



**City of Ashtabula**  
Ashtabula City Council Pre-Council Agenda  
Monday, April 20, 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 participate in the ODOT road salt contracts for 2026.
- An ordinance authorizing additional funding for the Collins Boulevard project.
- An ordinance authorizing the purchase of a plow package from Best Truck Equipment for the new Water Pollution Control truck.
- An ordinance authorizing a contract with J. Severino Construction for the Michigan Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project through OPWC.
- An ordinance authorizing a contract with GPD for engineering design and construction administration for the Hulbert Avenue South reconstruction project.
- A resolution of support for the City Port Authority's application to the State of Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program Fund for the Tannery Hill property.
- An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to repower the police boat at Roaming Rock Marina.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero raised concerns about Harbor Avenue conditions between 21st Street and 22nd Street, describing the road as nearly impassable and dangerous for nighttime drivers. He also stated that a resident on Bridge Street requested painting speed limit signs on the street as a temporary measure until flashing speed limit signs could be installed. Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero also inquired about the status of the flashing traffic light on Harbor Avenue. City Manager James Timonere reported that a contract had been signed, and they were waiting for the contractor to reinstall the equipment, noting that an insurance claim was involved.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo addressed several concerns from residents, including questions about quality control for pothole repairs. City Manager James Timonere explained that crews perform their own checks, but residents could contact public works or his office for follow-up inspections if repairs were inadequate. She also continued her advocacy for W. 54th Street from Adams Avenue to the railroad tracks, noting the excessive number of potholes and asking when the street might be selected for complete reconstruction. City Manager James Timonere discussed the process for determining the selection of roads to be paved each year. Councilors are asked to submit a list of roads in their wards they would like to be paved and then the list is evaluated along with available funding to determine which roads can be paved. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo also asked if the asphalt plant was opened. City Manager James Timonere confirmed it was open, and the City had begun using hot mix asphalt. The plant operates based on sufficient order volumes, and permanent repairs to utility cuts are now being made since the plant was operational. He noted that both Aqua and the gas company had been making temporary repairs to their cuts on Adams Avenue, with permanent repairs to follow.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero noted significant sized potholes on W. 19th Street where the cement actually broke off. City Manager James Timonere acknowledged seeing these and confirmed they had been reported, noting that W. 19th Street was scheduled for paving this year. President John Roskovics noted observing similar issues on other streets like Walnut Boulevard and W. 10th Street, where new construction and utility cuts had compromised entire roadways. City Manager James Timonere noted that when there are numerous cuts, the City discusses with utility companies whether complete road reconstruction might be more appropriate than individual patches.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked about the process and timeline for Aqua's restoration work after utility projects. City Manager James Timonere explained that restoration timelines are governed by Aqua's contracts, which the City doesn't directly oversee, but typically they allow settling time before final landscaping restoration, with timing dependent on weather and pla

#### **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**

**May 6**

**June 3**

**July 1**

**August 5**

##### **Finance & Personnel**

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

**Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Roskovics**

**May 15**

**June 19**

**July 17**

**August 21**

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**

**Safety Forces**

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

**Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics**

**May 14**

**June 11**

**July 9**

**August 13**

Committee Chair Terence Guerriero provided the report.

**Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission**

President John Roskovics reported that the Planning Commission meeting was canceled, but upcoming meetings would discuss City zoning project results. The Historic Preservation Commission met and approved several business painting requests.

**Discussion of New Business/Proposed Legislation**

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo raised concerns about illegal dumping, noting resident frustration and areas identified during City Clean Up preparation. She requested exploration of solutions, possibly through the Public Works Committee, suggesting ideas like bulk pickup funding through small billing increases or surveillance cameras in dumping areas, noting grant availability for such equipment. City Manager James Timonere responded that the City already provides bulk services when residents call for pricing and pickup at their homes. The county solid waste district had purchased cameras that the City had tested in areas like Ohio Avenue extension, though results were not as successful as hoped, with no successful prosecutions during the trial periods. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo requested that the issue be forwarded to the Public Works Committee for further discussion.

**Discussion of Old Business/Legislation on for 2nd Reading**

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills inquired about updates on the recycling grant application. City Manager James Timonere reported no updates yet but expected news soon, possibly within the week, as notifications were expected in April.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked about downtown construction progress. City Manager James Timonere reported three businesses were currently out to bid with pre-bid meetings scheduled for Wednesday and bid returns set for the following Wednesday. City staff was helping business owners through the bidding process with contractors from the preapproved list, requiring a minimum of three bids with relatively quick turnaround times. When asked about businesses that changed their minds about participation, City Manager James Timonere confirmed that all \$500,000 was currently allocated, with slight increases in minimum allocations to ensure full grant utilization.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman confirmed that representatives had visited businesses to introduce themselves and provide construction timeline information.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked about the project's visibility impact. City Manager James Timonere clarified that while some roof work was included, most work involved visible facades, doors, windows, and awnings, ensuring noticeable improvements. All lighting along Main Avenue will be replaced with decorative poles during the sidewalk work, with electrical infrastructure installed before pole installation to minimize service interruptions.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked about ways the City is working with the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association regarding adding lighting to the buildings. City Manager James Timonere stated that originally the ADDA had some funds set aside to do some streetlights on Main Avenue, but since the City is now doing the streetlights within this project, there have been discussions about adding lighting to the buildings that would highlight them effectively and compliment the street lighting.

President John Roskovics asked about buildings that are for sale, such as the Army Navy building. City Manager James Timonere explained that these properties are not included because owners had not expressed interest in

facade improvement, and one owner's proposal involved structural work or demolition rather than clear renovation plans, leading to denial of funding for properties without defined plans to reopen.

**Discussion for the Good of the Order**

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio thanked City Manager James Timonere for accompanying her to Edgewood High School to return a football from a 50-year time capsule opened in November. The football was from the 1975 Edgewood vs. Jefferson football game with a note from Mr. Batanian requesting its return after 50 years.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio also thanked City Manager James Timonere for designing signs for the Morrison Foundation, reporting that the requesting ladies were very happy with the results.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 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**