



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, May 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
4717 Main Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Regular Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Councilor Holman offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Vice President Speelman, President Roskovics

Absent:

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Finance Director Traci Welch, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

Absent:

Sunshine Law Certification

A quorum was established as defined by Ashtabula City Council Rules of Order. The meeting met the requirements of the Ohio Sunshine Laws Open Meetings Act.

Presentations/Announcements

Approval of Minutes

April 18, 2022

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes; Ward 3 Councilor Holman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Ayes: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Hearing no corrections to the minutes, they were approved as presented.

Administrative Reports

City Manager

Formal Request:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Building Technicians Corporation with a mailing

address of P.O. Box 266 Madison, Ohio 44057 as the most responsive bidder for the purpose of providing repairs to the roof and siding of the Ashtabula County Transportation (ACTS) Bus Garage located at 425 W24th Street, Ashtabula, Ohio in the amount not to exceed \$27,800.00

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion: Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 412 Permanent Improvement; Lands & Building.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Formal Request:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with MC Construction with a mailing address of 1500 Cherry Lane, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 as the most responsive bidder for the purpose of replacing the concrete parking lot for the Ashtabula County Transportation (ACTS) Bus Garage located at 425 W24th St. Ashtabula, Ohio in the amount not to exceed \$33,800.00

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Vice President Speelman seconded.

Discussion: Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 412 Permanent Improvement; Lands & Building.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Formal Request:

An ordinance to enter into a Community Reinvestment Area Tax Agreement with E. Capital Partners, LLC for a tax abatement at 50% for ten (10) years for the new 6,000 square foot industrial building located at Sublot 7 on Brookdale Avenue, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 with a permanent parcel of 05-515-10-007-00

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Vice President Speelman seconded.

Discussion: The intention is to build the building and secure a tenant. Several inquiries have been made for an industrial building.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Formal Request:

An ordinance to repeal Ordinance #2019-01, a Community Reinvestment Area Tax Abatement for Riverbend Hotel

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Vice President Speelman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Formal Request:

An ordinance to enter into a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Tax Agreement for a tax abatement with Riverbend Hotel at 75% for ten (10) years for the construction of a hotel at the corner of West 6th Street & Goodwill Drive, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion: A new CRA is needed because the hotel project costs have increased due to changes in the size of the project. The Ashtabula Area City School Board reapproved the tax agreement. Construction should begin in the summer.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Formal Request:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Development with a mailing address of P.O. Box 1001 Columbus, Ohio 44004-6973 for the administration of a Housing Revolving Loan Fund

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Mills seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Formal Request:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Medicount Management, Inc. with a mailing address of 10361 Spartan Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215 for the purpose of providing EMS billing services for the City of Ashtabula for a percentage of amounts collected in accordance with the agreement for a period of four (4) years.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Vice President Speelman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Formal Request:

An ordinance to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Saybrook Township Fire Department with a mailing address of 5714 North Ridge West, Ashtabula, Ohio, 44004 for the purpose of sharing a reserve engine with the Ashtabula City Fire Department

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Announcements:

Once more information is gained about the allocation grant, ordinances will be requested. There has been one public hearing as part of the allocation grant process, one more is needed before the ordinances can be presented to Council. A Natureworks grant application is being prepared, the funds are intended for park improvements.

The Transfer Station is no longer accepting cut brush drop-off service and will only allow bagged leaves, grass clippings, and small sticks. Residents can call the Public Works Department at 440-993-7036 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to make arrangements to pick up the larger yard waste such as shrubs or trees. City Manager Timonere suspects a local contractor has been abusing the service by dumping inappropriate items. Quotes to install cameras are being collected in hopes of catching the individuals responsible.

Norfolk/Southern is replacing rail lines and will close several crossings around the City. Closing the crossings at State Road, Dwight Avenue, Main Avenue, and Park Avenue all at one time would severely restrict emergency vehicles and motorists from accessing the south side of the City. The project should be beginning this week. Residents should watch for notices on the City's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/COAOhio/>.

The Planning Commission approved two zoning requests and submitted its recommendation to the City Council. City Council will schedule a public hearing on June 6th, 2022, prior to the Pre-Council meeting to hear statements from the public.

COVID-19 updates can be found on the City's webpage, <https://www.cityofashtabula.com/covid-19>. There was a slight increase in COVID cases, but not hospitalizations due to COVID. The wastewater treatment plant report from early April demonstrated a rise in cases would be noticed. Vaccinations and boosters are still available at the Ashtabula City Health Department. The report from the Ashtabula County Health Department as of April 29, 2022, indicated there were 98 new cases throughout the entire county in the week preceding the report. Ashtabula County Medical Center (ACMC) reported 4 admissions, and University Hospitals (UH) of Conneaut and of Geneva reported one admission each for the week. 438 total deaths were reported in the county throughout the entirety of COVID, 74 were from the City of Ashtabula. COVID will always be around, vaccinations are the key to reducing the severity of symptoms.

City Solicitor

Finance Director

Clerk of Council

Announcements:

An education session organized by Clerk of Council Senskey was offered by the Northeast Ohio Municipal Clerks Association. The speaker was Pamela D. Kurt, Esq. who gave an interactive workshop focused on a clerk's work/ life balance.

Harbor Print Center scheduled a ribbon cutting ceremony at 856 Lake Avenue on May 23rd at noon. Ohio Medical Uniforms scheduled a ribbon cutting ceremony at 2324 Lake Avenue on May 24th at noon.

The 76th annual International Institute of Municipal Clerks Conference is quickly approaching. Clerk of Council Senskey was the conference grant recipient for Region V which includes Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, and Michigan.

Professional Municipal Clerks Week was May 1st through May 7th. The Municipal Clerk is one of the oldest positions in local government along with the Tax Collector.

City Council Committee Reports

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation

Next meeting: May 10, 2022, 4:00 p.m. Guest Speaker - Sarah Bogardus, Executive Director 503 Corporation

Finance & Personnel

Next meeting: June 17, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

Public Works

Report of April meeting

Next meeting: May 23, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Safety Forces

Report of April meeting

Formal Request:

Motion: Vice President Speelman moved to approve revising the Civil Service Commission rules; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion: Ashtabula Fire Chief Gruber recommended revisions to the Civil Service Commission rules as a result of restructuring the pay grid. The rank of Engineer was removed.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Formal Request:

Motion: Vice President Speelman moved to approve opting out of House Bill 172; Ward 1 Councilor Foglio seconded.

Discussion: By opting out of House Bill 172, the Codified Ordinance Chapter 1519 Fireworks remains in effect for the City of Ashtabula.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Golf Cart Discussion

People contacted various Council members to make golf carts legal on the roadways of the City of Ashtabula. Golf carts are used as a shuttle service during festivals when parking is scarce. Other municipalities allow golf carts on roads with speed limits posted of 25 miles per hour or less. Golf carts approved in those communities must have safety upgrades and must pass inspection by the local police department or Ohio State Highway Patrol. Ward 4 Councilor Holman and Ward 1 Councilor Foglio expressed disapproval of making golf carts legal.

Next meeting: May 23, 2022, 8:45 am

Presentation of Legislation

Additional Formal Requests

Overview / Discussion

Public Communications on Legislation

Reading of Legislation

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to approve the disposal of the regular business legislation by consent agenda; Ward 5 Councilor Haines seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

SECOND READING

Ordinance No. 2022-56 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF WEST 54TH STREET BETWEEN MAIN AVENUE AND THE RAILROAD CROSSING JUST WEST OF CHESTNUT AVENUE (City Council, requested 4/4/2022)

Resolution No. 2022-63 A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ADOPTION OF HOUSEBILL 563, CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH PROPOSES TO LIMIT LOCAL REGULATION OF SHORT-TERM RENTAL PROPERTY (City Council, requested 4/18/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-64 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 977.18 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION CHARGING A FEE FOR THE REVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION SITE CONSERVATION PLANS (Planning & Community Development Department, City Council requested 4/18/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-65 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 977.18 APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR CONSTRUCTION CONSERVATION PLANS (CCP) (Planning & Community Development Department, City Council requested 4/18/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-66 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF \$12,528.07 FROM UNCLAIMED FUNDS TO THE GENERAL FUND (Finance Director, requested 4/18/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-67 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH E-CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC, FOR COMMERCIAL TAX ABATEMENT AT 50% FOR 10 YEARS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING IN THE CITY'S INDUSTRIAL PARK (City Manager, requested 5/2/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-68 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MC CONSTRUCTION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,800.00 TO REPLACE THE PARKING LOT AT 425 W. 24TH STREET, ASHTABULA, OHIO (City Manager, requested 5/2/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-69 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BUILDING TECHNICIANS CORPORATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,800.00 TO REPAIR THE ROOF AND SIDING AT THE ASHTABULA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION BUS GARAGE (City Manager, requested 5/2/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-70 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, FOR ADMINISTRATION OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (City Manager, requested 5/2/2022)

Ordinance No. 2022-71 AN ORDINANCE OPTING-OUT OF H.B. 172 AND REAFFIRMING THE BAN ON DISCHARGING, IGNITING OR EXPLODING FIREWORKS IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, AS SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 1519 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA (Ashtabula Fire Department Chief, Council requested 5/2/2022)

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Motion: Vice President Speelman moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 4 Councilor Mills seconded.

Discussion

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Vice President Speelman, President Roskovics

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Vice President Speelman, President Roskovics

Nays: None
Legislation Passed.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Request to honor Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church for serving the City of Ashtabula for 125 years

Motion: President Roskovics moved to request a resolution; Vice President Speelman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 2 Councilor Crawford:

Saturday, May 7th is the opening day for Ashtabula Little League. Mr. Crawford wished good luck to all the baseball players.

Ward 4 Councilor Mills:

The G. O. Community Development Corporation (G.O.CDC) is holding a tennis shoe giveaway event on Saturday, June 4th, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event is open to adults and children. Registration is available online at <http://forms.go-cdc.org>. The first 80 people will receive free food bags.

Ward 5 Councilor Haines:

The community-wide cleanup day culminated in 48,240 pounds or 24.12 tons of trash. Twelve (12) six-yard dumpsters full of trash were removed from the gulf area. The trash totals do not include cleanup projects by Koski Construction on Main Avenue or Aqua on Walnut Beach. Ms. Haines praised all involved and proclaimed, "To me, this is an example how a city should roll, where we all come together and we all work together." She gave special thanks to Kevin Grippi, Sal Jackson, Harbor Yak, and Koski Construction. Councilor Mills added the crowd was diverse, from young children to seniors helping clean the City of Ashtabula. City employees were applauded for their hard work and kindness. Next year, the cleanup day will be held on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22nd. They are working on increasing the number of volunteers. Additionally, Aqua is making a donation to help offset the cost of the cleanup.

Saturday, April 30th was also Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA. Ms. Haines participated and was impressed with Ashtabula's Firefighters and the Police Canine Division. The City uses five dogs in the Canine Division.

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, May 3rd.

The Ashtabula Arts Center scheduled a Kentucky Derby Cocktail Party for Saturday, May 7th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It is free to attend. The party is part of the Dining for the Arts fundraiser and reservations are appreciated.

City Manager Timonere:

Tire Amnesty Day is Saturday, May 14th, at the Ashtabula County fairgrounds. More information is on the website, <https://www.ashtabulacounty.us/741/Tire-Amnesty-Day>.

An officer of the Ashtabula Police Department works as a resource officer at Kent State University in Ashtabula during the school year. During the summer months, Officer DeAngelo will patrol the parks and be a point of contact. The problems are attributed mainly to the homeless and those with mental or drug abuse issues.

Public Communications on General Matters

Ashtabula County Commissioner J.P. Ducro thanked the organizers of the cleanup day and said, "It had to be a record turnout of people." He looks forward to participating next year. He thanked the City Council for joining Ashtabula County for the lodging tax software program. The software will help people stay in compliance with paying the lodging tax and increase economic opportunities. The RAM clinic held at Lakeside High School served 544 individuals who received \$300,000 worth of free medical, dental, and vision care. The Clinic will be held the first weekend of May 2023 at the same location. The Ashtabula Elks Lodge will be celebrating 130 years of service to the community this year. An event is scheduled for August 17th.

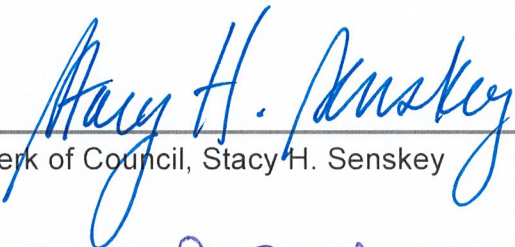
Councilor Mills thanked Mr. Ducro for all his work during the City cleanup.

Executive Session (if needed)

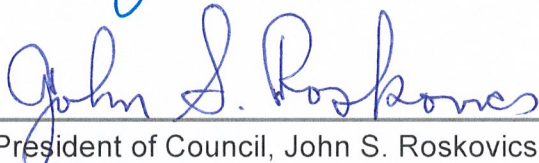
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM by Council President Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, May 16 in Council Chambers. The Pre-Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Attested By:

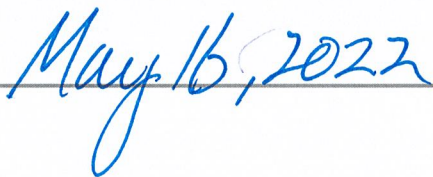


Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey



President of Council, John S. Roskovics

Date Approved:



May 16, 2022