



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 6, 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. Ward 1 Councilor Foglio offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: President John Roskovics; Vice President Michael Speelman; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio; Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

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

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

President Roskovics requested an Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of discussing personnel matters - employment.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to adjourn to Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of discussing personnel matters - employment; Ward 3 Councilor Holman seconded.

Discussion:

ROLL CALL 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-DiGiacomo

Nays: None
Motion Passed.

Approval of Minutes

8-15-2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

8-1-2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

7-18-2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Clerk of Council Phyllis Dunlap introduced the minutes from regular council meetings held on July 18, 2022, August 1, 2022 and August 15, 2022.

Motion. Ward 4 Councilor Mills made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes; Vice President Speelman seconded.

Discussion: Ward 3 Councilor Holman noted a misspelling of her name on the August 1, 2022 minutes. Ward 4 Councilor Mills noted that in the Tell me Something we Don't Know portion of the August 15th minutes, the minutes should reflect that Ward 4 Councilor Mills visited the Eastside Drive-thru. Vice President Speelman commented regarding the area in the back.

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-DiGiacomo

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Administrative Reports

City Manager

On the agenda is the ordinance to approve the purchase of a Cues Sewer Camera package from MTEC Company in an amount not to exceed \$84,087.52.

The equipment will be mounted in a maintenance van previously purchased. The City hopes to purchase a utility vehicle next year. A thorough analysis was done with regard to the different cameras. Mr. Brazil was in attendance to respond to questions regarding the purchase and the equipment. The lifespan of the proposed camera selected is 12 to 15 years and comes with a 12 month warranty. The camera will go one thousand feet, it has GIS tracking built in and does take pictures. The camera is in stock in Cleveland. The previous camera was purchased in December of 2013. The previous camera had a ten-year lifespan.

Formal Request:

Mr. Timonere requested the following for the next meeting.

The first three requests are for Community Reinvestment Area Tax Abatements; 100% tax abatements for seven years on the residential dwellings at 427 Bridge Street, 1437 Bridge Street, and 1439 Bridge Street.

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 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor Holman

Motion passed.

Mr. Timonere requested an Ordinance to enter into consent legislation with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the purpose of participating in ODOT's Bridge Inspection Program for inspection of certain bridges located within the City of Ashtabula.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Announcements;

Garbage pick-up is on the regular schedule this week. For smaller holidays, Sanitation remains on the normal schedule. Schedules can be found on the City's website.

The large signs that were damaged at the end of Route 11 will be replaced. The company contracted expects to have the replacement signs on or about September 23rd and will be installed in the weeks following. The signs have been on order for sometime.

Bag pick-up will restart with the Harbor Routes the week of September 26th and in the Wards the first week of October.

Items for the Manager:

Ward 1 Councilor Foglio noted that she received three separate complaints which she will be looking into. One complaint relates to tree removal and debris on West 8th Street, the second relates to accumulated garbage at a home on Norman and Third is in regard to parking at Norman and Walnut.

People are parking on the north side of Walnut on Lakeside all day and night. It is thin in that area. Vehicles coming down from the west are going straight. Vehicles coming from the east are forced to go into the other lane, which causes those vehicles to go into her yard. The resident stated that there have been several accidents. There is also construction going on in the area which has added trucks to the situation. When going around the parked cars, it is easy to miss the stop sign at Union. The resident suggested possibly limiting parking to six hours. People have driveways at that end of the road.

City Solicitor

None.

Finance Director

Formal Request:

Ordinance 2022-122. An Ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations in the Marina, CDBG, Planning & Community Development and Water Pollution Control Funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2022.

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

Discussion:

Finance Director Welch and City Manager Timonere clarified the splitting out of the Court's portion of account 412 in the total budget.

The Check Valve Program reimburses a homeowner up to \$1,000 if they install a check valve. The number of reimbursements varies each year. Check valve's are encouraged and are paid by the Water Pollution Control Fund. The average cost of installation is \$1,500 to \$2,000.

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-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Clerk of Council

None.

City Council Committee Reports

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation (2nd Tuesday @ 4:00 p.m.)

Members: Chair Haines/Council Liaison to Parks and Recreation Board; Vice Chair Mills; Roskovics

SEPTEMBER 13

OCTOBER 11

NOVEMBER 8

DECEMBER 13

Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo provided the Community Development Report.

Brad Blair of Ashtabula Capital Access Program (ACAP) provided a report on the first year of activity in Ashtabula. Since ACAP's inception in September of 2021, ACAP has worked with a total of 39 clients. Clients have been referred to ACAP through multiple sources, and include different types of businesses, ownership and stages. The 39 clients include 16 women-owned, 9 minority-owned and 14 white men-owned businesses and included 19 start-ups, 19 small active and 1 middle active. Of the small active, three were the purchase of businesses due to the current ownership retiring and one was a struggling company in need of a balance sheet restructure. Of the 39 clients, 29 were finance networking and 10 focused on advising. Tracking of employment was done for those

businesses seeking lender networking. Employment levels were tracked prior to the project request as well as employment once the project was financed. Prior to the project, 38 businesses supported 99 full-time employees and 30 part-time. Once all projects have been financed, employment is expected to grow to 113 full-time positions and 43 part-time positions.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2022. At 4:00 p.m., Planning and Community Development (PCD) will be presenting. Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo invited anyone from Ashtabula who would like to come to the meeting and listen. The process is not as quick or easy as anyone would like.

Mr. Timonere noted that with the one and a half inspectors that are in the PCD Department, the City will show the Committee some of the conditions the City runs into on a weekly, daily basis, as well as before and after pictures of code enforcement. How complaints are handled, the process to move them to the Court if needed and data will also be presented.

Ward 4 Councilor Mills encouraged residents to call their Ward representative with regard to property maintenance issues as the issue may be already in the process. Ward 1 Councilor Foglio stated that if residents do not know who their Ward representative is, they can contact any council member.

Parks and Recreation will meet tomorrow at Cornelius Park at 4:00 p.m.

Finance & Personnel

(3rd Friday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines, Roskovics

SEPTEMBER 16

OCTOBER 21

NOVEMBER 18

DECEMBER 16

The Finance & Personnel Committee will meet on September 16, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Public Works

(4th Monday @ 5:00 p.m.)

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

SEPTEMBER 26

OCTOBER 24

NOVEMBER 28

DECEMBER 27

Public Works will meet on Monday, September 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Safety Forces

(4th Monday @ 8:45 a.m.)

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

SEPTEMBER 26

OCTOBER 24

NOVEMBER 28

DECEMBER 27

Safety Forces Committee will meet on September 26, 2022 at 8:45 a.m.

Presentation of Legislation

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

Overview / Discussion

Reading of Legislation

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

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

Nays: None.

Motion Passed.

2022 - 121 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE A CUES SEWER CAMERAL PACKAGE FROM MTEC COMPANY, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$84,087.52

2022 - 122 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE MARINA, CDBG, PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022.

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

Motion: Vice President Speelman moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor Holman 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-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Foglio moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

ROLL CALL 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-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL 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-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 4 Councilor Mills noted that the Last Band on the Beach ended in August. The last concert was well attended. The concessioners sold out. It was a good season. Kids for Positive Change is doing a Walnut Beach Clean-up on Saturday, September 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Bring buckets and gloves. Cleaning supplies will be provided. This Saturday is Majic on Main in conjunction with the Arts Center. The event is inspired by Harry Potter. There will be events and vendors. The library card sign up is in September. Present your library card to participating vendors in the month of September to receive a discount or a perk. The Bakery on Main is participating. Discounts at local restaurants.

Ward 4 Councilor Mills inquired when the filling of potholes changes from hot to cold-patch. Mr. Timonere stated that it depends on when the asphalt plant closes, typically late October. Hot is less expensive and holds better. The City is out patching two to three days a week. Residents can report any potholes that need to be filled to the hotline.

Ashtabula County COVID transmission is at higher levels of transmission. Information will be posted on the website tomorrow with regard to the new booster for the latest two variants. The original regiment is available for those that have gotten it.

President Roskovics noted that coming in the fall there will be a Brew Fest on Bridge Street. Volunteers are needed for this event.

Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo congratulated Beckers on their third anniversary. Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo also noted that the Second Act Galla at the Arts Center is taking place on September 17, 2022. The theater has been renovated. Officer DeAngelo has made a tremendous difference downtown. Councilor DiGiacomo also thanked all those that were a part of the clean-up. Councilor DiGiacomo received positive reports of the police detectives. They are doing an excellent job. The Neighborhood Collaborative is having an event on September 17th from noon to 4:00 p.m. at Clifford Kadon Park. It is a safety event.

Mr. Timonere noted that the current Geneva vs Lakeside Cup resides in the City of Ashtabula. The Game is Friday night. Game tickets are sold on-line.

Public Communications on General Matters

None.

Executive Session

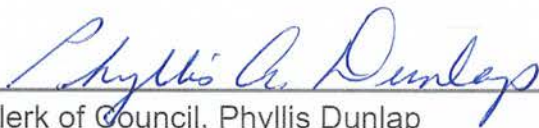
At 8:02 p.m. Council President Roskovics announced the executive session would convene off camera.

After the executive session is over, President Roskovics reconvened the public portion other meeting with no action taken.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, September 19, 2022 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.


Clerk of Council, Phyllis Dunlap

Attested By:


President of Council, John S. Roskovics

Date Approved:

