



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, May 4, 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 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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: City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo 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

Dee Scruggs, of Cleveland Avenue, urged minority communities and lower-income residents to attend City Meetings. She emphasized that the City's issues are important and require active engagement from citizens, and that decisions affecting the community should not be left solely to elected officials.

Bobby Keene, of W. 15th Street, addressed Council regarding a denied building permit for an addition to his

existing detached garage. Mr. Keene stated he had plans prepared by a contractor and was ready to proceed, but was informed by the Planning and Community Development office that the addition could not be permitted. President John Roskovics and City Manager James Timonere confirmed that the denial was the result of a moratorium enacted by Council, which prohibits new accessory structure additions in excess of 200 square feet. The discussion revealed that Mr. Keene's proposed addition would be approximately 560 square feet, bringing the total garage footprint to approximately 1,120 square feet. City Manager James Timonere explained that the moratorium was put in place due to a pattern of problematic construction across the City, including concerns about excessive structure sides, water runoff onto neighboring properties, and non-conforming proximity to property borders. It was explained that the moratorium is not permanent and is tied to the ongoing update of the City's master plan and zoning code, which is expected to be completed in early 2027. Mr. Keene was encouraged to continue working with the City offices in the meantime.

Councilor Comments, Liaison Reports and Meeting Announcements

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Pre-Council Meeting Minutes, April 20, 2026

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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 20, 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.

Resolutions

New Business

For Passage

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 85

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WILKINSON PAVING FOR VARIOUS STREET CUT ROAD RESTORATIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 86

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JOHNSTON'S TREE SERVICE LLC FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF REMOVAL OF TREES IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 87

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2026-38 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 88

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 89

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL CHANGES TO APPROPRIATION IN THE GENERAL FUND AND ALL OTHER FUNDS LISTED ON EXHIBIT A FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026

President John Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2026-85 through 2026-89. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked that Ordinance No. 2026-87 and 2026-88 be separated.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2026-85, 2026-86, and 2026-89; 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 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 Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Vice President Russell Simeone 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.

President John Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for Ordinance No. 2026-87 and 2026-88. Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo indicated she wished to abstain from voting. Before the abstention vote could occur, discussion arose regarding the basis for abstention and whether it was legally required. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that a conflict of interest abstention typically applies to immediate family members or those with a direct financial interest. City Manager James Timonere indicated that past practice for similar situations has been to suggest abstention. He stated that all abstentions are suggested and not mandatory.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero requested additional details on the compensation changes reflected in Ordinance 2026-88. Finance Director Vladimir Kan provided the following information: Municipal Court employee Maria Rivera was previously compensated at \$60,028.80 per year in a supervisory clerk/paralegal role and has

been promoted to a new Finance Clerk position at \$66,268.80 per year. The prior occupant of the financial clerk position had been compensated at \$23.00 per hour (approximately \$47,840 annually), representing a significant difference in compensation between the two positions.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio expressed concern regarding the promotion due to ongoing financial irregularities in the court. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman raised concern that some aspects of the discussion were personnel matters and should be discussed privately. President John Roskovics suggested tabling the legislation to allow councilors more time to review the full documentation before voting.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to table Ordinance No. 2026-87 and 2026-88; President John Roskovics 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Motion passed by a 5-1 vote due to Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo's abstention.

First Reading(s)

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 90

CONSENT LEGISLATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A CABLE BARRIER ALONG SR 11 WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: City Manager James Timonere confirmed that the project is fully funded by ODOT at no cost to the City of Ashtabula. The City's only obligation would be to perform maintenance if an incident were to occur. In response to a question regarding roadside lawn maintenance, City Manager James Timonere explained that ODOT and the City have an existing agreement whereby the City washes trucks from ODOT's Seven Hills station at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in exchange for ODOT's mowing of State Route 11.

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.

Continuing Business/Public Hearings

Second 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; President John Roskovics 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.

Administrative Approval Votes

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills announced that Safety Town is scheduled for June 8–19, serving kindergarten and first-grade students from Michigan Primary, Ridgeview Elementary, and St. John School. Sessions are available in the morning and afternoon. High School students in grades 9–12 are invited to participate as volunteers and may earn service hours. Registration forms are available via a QR code on the Ashtabula City Police Department's Facebook page, at the participating schools, or at the APD dispatch office. City Manager James Timonere noted that Kingsville Elementary School has also been added as a participating school this year. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills also announced that Bands on the Beach at Walnut Beach is scheduled to begin on Thursday, June 11, with the first performance by the band High Horse. The series runs from 7 to 9 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo announced that registration to participate in the Memorial Day Parade downtown is May 15. Approximately 19 to 20 units are currently registered, and the public is encouraged to attend.

President John Roskovics remarked on the positive impact the Riverbend Hotel has had on the City, noting it as a significant asset and investment in the community.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 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