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

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

Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, March 2, 2026

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

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

Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Resolutions

New Business

For Passage

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 57

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BROBST ENTERPRISE INC FOR THE 2026 YARD WASTE DISPOSAL

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 58

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE POLICE VEHICLES FROM THE GEAUGA BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 59

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING THE LIFT BRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PERMISSION TO HOLD THE ANNUAL ASHTABULA WINE & WALLEYE FESTIVAL IN THE ASHTABULA HARBOR HISTORIC DISTRICT ON JULY 24 THROUGH 26, 2026, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 60

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH GRAND FINALE FIREWORKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,500 TO PROVIDE A FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR THE 2026 WINE & WALLEYE FESTIVAL

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 61

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 62

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED EQUIPMENT FROM THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT

President John Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2026-57 through 2026-62.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman initially requested separating ordinance 2026-61 to ask about the review process. City Manager James Timonere explained that the Tax incentive Review Council requires annual reports from companies including payroll data and compliance with original agreements, checking payment history, recommending continuation or discontinuation. When offered access to original applications for review, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman chose to keep the item in the consent agenda.

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.

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

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.

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: 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.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL 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

Legislation passed.

First Reading(s)

Continuing Business/Public Hearings

Second 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

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.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL 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

Legislation passed.

Administrative Approval Votes

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo announced the Arts Center's "Last Comic Standing" event on March 28th featuring headliner Dan Brown, with tickets available at the Arts Center.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills provided updates on the master plan steering committee meeting and reminded residents about the public forum scheduled for Thursday, March 26th at 6 p.m. in Kent State University's Blue and Gold Room. She emphasized this would be different from the first forum, featuring a synopsis of current progress and interactive boards for public input. She also mentioned the NEO Fund monthly networking event on Wednesday at Kent State's Susan Stocker Building, featuring food truck owners. She reminded food truck operators that permits begin April 1 and noted the inspection and sticker requirements. She directed residents to the City website's codified ordinances section for detailed information about food trucks and other regulations.

President John Roskovics announced a "skunk mingle" fundraiser at the Chalk Box on Saturday, featuring opportunities to visit and photograph skunks. He credited the event to the organizer of the popular goat yoga events from previous years.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 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 6, 2026

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council