



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, June 1, 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 7:01 p.m. by President John Roskovics.

Prayer

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo
Absent: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman
Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Finance Director Vladimir Kan, Clerk of Council Stacy Millberg

President John Roskovics asked for a motion to excuse Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to excuse Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE 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: None

Motion passed.

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 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Special Items

Communications

Citizen Comment and Community Announcements

Anthony Oquendo, Ward 1, addressed Council on two matters. First, he extended a public thanks to Zeek Butcher of Abell Pest Control for removing bee and wasp nests at Clifford Kadon Presidential Park at no charge to the City. Second, he announced a new civic technology application he developed called CityReport.io, currently available on the Apple App Store, which allows residents to easily report issues such as potholes and storm drain backups directly to the City. Mr. Oquendo indicated that additional categories, such as illegal dumping, homeless encampments, graffiti, and park equipment issues, are planned for future inclusion, and that reports submitted through the app are automatically forwarded to the appropriate City offices. City Manager James Timonere confirmed that staff had met with Mr. Oquendo on several occasions and that the application showed promise. He noted that the City Solicitor's Office is currently reviewing the terms and conditions as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process, and the City is considering a pilot program. He acknowledged that a formal bid process would ultimately be required, as other companies offer similar services, but expressed support for the local developer's effort.

Dee Scruggs, Ward 3, commended the recent Memorial Day Parade, describing the community spirit and cross-cultural connections she observed as a citizen. She suggested that future parades incorporate a meet-and-greet format, with Council members and the City Manager present alongside vendors, as a way to bridge the perceived disconnect between residents and their elected officials. Mrs. Scruggs also followed up on a prior request regarding a recognition sign for the Morrison plant. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio and City Manager James Timonere confirmed that the sign design is complete. City Manager James Timonere explained that the City is reworking existing entrance signage infrastructure to accommodate multiple honorees, including Morrison, Connie Schultz, and Urban Meyer, alongside local organizations such as the Lions Club and Rotary. The plan calls for new signs at approximately four to six entrance points throughout the City. An initial quote came in at over \$8,000 per sign, and a formal bid process will be required. Mrs. Scruggs also requested that Dr. Sam Wells Jr. be recognized; it was clarified that Dr. Wells' recognition is tied to the viaduct bridge signage, which will remain in place.

Bobby Keene, W. 15th Street, returned to express continued frustration over an ongoing moratorium that has prevented him from constructing a garage on his property. Mr. Keene stated that he intends to proceed with construction regardless of the moratorium, and that he will retain an attorney if necessary. He argued that the structure would not encroach on any property lines, citing that it would be 13 feet from the property line and 69 feet from the sidewalk, and emphasized that the project is entirely on his own land. He also raised a secondary concern about a neighboring property on 14th Street that he described as a haven for rodents, including raccoons, skunks, and groundhogs, posing health risks to his grandchildren, and expressed dissatisfaction with the City's response to that complaint. President John Roskovics acknowledged Mr. Keene's frustration and informed him that Council had just learned that a variance to the moratorium is not legally possible, and that the only available path forward would be to repeal the moratorium entirely, a matter that would need to be taken up in committee and then brought back to the full Council for discussion. City Manager James Timonere provided broader context, explaining that the moratorium was implemented as a citywide measure, not targeting individual properties, in response to problems across the City with oversized accessory structures being built in relation to the primary residence. He noted that the City is currently undertaking a comprehensive master plan and zoning revision at a cost of nearly \$100,000, and that new, more precise guidelines will result from that process. He cautioned against making piecemeal changes to zoning for individual cases, citing that practice as a contributing factor to the conditions the City is now working to correct.

Councilor Comments, Liaison Reports and Meeting Announcements

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Pre-Council Meeting Minutes, May 18, 2026

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes, May 18, 2026

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; 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 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 - 100

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JEFFERSON HEALTH CARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMPLOYEE HEALTH, DENTAL, AND VISION INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 101

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT FOR AN ALLOCATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000 TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PUBLIC PARKING LOT ON HULBERT AVENUE AND ADMINISTRATION COSTS

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 102

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF WEST 13TH STREET BETWEEN LAKE AVENUE AND OHIO AVENUE

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 103

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 104

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ASHTABULA ELECTED OFFICIALS TO DELEGATE CERTIFIED PUBLIC RECORD TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION TO APPROPRIATE DESIGNEES IN THEIR OFFICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 105

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA UTILITY BILLING WRITE-OFF AND ABATEMENT GUIDELINES

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 106

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA ACH AND WIRE TRANSFER POLICY

President John Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda.

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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

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 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 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: None

Legislation passed.

First Reading(s)

Continuing Business/Public Hearings

Second Reading(s)

Administrative Approval Votes

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

City Manager James Timonere announced that the Union Pacific Big Boy, the largest operating steam engine in the world, is scheduled to pass through Ashtabula on June 8, traveling along the Norfolk Southern tracks on Main Avenue near W. 48th Street. The engine is departing Euclid at approximately 2 p.m. and is expected to arrive in Ashtabula sometime between 4 and 6 p.m., before overnighting in Conneaut. It will return through the area on approximately July 13. City Manager James Timonere noted that this is part of the nation's 250th anniversary celebrations and is believed to be the first time the locomotive has operated on the East Coast since its manufacture. He indicated that the ADDA is exploring a watch-party opportunity near the W. 48th Street and Main Avenue area, though ongoing construction related to the Collins Boulevard project may affect access. He suggested the old KeyBank building as a potential viewing location.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo congratulated the Class of 2026.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio announced the upcoming Our Lady of Peace Parish Festival to be held from June 11–14. She highlighted that June 11 is Kids Night and the first 250 children 16 and under will receive a free ride wristband, made possible by a sponsor. ARMC will also be distributing items for children that evening.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills announced that Bands on the Beach is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, from 7 to 9 p.m., featuring the band High Horse, with the concession stand open late. She also noted that the Jerry Maunus Pickleball Recognition Event is scheduled for June 20, though the specific time had not yet been confirmed. Additionally, the third public forum for the comprehensive plan is being held Thursday, June 4, at 6 p.m. in the Dr. Thomas and Louise Raffa Community Education Room (first floor, new patient tower) at ARMC. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills encouraged all residents to attend, even those who had not participated in the first two sessions.

President John Roskovics announced the Beach Glass Festival and a Pride Cookout at the end of the month. He also announced that the Crow's Nest is re-opening, and he encouraged residents to visit the new business Patina on the Lake on Bridge Street.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. by President John Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, June 15, 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:

June 15, 2026

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council