



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Pre-Council Agenda
Monday, May 4, 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 authorizing a contract with Wilkinson Paving for various street cut road restorations in an amount not to exceed \$49,994.
- An ordinance authorizing a contract with Johnston Tree Service for the second round of tree removal in an amount not to exceed \$12,400.
- An ordinance consenting to ODOT's installation of a cable barrier along State Route 11 within City limits. City Manager James Timonere explained that the barrier consists of metal posts with a stretched cable in the median designed to prevent vehicles from crossing into opposing lanes of traffic. The project carries no financial outlay for the City, as all installation costs are borne by ODOT; however, the City will be responsible for maintenance of the barrier following installation. Discussion took place regarding the lighting situation at the end of Route 11. President John Roskovics relayed concerns about the adequacy of the current blinking lights. City Manager James Timonere confirmed that the entire signal system at the location is under review in consultation with ODOT and GPD, and that any improvements would be the responsibility of the City.

An ordinance authorizing an agreement with Pro Line Technology for the installation and maintenance of security cameras at the City Annex, in an amount not to exceed \$60,381.01, was previewed for consideration at a future meeting. The agreement includes a five-year licensing and maintenance term, to be funded from Fund 412. City Manager James Timonere noted that the court is contributing \$12,000 over two years toward the project. The

existing system was described as extremely outdated and in need of replacement.

City Manager James Timonere also provided additional operational updates. Curbside leaf bag pickup is underway, running through the first week of June on an alternating basis. The Main Avenue project is progressing well, with the entire west side of Main Avenue completed and conduit being laid for the new streetlights. Several storefronts have received bids under the facade improvement program. A pre-construction meeting with Koski Construction is pending to establish a paving timeline, and the City is awaiting ODOT's start date for the Collins Boulevard project.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero relayed concerns regarding a basketball hoop on Joseph Avenue. He also reported several potholes on East 15th Street between Columbus Avenue and Harbor Avenue.

President John Roskovics also noted a billboard near City Hall, confirming a prior Council vote to remove it. City Manager James Timonere noted that the matter remains low on the priority list given current workloads. He confirmed the City receives revenue from Montrose for the billboard.

Finance Director

Finance Director Vladimir Kan presented two items for consideration:

- An ordinance enacting adoption of the Employee General Reimbursement Policy, which updates the sales tax exemption and refund provisions under the Ohio Department of Taxation.
- An ordinance to make supplemental changes to appropriations in the General Fund and all other funds listed on Exhibit A for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2026, in the amount of \$49,482.47.

President John Roskovics asked for clarification regarding communication from the court concerning changes to court payroll and the creation of a finance clerk position. Finance Director Vladimir Kan clarified that a finance clerk had transitioned to a general clerk role, and another employee was promoted to the finance clerk position, which has been converted from an hourly to a salaried classification. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio expressed concern regarding a longer history of bookkeeping issues within the court's office, referencing problems dating to 2020, a state audit engagement in 2023 funded by the City at a cost of \$5,000, and the continued unresolved status of the court's financial records as of 2026. She noted that the employee now being elevated to the finance clerk position served in a supervisory capacity throughout this period, and a six-year pattern of financial discrepancies remains unresolved.

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper reported that the new victim advocate's activities are being tracked statistically in preparation for grant applications. The advocate completed two free online grant-writing courses. In April, she recorded 400 contacts with witnesses and victims combined, of which 233 were with victims specifically. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper also noted that the victim advocate reached out to Signature Health, Community Counseling, and JFS to share resources and build referral relationships, and that positive feedback about her work had been received from those organizations.

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

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

May 26

June 23

July 28

August 25

Vice Chair Terence Guerriero provided the report.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Guerriero, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

May 14

June 11

July 9

August 13

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President John Roskovics noted that the Historic Preservation Commission is scheduled to meet on May 13 and the Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on May 21.

Discussion of New Business/Proposed Legislation

Discussion of Old Business/Legislation on for 2nd Reading

Discussion for the Good of the Order

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo thanked those involved with organizing the annual City Cleanup which was scheduled for Saturday, May 9.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman discussed the proposed Thriving Communities Commission which was previously presented in a draft ordinance. She requested feedback from Council on two specific refinements before proceeding with a revised draft:

1. To structure the commission with one representative from each ward, rather than the previously proposed seven-member configuration, to ensure ward-level representation aligned with the commission's data-driven focus; and,
2. A residency provision that would require the majority of commission members to reside within City limits, while permitting some outside representation to broaden perspective.

President John Roskovics stated that he maintains his stance that the transition from the Ad Hoc Committee Exploring Racism as a Public Health Crisis to a permanent commission would be best accomplished by simply reorganizing the group as a new ad hoc committee under the name "Thriving Communities," which would afford the committee flexibility in membership composition without the added complexity of formal legislation. He noted that several concerns he had previously submitted in writing had not received a response.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that the scope of the committee's work had expanded significantly beyond its original focus on racism to encompass broader social determinants of health, educational outcomes, and data analysis for grant applications, and that the group sought a more permanent standing in order to meaningfully influence legislation and City services. She opposed dissolving the existing ad hoc committee before a permanent solution was in place.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero expressed reservations about allowing non-residents to serve on the proposed commission, stating that City residents have a greater personal stake in community outcomes and should constitute the full membership. He also raised concern that a permanent commission's focus and quality of membership could shift significantly over time through successive appointments, whereas an ad hoc structure would preserve more flexibility. City Manager James Timonere clarified that City employees serving on committees

outside of regular working hours are typically compensated for their time, which was noted as a consideration in structuring membership.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo indicated support for the proposed commission, noting its potential benefit to Ward 5 as well as all wards across the City.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m. by President John Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, May 18, 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 18, 2026

ATTESTED BY: John S. Roskovics
John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY: Stacy L. Millberg
Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council