



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, October 3, 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 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo 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 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Absent: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio

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

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Crawford moved to excuse Ward 1 Councilor Foglio; Ward 3 Councilor Holman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo,
Nays: None

The motion to excuse the absences was adopted.

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

None.

Approval of Minutes

9-19-2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

The Clerk of Council introduced the minutes from the regular council meeting held on September 19, 2022.

Motion: Vice President Speelman made a motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2022; Ward 4 Councilor Mills seconded.

Discussion:

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, 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

Formal Requests:

An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Lake Erie Diving, Inc. in amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 to investigate damage to the Water Pollution Control Outfall.

Motion: Vice President Speelman made a motion to approve the Manager's request; Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

A Resolution authorizing the demolition of blighted and hazardous structures within the City of Ashtabula. There are fifteen homes identified in the newest grant obtained by the County Land Bank. The City will administer the program within the City as agent for the Land Bank. Since 2011 approximately 300 homes have been demolished.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor Holman made a motion to approve the Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Requests for a future meeting:

Request two Community Reinvestment Area Tax Abatements at 100% for seven years for 1433 Bridge Street and 1435 Bridge Street.

Motion: President Roskovics made a motion to approve the Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion:

Each year the City holds a CRA meeting to go over active tax abatements. In 2021, there were 22 active tax abatements; 15 residential and 8 commercial. The City continues to receive the same property tax as it was receiving prior to the tax abatement. The tax abatement is on the improved value. The property tax being abated by the 15 residential CRAs is \$12,594.06 an average of \$839.61 per abatement. Income tax collected for an individual making \$47,000 per year is \$846. The abated property tax is offset by the gained local income tax. The tax abatement is for seven years. Commercial tax abatements are negotiated before construction based on jobs created and other factors regarding the project and funding. Residential abatements are done after construction. Council has flexibility, the tax abatement does not have to be 100%. It does not have to be a fixed amount. The Ohio Revised Code allows up to 100% on commercial; however, the City has limited commercial tax abatement to 75%.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

The Route 11 sign that was damaged has been completed.

Garbage pick-up on Columbus Day will be on schedule. Trash pick-up begins at 6:00 a.m.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat is scheduled for October 29, 2022 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Additional Request for future meeting:

An Ordinance to file an application with ODNR Division of Water to purchase Boeys. The application is due November 1st.

Motion: Vice President Speelman made a motion to approve the Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

City Solicitor

None.

Finance Director

Formal Requests:

2022-129 - A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

Motion: Vice President Speelman made a motion to approve the Finance Director's request; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

2022-130 - An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Office of the Auditor of the State of Ohio to Assist the City of Ashtabula in the conversion of cash reporting to GAAP for fiscal years ending December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo made a motion to approve the Finance Director's request; Vice President Speelman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

2022-131 - An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Office of the Auditor of the State of Ohio to Assist the City of Ashtabula as fiscal agent for the Ashtabula Health Department in the conversion of cash reporting to GAAP for fiscal years ending December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023.

Motion: Vice President Speelman made a motion to approve the Finance Director's request; Ward 3 Councilor Holman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

2022-132 - An Ordinance authorizing the transfer of \$13,918.26 from unclaimed funds to the general fund.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo made a motion to approve the Finance Director's request; Ward 3 Councilor Holman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, 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

OCTOBER 11

NOVEMBER 8

DECEMBER 13

A Community Development Committee meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Ms. Meeghan Humphrey, Executive Director of the Ashtabula Arts Center.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines, Roskovics

OCTOBER 21

NOVEMBER 18

DECEMBER 16

Public Works

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

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

SEPTEMBER 26 - Report of meeting

OCTOBER 24

NOVEMBER 28

DECEMBER 27

Ward 2 Councilor Crawford reported on the September 26, 2022 Public Works Committee meeting.

Chris Tolnar, P.E., GPD Group provided a presentation on the Water Pollution Control Plant Evaluation. The Assistant Superintendant was also in attendance.

The plant evaluation report is 90 pages. The presentation was an overview of the report. The next Public Works Committee meeting will focus on the collection system. The following meeting will discuss a rate increase for a permanent improvement process. The last time an evaluation was done was in 2013. The bones of the plant are from 1924. The plant runs 24/7.

Ward 2 Councilor Crawford reviewed the goals and needs as identified in the report. The total estimated cost of improvements needed associated with the plant is \$30 million. This does not include the collection system. There are no EPA red flags at the time of this report. The improvements identified will maintain the plant for the next twenty years.

Mr. Timonere stated the Water Pollution Control fund is an enterprise fund. It is difficult to obtain

grants. The current infrastructure bill does offer some ability to get 0% interest.

The next Public Works Committee meeting will be held October 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Jennifer Dragon from the Enrichment Center will be a guest as well.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

OCTOBER 24

NOVEMBER 28

DECEMBER 27

The Safety Forces Committee will meet on October 24, 2022 at 8:45 a.m.

Presentation of Legislation

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

Overview / Discussion

Reading of Legislation

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Crawford moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor Holman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

The Clerk of Council introduced the legislation.

2022-129 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

2022-130 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO ASSIST THE CITY OF ASHTABULA IN THE CONVERSION OF CASH REPORTING TO GAAP FOR FISCAL YEAR'S ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND DECEMBER 31, 2023

2022-131 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO ASSIST THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AS FISCAL AGENT FOR THE ASHTABULA HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN THE CONVERSION OF CASH REPORTING TO GAAP FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND DECEMBER 31, 2023

2022-132 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF \$13,918.26 FROM UNCLAIMED FUNDS TO THE GENERAL FUND

2022-133 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) AND TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS AS REQUIRED FOR THE WEST 14TH STREET SANTITARY SEWER OVERFLOW PROJECT

2022-134 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LAKE ERIE DIVING, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000.00 TO INVESTIGATE DAMAGE TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL OUTFALL

202-135 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEMOLITION OF BLIGHTED AND HAZARDOUS STRUCTURES WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

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

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo moved to approve; Ward 4 Councilor Mills seconded.

Discussion:

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor Holman moved to waive the Charter requirement of two readings of the legislation; Ward 2 Councilor Crawford seconded.

Discussion:

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President Roskovics, Vice President Speelman, 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 2 Councilor Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo.

Nays: None.

Motion passed.

Unfinished Business

New Business

The ADHOC Committee on Racism as a Public Health Crisis held their initial meeting.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

President Roskovics volunteered at the Brew Fest. The event was well attended and enjoyable.

A new business, A Space on Main, is located in the old Hershey Building.

Harvest in the Harbor will be held next weekend from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Ribbon Cutting for Apex Skin will be held on October 18, 2022.

Ward 5 Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo spot lighted Toro, a local business.

On October 8, 2022, Hubbard House will have its 43rd Annual Pilgrimage.

Public Communications on General Matters

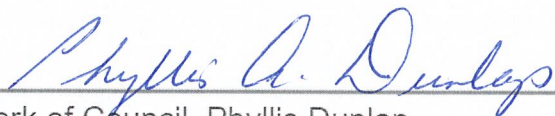
A public hearing will be held on October 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. with regard to a JEDD Petition.

Executive Session (if needed)

None.

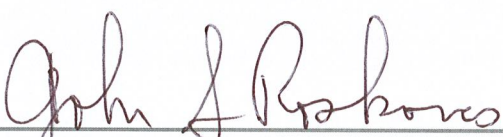
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, October 17, 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:

