



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Pre-Council Agenda
Monday, April 6, 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, 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: None

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 apply for the Ohio Department of Development Downtown Buildings Flexible Grant Program in the amount of \$245,000 to assist with a project at Rennick's Meat Market, 1104 Bridge Street, which is looking to expand the upstairs area of the restaurant.
- An ordinance to enter into a contract with Parram Electric to upgrade the W. 19th Street, Lake Avenue, West Avenue traffic signal for \$41,700.
- An ordinance to enter into a contract with Koski Construction for the 2026 paving program. Koski was the lowest bidder for \$655,914.50. The paving list includes Myrtle Avenue, between W. 10th Street and W. 11th Street; Gladding Avenue; E. 16th Street from Columbus Avenue to Harbor Avenue; Dunsmore Avenue; Coleman Avenue; W. 38th Street, from Lake Avenue to the terminus; Perrysville, from Fort Avenue to Samuel Avenue; Dunbar; and W. 8th Street, from Union Avenue to Arlington. Additional paving projects include W. 19th Street from Lake Avenue to the western City limits and the Collins Boulevard project.
- Ordinances to declare and dispose of obsolete items in both the Finance Department and the Police Department.
- An ordinance to purchase a new secondary engine for the street sweeper for \$24,515.93 from Ascendance Truck Centers. Delivery is expected in two to six weeks.

City Manager James Timoners also presented three ordinances for a first reading:

- An ordinance to enter into a contract with Best Truck Equipment to purchase a Scag zero-turn mower and push mower for Parks and Recreation for \$16,963.
- A Community Reinvestment Area tax incentive agreement with Shawn and Delia Hoch for 100% tax abatement for seven years for a residential dwelling at 1814 W. 10th Street.
- A Community Reinvestment Area tax incentive agreement with Mitchell Malasky and Amanda Wood for 100% tax abatement for seven years for a residential dwelling at 2602 Brooke Lane.

City Manager James Timonere requested a voice vote to waive transfer station fees for the 2026 River Cleanup conducted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Motion: President John Roskovichs moved to waive the transfer station fees for the 2026 River Cleanup; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovichs, 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.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero inquired whether the Downtown Buildings Flexible Grant Program is open to other businesses. City Manager James Timonere explained that several businesses in the Harbor have inquired about and received grants through this program previously, with the program limited to defined business districts like the Harbor and downtown areas.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked whether the paving project came in under budget. City Manager James Timonere confirmed the estimates were around \$700,000, noting that money is set aside for full depth repairs and the Collins Boulevard project accounts for the lower number. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo also inquired about Aqua making cuts into the roads and whether the roads on the paving list will be affected. City Manager James Timonere stated that both Aqua and Dominion have been notified of all roads scheduled for paving and told to complete any necessary work beforehand.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero raised concerns about a catch basin repair on Harbor Avenue and the area to the north of the repair site, describing it as a safety hazard. City Manager James Timonere acknowledged the issue and indicated temporary patching could be done once the asphalt plant opens. Similar concerns were raised by Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio about an area on Walnut Boulevard, where permanent repairs have not been completed.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked about the status of the Ashtabula High School property. City Manager James Timonere stated that he had limited knowledge of any projects for that property, noting that the library owns the property.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman inquired about the applications for the tax abatement ordinances as they were not included in the packet. City Manager James Timonere agreed to forward the applications to Council members for review.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo inquired about the street sweeper repairs and whether it is beneficial to repair it rather than purchase a new one. City Manager James Timonere stated that the cost of a new vehicle is over \$300,000. He indicated the current truck has a lot of life left. The secondary engine is what needs to be replaced. The main engine and the chassis are still in good condition. He estimates being able to use the vehicle for two to three more years once the repairs are complete.

Finance Director

Finance Director Vladimir Kan presented the following ordinances for consideration:

- An ordinance to make supplemental changes to appropriations in various funds totaling \$26,413.37.
- An ordinance to repeal ordinance 2026-50.
- An ordinance with updated payroll for City and Health District employees.

- An ordinance to formally include the Small Cities Program Grant as a pass-through expense in permanent improvement fund 412 for fiscal year 2026.

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper requested Council's approval to make the victim advocate position full-time. The county had decided not to partner on sharing the position and hire their own full-time advocate. The current part-time victim advocate has proven to be invaluable, handling 446 victim contacts and providing 99 different services in the past month. The position would be funded through opioid settlement funds for the remainder of the year, with the understanding that the advocate would seek grant funding for future years. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper explained this was necessary due to new state mandates requiring victim notification and participation rights.

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper reported no pending civil litigation with potential large liability, no cases where the city might recover significant money, and no recent large forfeitures. She provided an update on Harbor Ridge, noting a consent agreement had been reached with a timeline for repairs, with consequences of contempt of court, daily fines, or attorney general intervention if deadlines are not met. A hard deadline of September was set to avoid another difficult winter.

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

May 6

June 3

July 1

August 5

Committee Chair Jane DiGiacomo provided the report.

Committee Chair Jane DiGiacomo inquired about the timing of the Land Bank's Welcome Home Ohio event on April 18, which City Manager James Timonere indicated had not been finalized due to board member availability.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics

April 17

May 15

June 19

July 17

Committee Chair Kym Foglio provided the report.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

April 28

May 26

June 23

July 28

Committee Chair Jodi Mills provided the report. She also highlighted issues with flushable wipes causing problems at pump stations and reminded residents about proper disposal practices. She shared information about NOPEC electric rate changes, with meetings available for residents with questions. The closest meeting location is at Henderson Public Library in Jefferson on April 17 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

April 9

May 14

June 11

July 9

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

The Planning Commission approved a small engine golf cart repair shop on Bridge Street and space for a counseling office on W. 57th Street. A house construction request on Fourth Street required additional information. The Historic Preservation Commission will meet Wednesday afternoon with several agenda items to be reported at the April 20 meeting.

Discussion of New Business/Proposed Legislation

Discussion of Old Business/Legislation on for 2nd Reading

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills inquired about golf cart inspections, which operate from May to October. City Manager James Timonere reported only one inspection had been completed to date, with the police department ready to conduct inspections upon request.

Discussion for the Good of the Order

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero reported a tree in the river near the ambulance facility, with City Manager James Timonere explaining that the Port Authority and harbor master typically remove logs before boating season, wither through contractors or volunteers.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m. by President John Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, April 20, 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 20, 2026

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council