



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 7:00 PM
4717 Maine Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

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 Jodi Mills offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

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

Absent: None.

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

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 Law's Open Meetings Act.

Presentations/Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes

December 19, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Clerk of Council McKenzie Burgan introduced the minutes from the regular council meeting held on December 19, 2022.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes; Vice President Michael Speelman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

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

Administrative Reports

City Manager

Formal Requests:

An Ordinance to enter into an agreement with Nelson Sand and Gravel located in Kingsville, OH to purchase a 2000 Mack Dump Truck and a 2001 Mack Dumptruck in the amount not to exceed \$50,000 each for a total of \$100,000.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved on the manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford seconded.

Discussion: City Manager stated, for context, that money was set aside in the budget for one dump truck for water pollution. These dump trucks are in meticulous condition and have been well-kept. A 7 to 10-year life is expected out of these trucks. Possession of these vehicles would occur immediately upon approval of the ordinance and the release of funds. Vice President Michael Speelman asked if these trucks could be used for plowing. He stated that plowing is not currently set up for these trucks but it could be. However, they are bigger than what they could use for neighborhood streets and would only be able to be used for roads such as Lake Ave, Rt 20, etc. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked if these vehicles would be insured and City Manager Timonere stated that they would be insured by the City.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An Ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the purpose of providing work to SR 11 and SR 531 within the city of Ashtabula to include resurfacing and minor bridge work.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved on the manager's request; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: President John Roskovics asked if there was a co-pay on this and City Manager Timonere stated that there is not a co-pay.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An Ordinance to enter into an MOU with FOP Lodge #26 for the purpose of modifying the compensation for Lt. Michael Palinkas.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved on the manager's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: City Manager Timonere clarified that this is not for an increase but a decrease due to personal reasons.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An Ordinance to execute a change order #1 with Koski Construction in Ashtabula for the purpose of several additions and deletions for the 2022 paving project in an additional amount of \$2263.17. Funding will be taken from the 212 paving fund.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved on the manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An Ordinance for the renewal of the employee group life insurance policy through Med Mutual Life with a mailing address in Brooklyn, OH for the purpose of providing life insurance for all city employees at the rate of 23.5 cents per one thousand per employee for basic life and 20 cents per one thousand per employee for basic AD&D

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved on the manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An Ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD group of Youngstown, OH for the purpose of providing engineering, design, construction, and administration for the West 14th St sanitation sewer overflow improvement project in the amount not to exceed \$30,600. Funds for this project will be taken from the 504 Water Pollution Capital Fund.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved on the manager's request; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

City Mngr. Council Rpt. 1-3-23

The City Manager wanted to inform everyone that trash pickup is on their regular schedule this week. This schedule is posted on the City of Ashtabula's website. The 4th of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas of 2023 will be the only holidays where the trash will not be picked up and will be delayed one day. As long as all the decorations have been removed from your live Christmas trees, you can now start placing them on your tree lawn for the next couple of weeks for Public Works to come by and pick them up. There is no set schedule for tree pick-up. City Manager Timonere has been in touch with the Illuminating Company in regard to the short power blips that have been occurring. The Illuminating Company has rectified one issue but, there is another they have yet to locate. The City has been transferred to another circuit and, hopefully, when switched back, a minimal disturbance will occur.

Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford asked City Manager Timonere if there is anything in the City that states they have to secure the hole in the ground. City Manager Timonere said yes, they have to get it secured within a certain timeframe. However, with the bad weather in November and now the mud making it difficult to get equipment in and out, it has caused a delay. City Manager Timonere stated he would make sure this gets completed. Councilor Crawford stated that the last time we had snow he saw a deer fall into said hole and come out limping and is worried a child may get hurt if they fall in.

Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford also had a question about who he should be contacting when transients are hanging around vacant houses. He stated that the owners of these vacant houses do not secure the houses after they are broken into and he wants to know how they get sealed. City Manager Timonere requested that he be contacted in regard to situations like this. City Manager Timonere then works with the Police Department to try and get the houses sealed one way or another.

City Manager Timonere wanted to inform us that the insurance issue stopping the Lake Ave. bowling alley demolition has been resolved and demolition should begin shortly.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

No report.

Clerk of Council

No report.

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

JANUARY 10

FEBRUARY 14

MARCH 14

APRIL 11

MAY 9

JUNE 13

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines, Roskovics

JANUARY 20

FEBRUARY 17

MARCH 17

APRIL 21

MAY 19

JUNE 16

The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 20, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

Public Works

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

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

JANUARY 23

FEBRUARY 27

MARCH 27

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

JANUARY 23

FEBRUARY 27

MARCH 27

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 8:45 a.m.

Presentation of Legislation

President Roskovics introduced the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

None.

Public Communications on Legislation

None.

Overview / Discussion

Reading of Legislation

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

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

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

2023 -01 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AN OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$98,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE RELATED DOCUMENTS

2023 - 02 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE TWO MACK RD688S TRUCKS FROM NELSON SAND & GRAVEL, INC

2023 - 03 A RESOLUTION HONORING MICHAEL J. HABOWSKI ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE ASHTABULA COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER

2023 - 04 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LODGE #26 TO MODIFY THE COMPENSATION OF LT. MICHAEL PALINKAS

2023 - 05 AN ORDINANCE GIVING CONSENT TO THE STATE OF OHIO'S DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION FOR RESURFACING OF SR 11, INCLUDING MINOR BRIDGE WORK ON SR 11 AND THE SR 531 LIFT BRIDGE, WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation in its entirety; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Vice President Michael Speelman, President

John Roskovics
Nays: None
Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford congratulated Juice Scruggs, who is on Penn State's offensive line, on their victory.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio congratulated Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo on her retirement. She also congratulated the crew who were in the film on a job well done. Merchandise from the film is available online.

President Roskovics stated it is hard to see the old St. John's school has a fence around it to be demolished. He also complimented the past and current owners of Harbor Perk on Bridge Street and wished the new owners the best of luck.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo announced that the Youngstown Business Incubator will be at the Ashtabula Public Library offering classes on January 12th with a topic on personnel, January 26th with topics on small business and IT basics, and February 9th with topics on marketing, public relations, and effective use of social media. These classes are free. City Manager Timonere added that the NEO Fund offers a starting and growing new business course once a year online through Zoom and begins January 9th. These classes are held on 6 Monday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. More information can be found on their website, NEOFund.org.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills informed us that there will be a book signing with Chelsea Banning at Pretty Good Books on Saturday, January 28th. She also requested updates on COVID. City Manager Timonere let us know that we have been doing much better now since December of last year. The county had 478 new cases in December and there were 476 COVID-related deaths. December had a 7.5% positivity rate, which is down from November's 10.2%. Many positives are not being reported to the health department with the use of at-home tests, which makes the rate low compared to what is actually occurring. The flu and RSV have been very high too. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills thanked the snow plow drivers and city workers for doing a great job in the bad weather. Councilor Mills asked if there were any issues with freezing pipes and City Manager Timonere stated that the City facilities did not have any issues but he did hear stories about houses and other facilities within the community that did.

City Manager Timonere advised everyone to have working smoke detectors in their homes. The Fire Department can assist with smoke detectors. The Fire Chief had reported to City Manager Timonere that there has not been a fatality within the city in the past 30 years that was not related to non-working smoke detectors.

Public Communications on General Matters

None.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Tuesday January 17th, 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.

DATE APPROVED:

January 17, 2023

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics
John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

McKenzie J. Burgan
McKenzie J. Burgan, Clerk of Council