



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, April 20, 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 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero offered the opening prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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, 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

Brian Hulbert, of W. 44th Street, addressed Council regarding the poor condition of W. 44th Street, describing it as having significant potholes causing damage to vehicles. He explained that the sewer system is blocked, causing water to flood the area, sometimes reaching knee-high levels that can flood cars. The brick road presents repair challenges. City Manager James Timonere acknowledged that while the road is not on this year's paving list, they

could examine the storm drains to address flooding issues. He explained that properly fixing a brick road would require removing all bricks rather than simply paving over them.

Jack Rosario, of Runkle Avenue, expressed concerns about ongoing property maintenance issues with a neighboring rental property. Despite multiple City responses, the property owners temporarily move items to comply but then return everything once inspectors leave. The situation has attracted rodents and other pests. City Manager James Timonere explained that the property is a Section 8 property and is inspected by AMHA rather than the City. Housing inspectors have discussed the issue with the Solicitor's Office to help determine jurisdiction options.

Dee Scruggs, of Cleveland Avenue, emphasized the importance of Council members attending the Racial Wealth Gap Simulation to stay informed about changing conditions in Ashtabula. She commended Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero and Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo for their attendance at a recent Racial Wealth Gap Simulation held at the library. Mrs. Scruggs also announced new homeownership opportunities being built on W. 39th Street and Station Avenue, encouraging residents to explore homeownership rather than renting. City Manager James Timonere and Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo provided detailed information about the Welcome Home Ohio program, explaining that six houses will be built with values around \$300,000 but selling for approximately \$180,000 due to state subsidies. The program included built-in equity, pre-qualified lending options, and deed restrictions to maintain affordability. Monthly payments are expected to be around \$1,250, often less than current rental costs. The houses are energy efficient with all appliances included.

Anthony Oquendo, of Ward 1, expressed skepticism about the Welcome Home Ohio program's claimed property values, questioning whether houses on Station Avenue would truly be worth \$300,000. He also criticized spending on the Bridge Street/Hulbert Avenue project while residents' roads remain in poor condition. He expressed enthusiasm for the Tannery Hill brownfield grant as a potential step toward creating a park. City Manager James Timonere clarified that the Hulbert Avenue project is using critical infrastructure grant funding with only \$20,000 to \$30,000 in City contributions.

Susan Hulbert, of W. 44th Street, continued discussing her husband's concerns about W. 44th Street, noting that Aqua Ohio will be replacing piping for three houses, potentially creating an opportunity to coordinate road improvements. She described severe flooding that reaches three feet into driveways and noted that snowplows avoid the street due to damage concerns.

Sarah Brower, of Ward 2, announced a data center development meeting on Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Ashtabula District Library, hosted by Betsy's Bees with Policy Matters representatives discussing statewide policies. She inquired about tiny home development opportunities mentioned in the comprehensive plan presentation. City Manager James Timonere confirmed interest in such developments, noting the City is about a year away from completing zoning work that would establish guidelines. Ms. Brower also asked about tax abatement opportunities for ongoing work on her Bridge Street Building. City Manager James Timonere explained that renovations can qualify, but abatement is based on increased property value rather than project costs, making it challenging for maintenance-type improvements that don't necessarily increase the property value.

Councilor Comments, Liaison Reports and Meeting Announcements

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked about the next public meeting for the comprehensive plan. City Manager James Timonere stated that the meeting would be June 4, 2026, at the Ashtabula Regional Medical Center community room in the new patient tower at 6 p.m. He also confirmed that the community survey is live and available for public input.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Pre-Council Meeting Minutes, April 6, 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, 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, April 6, 2026

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

Discussion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman requested corrections to reflect the correct spelling of a resident's name and comments from a resident made at the meeting.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

The minutes were approved with the requested corrections.

Resolutions

New Business

For Passage

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 76

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 77

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE WEST 48TH STREET/COLLINS BOULEVARD (S.R. 84) PROJECT

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 78

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BEST TRUCK EQUIPMENT, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A BOSS PLOW PACKAGE FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 79

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH J. SEVERINO CONSTRUCTION INC. FOR THE OPWC MICHIGAN AVENUE SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 80

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 HULBERT AVENUE (SOUTH) RECONSTRUCTION

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 81

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY LANDSCAPE & SUPPLY, INC. FOR THE WEST AVENUE SIDEWALK PROJECT

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 82

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF ASHTABULA TO SUPPORT SUBMISSION OF A STATE OF OHIO BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION PROGRAM FUND – REMEDIATION GRANT BY THE ASHTABULA CITY PORT AUTHORITY FOR THE TANNERY HILL PROPERTY

President John Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2026-76 through 2026-82.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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
Nays: None
Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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
Nays: None
Motion passed.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: 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
Nays: None
Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: 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
Nays: None
Legislation passed.

First Reading(s)

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 83

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING ADOPTION OF THE EMPLOYEE GENERAL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

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: 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
Nays: None
Motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 84

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO REPOWER THE 32' JUSTICE BASE BOAT AT ROAMING ROCK MARINA

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: 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

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: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Legislation passed.

Continuing Business/Public Hearings

Second Reading(s)

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 73

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BEST TRUCK EQUIPMENT, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SCAG ZERO TURN AND PUSH MOWER FOR PARKS & RECREATION

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: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Legislation passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 74

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH SHAWN & DELIA HOCH FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS LOCATED AT 1814 WEST 10TH STREET, ASHTABULA, OH 44004

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: 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

Nays: None
Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, 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 - 75

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH MITCHELL MALASKY & AMANDA WOOD FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS LOCATED AT 2602 BROOKE LANE, ASHTABULA, OH 44004

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, 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.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman questioned whether the applicants are first-time home buyers and if they will occupy the homes. She stated that she has been advocating for more questions on the applications so more informed decisions can be made. She also expressed concern about providing 100 percent abatement for expensive homes. President John Roskovics and City Manager James Timonere defended the current tax abatement program, citing its success in spurring development and noting that abated properties still contribute income taxes, utility fees, and other revenue. City Manager James Timonere agreed to develop potential program modifications for Council to consider, though President Roskovics expressed satisfaction with the current policy's effectiveness in promoting investment throughout the City.

Administrative Approval Votes

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo announced the Kiwanis Club clean-up of Griswold Road on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon, with lunch after. She reminded residents of the City Clean Up on May 9 starting at 8:30 a.m.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills promoted the City's sidewalk reimbursement program and announced a volunteer fair at the library on Friday, April 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

City Manager James Timonere reminded residents about yard cleanup guidelines, emphasizing the use of biodegradable bags for the Public Works facility, proper bundling requirements for sticks and branches, and noting that cameras have been installed to monitor compliance. He also reminded residents about the 8-inch maximum grass height requirement.

President John Roskovics encouraged residents to enjoy Ashtabula's businesses and attractions during the summer season.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by President John Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, May 4, 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:

May 4, 2026

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council