



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, August 3, 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

President John Roskovics offered the opening prayer. City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper led a moment of silence, on behalf of Judge Laura DiGiacomo, for Ashtabula Municipal Court employee Judy Hanneman, who passed away unexpectedly last week.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo
Absent:

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Finance Director Vladimir Kan and 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.

Before proceeding, President John Roskovics asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss the purchase or sale of property, with no action to be taken upon returning.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the purchase or sale of property; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion carried.

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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills moved to approve the order of the agenda; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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

Aaron Burnett, of Dunsmore Avenue, thanked the City for paving his street and offered praise of Victim Advocate Emily Bussanich, describing her as a knowledgeable and helpful resource for residents navigating unfamiliar legal and municipal processes.

Dee Scruggs, of Cleveland Avenue, thanked Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo for raising concerns about property and road conditions. She also thanked her for advocating for the expansion of the recycling program. She emphasized that Council should treat one another with greater mutual respect.

Michael Wagner asked whether Spencer Avenue was on the paving scheduled for this year. City Manager James Timonere indicated that he did not believe it was on this year's list, but he would verify. Mr. Wagner also asked whether residents would be required to use the new City-provided garbage and recycling cans. City Manager James Timonere confirmed that once the new program rolls out, residents will be required to use the City-provided cans.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills thanked Mrs. Scruggs for her help with the clean-up on Bridge Street prior to the Wine and Walleye Festival.

Councilor Comments, Liaison Reports and Meeting Announcements

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Pre-Council Meeting Minutes, July 20, 2026

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero 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 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, July 20, 2026

Motion: President John Roskovics 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 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 - 136

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH RIVER & RAIL DEVELOPMENT, LLC. FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS LOCATED AT 725 E. 15TH STREET, ASHTABULA, OH 44004

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 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; Ward 4 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Legislation passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 137

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AM FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FORD MAVERICK

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 138

AN ORDINANCE ACKNOWLEDGING THE HIRING OF EMILY BUSSANICH AS VICTIM ADVOCATE IN THE CITY SOLICITOR'S OFFICE AND APPROVING ADDITIONAL PAID VACATION LEAVE

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 139

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA BUDGETARY GENERAL FUND RESERVE POLICY

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 140

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL CHANGES TO APPROPRIATION IN THE 205 STATE, COUNTY, MUNICIPAL ROADS – PUBLIC WORKS FUND 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.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero 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 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 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 - 141

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1329.03, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING A NEW SECTION 1329.03

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 142

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING REPLACEMENT CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1329.03 PLACEMENT OF NUMBERS ON BUILDINGS

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 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 - 134

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 761.99, ENTITLED SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO PERSONS UNDER 21 YEARS OLDS – PENALTY, TO IMPOSE NEW FINES AND CRITERIA FOR LICENSE SUSPENSION

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 135

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 761.99, ENTITLED SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO PERSONS UNDER 21 YEARS OLDS – PENALTY

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo 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 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 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 a ribbon cutting for her daughter's new business, MCC Therapies, on Tuesday, August 11 at noon at 4510 Collins Blvd. Suite 5. The practice specializes in pediatric occupational therapy for neurodivergent and developmentally disabled individuals. She also announced the upcoming Bands on the Beach concert featuring Stratford Hill band at Walnut Beach on Thursday, August 6 from 7 to 9 p.m., with the final concert of the season scheduled for August 20. She noted a book signing and story time event at the new inclusion playground at Walnut Beach on Friday, August 7 from 10:30 a.m. to noon, featuring Kate Church and her son Zach. Additionally, she announced the second Bridge Street Night Market on Friday, August 7, from 5 to 8 p.m., noting that the first event had been well attended. She also shared that the G.O. food pantry had transitioned to a new store-style format, open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., serving over 400 people the previous month.

President John Roskovics commended the recent Wine and Walleye Festival, noting the overwhelmingly positive reception from attendees across the region and encouraging the community to recognize the many positive attributes of Ashtabula.

Executive Session (if needed)

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, August 17, 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:

August 17, 2026

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy L. Millberg

Stacy L. Millberg, Clerk of Council