



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM
4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of Regular Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Councilor Kym Foglio offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance 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, and Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

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 Open Meetings Act.

Presentations/Announcements

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

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

City Manager Timonere and City Solicitor Cooper were asked to attend the Executive Session.

Approval of Minutes

January 17, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Vice-President Michael Speelman seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

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

Administrative Reports

City Manager

Formal requests for this meeting:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Jack Doheny Companies of Twinsburg, OH for repairs to the Public Works' street sweeper in the amount not to exceed \$17,680.88. Funding will be taken from permanent improvement fund 412.

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 2023-10 due to a clerical error and an ordinance replacing it with accurate Group Life Insurance rates.

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an MOU with A.F.S.C.M.E. local 1197 to add the position of laborer without a CDL for Public Works and the Sanitation Departments. This was an oversight and needs to be added back to both the payroll ordinance and the contract. This ordinance is for it to be added back to the contract.

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

Discussion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked for clarification as she was under the impression that all the Public Works and Sanitation employees were required to have a CDL. City Manager Timonere explained that all Public Works employees must have a CDL, but Sanitation has three employees without their CDLs, which is the max allowed within the department. With the new contract, it was negotiated that workers without their CDL could have the City pay for them to get their CDL in exchange for a minimum of three years of employment. If employment ends before the three years are up, a portion of the costs will be owed back. City Manager Timonere stated that going forward they are planning on giving new hires a year to get their CDL, so this will not be needed.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked what the average cost for a CDL is now. City Manager Timonere stated in the past it was about \$750-\$800 and it is now \$3,000-\$4,000 as instructor-led classes are now required.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo asked if there are local businesses that offer this training. City Manager Timonere stated there is no one local. There is a grant that A-Tech may be able to use to start a CDL program, but there will still be costs associated with starting the program. The city found a company located in Pittsburgh, PA

that can issue licenses in Ohio that is the cheapest so far and they will come to the city to complete the classes with the employees.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Ordinance No. 2023-17 to repeal the Payroll Ordinance 2022-158 and replace it with Ordinance No. 2023-20 which includes the position of laborer without CDL.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's requests; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Allied of Cincinnati, OH for the purpose of making repairs to the sanitary sewer outfall in the amount not to exceed \$434,263.00. Funding will be taken from Capital Improvement fund 504.

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

Discussion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo asked City Manager Timonere to explain what happened. Mr. Timonere stated that there was damage done to the outfall where there are two holes that need to be patched. Two pumps have been on site to help get water out. This company will come in and complete the repairs underwater during this time of year, clean the line, and provide pictures and footage of the repairs. Staff will be onsite during this time to monitor the repairs.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Formal requests for the next meeting:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD Group of Youngstown, OH for the purpose of providing engineering design and construction administration for the 2023 Paving Project in an amount not to exceed \$105,000.00. Funding will be taken from fund 212.

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

Discussion: President John Roskovics stated that we usually pay 10%, so this will be over one million dollars worth of paving this year. City Manager Timonere stated that is correct.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance with GPD Group in Youngstown, OH for the purpose of providing engineering design and construction administration for the Highland Beach storm sewer outfall in the amount not to exceed \$29,500.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 412.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance with GPD Group of Youngstown, OH for the purpose of providing engineering design for the Water Pollution Grit Building Roof Repair in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Funding for this expense will come from fund 504.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with ODOT for the purpose of furnishing and installing, at no cost to the city, U.S. bicycle route signage within the city limits.

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

Discussion: City Manager Timonere explained there will just be road signs put up on the U.S. Bike Route 30 that runs through the City of Ashtabula. It is along State Rt. 531, otherwise known as Lake Rd.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with NOPEC in Solon, OH for the purpose of accepting the 2023 NOPEC Energized Community grant in the amount of \$34,312.00.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

President John Roskovics brought to the City Manager's attention the East side of Hulbert Ave. hill. When the hotel gets busy, the road may need to become usable in time. City Manager Timonere stated that they will have to redo the road in asphalt as to redo it in brick would be very expensive. Mr. Timonere stated he believes they already have permission from the Historic Review Board to pave this road.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director**Formal Requests**

Repeal and replace payroll ordinances. Ordinance No. 2023-18 repealing, in its entirety, Payroll Ordinance No. 2022-160 for the purpose of granting a wage increase to the Ashtabula Municipal Court Bailiffs. They did not get this increase due to an oversight. Ordinance 2023-19 authorizing the compensation, salaries, and wages to employees of the Ashtabula City Municipal Court and Probation Divisions.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to approve the Finance Director's requests; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Ordinance No. 2023-21 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the office of the Auditor, the state of Ohio, local government services, to assist the City of Ashtabula Municipal Court with reconciling the court's cash journal with the bank for the period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

Motion: Vice-President Michael Speelman moved to approve the Finance Director's request; Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford seconded.

Discussion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked Finance Director Welch where this money was coming from. Ms. Welch stated it was coming from the Special Projects Fund.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Ordinance No. 2023-22 an ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations in the court indigent alcohol treatment, court special projects, and permanent improvement funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula for the period January 1 through December 31, 2023.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to approve the Finance Director's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Council Formal Request:

President John Roskovics requested Ordinance 2023-25, an ordinance appointing an interim City Finance Director on a temporary basis and authorizing compensation for the same.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the Council President's request; Ward 3 Councilor

RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: President John Roskovics stated that Ms. Sheldon will be helping as the Interim City Finance Director as they go through the interview process.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

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

FEBRUARY 14

MARCH 14

APRIL 11

MAY 9

JUNE 13

JULY 11

AUGUST 8

The next meeting will be held on February 14th at 4:00 p.m. The Hubbard House will be the guest. Recognition of new businesses will be discussed at this upcoming meeting also.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines, Roskovics

JANUARY 20 - Report of meeting

FEBRUARY 17

MARCH 17

APRIL 21

MAY 19

JUNE 16

JULY 21

AUGUST 18

The Finance and Personnel meeting was held on Friday, January 20th. The meeting began with a quarterly investment report from Assistant Finance Director Sheldon. She reported the investment interest has grown from \$87 in 2021 to over \$64,000 in 2022. There are six million dollars invested in STAR Ohio and an additional three million dollars invested in the treasury which will mature on October 31, 2023. Finance Director Welch reported the fund balances were good overall. The general fund ended with a 3.2 million unencumbered balance. The large balance is due to the reallocation of the CARES Act money. Income tax revenue was better than predicted. In 2021 the income tax revenue was approximately 7 million and in 2022 it was 7.8 million. General fund revenue was up \$534,000 from 2021 and expenses were down \$390,000 in 2022. The majority of the revenue in the general fund came from income tax collections. The general fund finished with revenue of \$11,514,000 and last year ended at about \$10,980,000. This brings us \$534,000 over revenue from 2021 and the majority of this was income tax collections. The manager reiterated that with the construction of the hotel, Chestnut Village, APMC, and the Carlisle Project going through 2024 this will be a big increase in wages. However, this increase may not be a trend. The manager's goal is to keep expenses decreasing at the same time so that extra padding is there for future years.

The manager stated that between \$500,000 and \$700,000, carryover is a minimum but, 1 to 1.5 million would be best to have each year. He also stated that due to problems in the county, the city will not be receiving its property taxes until the end of March and an ordinance may have to be brought to the council to get an advance on the property taxes so that they are received sooner. Ms. Welch will know for sure after next week's payroll. Finance Director Welch voiced that the advance on the property taxes was not needed. In 2021, the city had to subsidize the Health Department by \$326,000 and in 2022, due to an increase in grants, we only had to subsidize \$65,000. In 2022, the Health Department received \$330,839 in COVID relief grant money and only received \$160,289 in 2021. Ms. Welch also reported that with the ability to now assess property taxes, there was an increase in delinquent taxes received in 2022, which was \$316,000 compared to \$36,000 in 2021. Landfill costs are lower. The manager reported that Sanitation is down two people and this is due to the workers having to have the CDL. This has been addressed due to an employment agreement that allows employees to get their CDL and have the city pay for it. If the employee leaves within three years, these expenses will have to be paid back. The manager is also working on filling positions in other departments. There will be tests coming up in the Fire and Police Departments. Lieutenant exams will become available in both departments and an entrance exam may be available in the Fire Department later this year. One person will be retiring from the Police Department. The manager will continue to watch the budget and keep the spending down. The manager stated that Bonniewood's roads would need to be addressed. To do them correctly it would cost \$900,000 and would disrupt a large population as parking is right off the road. A cheaper way would cost about \$300,000 but would have to be redone more often, costing more in the long run. The manager stated that people are using Prospect Circle as a dumping ground and that there is not much back there. He voiced concern about the possibility of closing this road. The manager voiced the need for new equipment for departments. He will be gathering information for a rate study for the Water Pollution Plant and GPD will provide the final piece for what is found in the collection plant. The manager is working on getting the whole city on recycling and curbside. This will require new trucks and cans which would cost about 1.5 to 2 million dollars. Garbage rates have not been raised since 2016 and the current charge is \$15.50 per month. He is working on getting grant funding for this project. Assistant Finance Director Sheldon reported on the delinquent income tax situation. She reported that within the MITS software, there are delinquencies from 1980-2019 that have not been collected. This adds up to 2.25 million dollars. These accounts will be turned over to the Ohio Attorney General's office for collection. Their office will intercept these delinquent residents' tax refunds and lottery winnings to pay these debts. Steps will be created by March 31st for accounts from 2020-2022 where letters will be sent to each account, twice, in an attempt to collect taxes due. Then, these accounts will be turned over to the Attorney General's office for collection. An estimated tax for residents who do not file taxes will be created this year and will be based on a median household income tax within the City of Ashtabula based on the 2021 census. The median household income was \$36,012. Letters for estimated tax collection will be mailed in a step program and, if not paid, will be handed over to the Solicitor's office to be handled in court. The manager stated that the Finance Director's position was posted internally and externally.

The next Finance and Personnel meeting will be held on February 17th at 8:30 a.m. in the AAP conference room.

President John Roskovics stated that many people have asked if our recycling material goes to the landfill or to the proper recycling place and he has been able to tell them we have saved 20%, \$100,000, on the landfill costs because we have been sending recycling material to the proper places. City Manager Timonere stated that all recycling goes to the recycling building within the Sanitation Department, is packed there, and is put on a trailer to be brought to Twinsburg's recycling center. Mrs. Foglio asked the manager if the recycling drop-off was different than it used to be and City Manager Timonere stated that yes, you are no longer able to drive into the building, there are

bins outside the building for recycling drop-off. Ms. Holman asked the manager if there was a timeline for the whole city to be put on recycling and curbside pick-up. Mr. Timonere stated there is no timeline due to grant funding and funding in general. The city would need to go to the arms trucks so that recycling could be picked up every week at the same time as the trash pickup. He stated that besides the \$5 fee on the property taxes throughout the county, there is no other recycling funding. He is working with the Solid Waste District and the EPA to try and find funds to make this happen. Ms. Holman asked if, once the funding is located, will all the wards receive the recycling and curbside at the same time. Mr. Timonere said yes. Mr. Speelman asked Mr. Timonere if we can tell the difference between what is picked up versus dropped off for recycling. He stated he would think there would be better participation if everyone had curbside recycling. Mr. Timonere stated they weigh their trucks, but the other trucks throughout the county are not weighed.

Public Works

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

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

JANUARY 23 - Report of meeting

FEBRUARY 27

MARCH 27

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

The City Manager reported during the committee meeting that the two trucks from Nelson Sand and Gravel were picked up. One is going to Water Pollution and the other to Public Works and Sanitation. The logos from Nelson's are being taken off, some paint is being touched up, and a seal is being placed on the back door for the truck going to the Waste Water Department so that when the sludge is dropped off it won't leak out. There are three trucks coming from Mack, two are already built and have shown up. They have to go to Mentor, OH to have the plow equipment put on. The third truck has been built and is at the carrier for delivery. The aerial truck, which was purchased in August of 2021, should be delivered by the beginning of March. The RAM was picked up from Montrose and the 3500 was picked up from Youngstown. Mark Verzella, from the Waste Water Department, gave a report. They had sludge pump #4 that had to be rebuilt and reinstalled. Pump #3 had an electrical problem that damaged the motor, so it was sent out for repairs. The centrifuge feed pump was rebuilt by the staff, which saved money, and they are looking for a replacement as this pump is getting to the end of its life. Mr. Verzella wrote an article on the crane truck they built and the article will be in the Water Environment Technology magazine. Mr. Timonere stated that the article had been received and that this crane truck, within the first year, paid for itself. The Ohio EPA did an NPDES permit inspection, which was a 7-hour inspection that looked at all areas of the facility. This inspection provided information that the copper and cadmium limits would be dropped and the mercury limits would be lowered. The labs at Water Pollution are looking at an IDEXX E-Coli system. They are looking at going this route as the chemicals used for the current system are hard to find and the prices are going up. The IDEXX system would make their labs more efficient and take any guesswork out of the tests they run. There was a business in noncompliance that the city was dealing with and working on getting back into compliance. The bar rake project is still ongoing as they are having supply-demand issues. The bar rake is installed and pulls lots of material that could've damaged equipment at the plant. Shipments have been received of bulbs and crystals for the UV disinfection system. The problem is the prices for these materials have skyrocketed and when asked if Mr. Verzella believes these prices will ever go down and he stated he believes this will be a permanent increase. The increase is about 3 times higher than normal. The Grit building roof needs to be replaced. Trucks have been purchased. Multiple staff have been completing their CEU's and they are working to get onsite training for confined spaces later this year. When the city has the

IDEXX system demonstration they will be inviting Conneaut and Geneva to participate. Public Works has been on split shifts since January 2nd. They have been patching and jetting lines when possible. The CDL training will hopefully be good for the city to get people in who want to work and just cannot afford the CDL costs. The streets for the paving project this year were handed out. The next meeting will be held on February 27th at 5:00 p.m. The interim Dean of Kent State Ashtabula, Dean Ayers, will be the guest.

Ms. Holman addressed the manager, stating that a lot had been done to repave the main roads, and asked what his thinking had been regarding the side streets. Mr. Timonere stated that the main roads have been neglected and neighborhood streets have been the main focus. The list for this year's paving includes a lot of neighborhood roads.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

JANUARY 23 - Report of meeting

FEBRUARY 27

MARCH 27

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

Safety Forces met on Monday, January 23rd, at 8:45 a.m. Chief Stell, from the Police Department, gave his December and January reports. His statistics are about what they usually are. Calls go down during the cold months and up during the warm months. The Police Department's annual report is partially completed and should be finalized sometime in February. Chief Gruber, from the Fire Department, is also working on his annual report and hopes it will be completed by the next Safety Forces meeting. Chief Gruber noticed calls were up slightly, receiving about 2,200 calls in the past year. He also mentioned that fire fatalities within the last 20-30 years have been because of faulty or non-existent smoke detectors. People are encouraged to get smoke detectors. The Fire Department has some detectors for free and, if needed, they will come out and help install them. The Solicitor's office has found they have a lot of old evidence in the evidence room and the procedure to dispose of evidence is cumbersome. They will come up with an ordinance for the proper and timely disposal of evidence. Confusion about no-thru traffic signs was addressed coupled with a Police Department map for all road signs. Evidently, there is no updated map or map in general. The Police and Fire Departments and the Solicitor's office will make sure the roads are labeled with the correct road signage and create or update the map if needed. There has to be something on file that shows which roads have no-thru traffic. If changes need to be made, they will bring it back to the committee or report it to the council. During Chief Stell's report, he mentioned that in 2022 there were 15,577 calls for service, and about 15-20 years ago they were averaging 22,000 and 24,000 calls for service each year. There is progress being made. Safety town will be starting up again. They are still collecting donations. Checks can be made out to FOP 26 and the memo will be "donation for Safety Town". Safety town is scheduled for the second or third week of July. The next meeting will be held on February 27th at 8:45 a.m.

Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo asked where Safety Town would be held. Mr. Speelman stated it would be held at the elementary campus on Wade Ave. Mrs. Foglio asked if Chief Stell was there when Safety Town was active before and he said yes. Chief Stell stated that Safety Town will be held from July 10th through July 21st. Mr. Speelman asked if individuals had to sign up. Chief Stell said yes, they will register when they register their kids for kindergarten. St. John, Ridgeview, and Ashtabula City Schools will be participating.

Ms. Holman asked if the fire fatalities were primarily residential and Mr. Speelman said he believes they were all residential. Ms. Holman asked if the Fire Department is willing to provide smoke detectors for businesses since they are able to provide residences with them. Mr. Timonere stated that he believes the type of detector for businesses is different than residential ones. He also stated that the detectors are received from the Red Cross through a grant and they have to report on them and believes they are only available for residents, but he will verify this. Residents just need to call or stop by the Fire Department to ask for these detectors.

Presentation of Legislation

President John Roskovics introduced the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

None.

Public Communications on Legislation

None.

Overview / Discussion

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked what the timeframe will be for employees to get their CDL. City Manager Timonere stated that the job description for the current positions that are not required to have a CDL does not have a time frame as it is just "Laborer without CDL". However, now that CDL classes are available, they will most likely go back to the job description that states that they have 12 months to get their CDL for any new employees. Until a CDL is attained, they will fall under the wage of a laborer without a CDL.

Reading of Legislation

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

2023-12 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JACK DOHENY COMPANIES, INC., FOR STREET SWEEPER REPAIRS

2023-13 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE 2023-10, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY IN ORDER TO RENEW THE GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA.

2023-14 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MEDICAL MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY IN ORDER TO RENEW THE GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA.

2023-15 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A SUBSCRIPTION LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH MATRIX POINTE SOFTWARE, LLC FOR MATRIX SOFTWARE AND SERVICES FOR THE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA.

2023-16 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A SUBSCRIPTION LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH MATRIX POINTE SOFTWARE, LLC FOR MATRIX SOFTWARE AND SERVICES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA.

2023-17 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE 2022-158 FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCLUDING LABORER WITHOUT CDL TO THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS AND DIVISION OF SANITATION

2023-18 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE 2022-160 FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING A WAGE INCREASE TO ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT BAILIFFS

2023-19 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS

2023-20 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT

2023-21 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO ASSIST THE CITY OF ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT IN RECONCILING THE COURT'S CASH JOURNAL WITH THE BANK FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022.

2023 -22 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE COURT INDIGENT ALCOHOL TREATMENT, COURT SPECIAL PROJECTS, AND PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023.

2023 -23 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN AFSCME LOCAL 1197 AND THE CITY OF ASHTABULA TO REENTER THE POSITION OF SANITATION LABORER WITHOUT CDL

2023-24 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ALLIED TO MAKE REPAIRS TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL OUTFALL

2023-25 AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING AN INTERIM CITY FINANCE DIRECTOR ON A TEMPORARY BASIS AND AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION FOR SAME

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 dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Vice-President Michael Speelman seconded.

Discussion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: 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
Nays: None
Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: 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
Nays: None
Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

Ad Hoc Committee Report

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman gave the following report on the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Racism as a Public Health Crisis:

The legislation was approved on May 16, 2022, Resolution No. 2022-078, a resolution authorizing the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to study racism as a public health crisis and make recommendations to the City Council. Ms. Holman commended the council for being interested in exploring this issue. In 2022, the community college hosted a web-based panel discussion on the color of health, examining racism as a public health crisis as part of an ongoing collaboration with the Jack Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center. Recently, ABC News live had a special issue on Holocaust denial and distortion on the rise. The Plain Dealer had an article about being black and healthy is harder than ever. There is no doubt that these issues are real. Ashtabula City is the first in this county to move towards action in addition to signing a resolution. Their first meeting as a committee was held on September 28, 2022, and they meet each month. Currently, the members are RoLesia Holman, Ward 3 Councilor, John Roskovics, Council President, Michael Charney, Retired social studies teacher, Jessica Leveto, Professor at Kent State University, Mary Peachie Chatman, Social Worker, Jeff Griffiths, Geneva City Councilor, Jose Zavala, Kent State University Student, and Trisha Patton, Ashtabula City Finance Department. They began by celebrating the racial, social, economic, geographic, age, gender, and industry diversity within the group. They shared their life experiences from their individual perspectives and learned with and from one another. The group is not business or politics as usual. They were able to get to the heart of this issue of equity rather quickly. They know there is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding about what equity is. From the broadest perspective, they, as a collective, have come to know and understand that addressing this issue of diversity and equity inclusion will benefit their city, county, and country. As they began to research the local municipalities who are involved in this work, they learned that nearby cities have not only adopted resolutions but have created actionable items to move this work forward. The American Public Health Association for science, for action, for health has a website where anyone can see a map of declarations by state, county, and cities within the United States to see opportunities for action and also the National League of Cities of opportunity cohort working to advance equity. Closer to home, a former county resident, Liam Leveto, conducted a study on health equity in Ashtabula. Health equity, according to the CDC, is achieved when every person has the opportunity to attain his or her full potential and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances. The 2022 United States census provides data that shows there is a life expectancy difference of about 10 years less as you cross between our neighborhoods and our wards. The committee is also partnering with Ashtabula City Health Department to examine this data and other

data they possess. They are learning that racism has a negative affect on everyone. Their discussions have led them to explore and see disparities in employment, home ownership, redlining, health status, mortality rates, policing, financial lending, infrastructure, environmental equity, and more. Equity enables us to look at data to see our graduation rates, suspensions, college admissions, and more. They have heard from members of the group various instances of inequity throughout the county. Instances of harassment, black and indigenous people of color, and being subjected to racial slurs in schools. Their parents have pleaded for help but are met with a lack of empathy and responsiveness. The question they ask is how can they as adults protect innocent children. This is a snapshot of what they are discussing and learning. Kent State is now offering English instruction to students and looking to partner with others in the city to expand these classes. They are searching for funding to join GARE where they can network with other government entities, access resources, and learn how to move this work forward locally. They are discussing offering a video series for public viewing, discussion, and education. Their short-term goals include crafting and developing a mission statement and objectives, acquiring funding to broaden and deepen ways to educate the public, and partnering with GARE. They invite other interested and like-minded individuals to collaborate with them to change our current reality into a place where we reduce or eliminate barriers and social determinants of health so that every resident can have the quality of life they deserve. Their next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. in the Pre-Council room.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo asked if this was open to anyone. Ms. Holman said yes, it is.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills mentioned that the Ashtabula Health Department has a meeting on February 22nd also, and they are working on the community health needs assessment. They will be going over the one completed in August of 2022. They will also have their 2023-2025 healthy Ashtabula County improvement plan.

New Business

Notice to Legislative Authority Liquor Permit Transfer of Ownership

From: PRICE BROTHERS RETAIL LLC 110 East Sixth Street Franklin, OH 45005

To: 1011 PROSPECT LLC 1011 West Prospect Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Permit Class	Description
C-1	ORC 4303.11 Beer only in original sealed container for carry out only.
C-2	ORC 4303.12 Wine and mixed beverages in sealed containers for carry out.

No hearing was requested.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford stated that the Ashtabula Little League is having their enrollment. If you go to their page on Facebook, it will provide a link to register. Registration is open until March 10th.

President John Roskovics stated that the council will be getting back to welcoming new businesses within the city.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills reminded everyone that RAM (Remote Area Medical) will be at Lakeside High School on April 1st and 2nd. They provide free pop-up clinics, they will do medical, dental, and vision. You can also volunteer to help at RAM. Mrs. Mills stated she tried to attend the book signing at Pretty Good Books and after finally finding parking they were able to attend the event. The featured author, Chelsea Banning, sold out of her books. Mrs. Mills was at an event at the Art Center

and found out Lakeside High School's Art Club was doing an event called empty bowls for Feed Our Vets. On April 28th, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., you can go to different restaurants and buy a bowl, get soup, and take the bowl home. All the money goes to Feed Our Vets. The Annual City Clean Up will be held on April 22nd from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Lunch will be provided by Signature Health at the YMCA. To sign up, contact the Clerk of Council, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, or Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills also brought to the council's attention that she was contacted by a resident again in regard to the bus garage that will be built on Station Ave. The resident was concerned about the noise and emissions this bus garage would bring to the area. City Manager Timonere was asked to recap what he spoke about in response to this concern at the last pre-council meeting. Mr. Timonere stated that in regard to emissions, this will lower the emissions from what they are currently doing as the buses will no longer have to be run for 30 minutes in the winter to warm up as they will be housed inside. They will leave and return 4 times during the day. This property is in a commercial district where a main railroad track runs. He does not think the noise will be increased in this area and, if so, it would only be when they leave the garage and return. Before demolition was completed, they had to complete an asbestos evaluation and remediation. All permits were pulled and in place, and the Ohio EPA was also notified about this.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that the Ashtabula Library will be having a winter carnival on President's Day, February 20th. They will have multiple attractions and food opportunities from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feed Our Vets are having a Stuff the Shed/Win the Shed event. You can receive a ticket for bringing five pounds of food for donation or you can buy tickets for \$5 each or five for \$20. The shed will be given away on Saturday, March, 14th at the Norman Banquet. Feed Our Vets will be having their 3rd annual food drive and fundraiser in memory of Cliff and Rozella Harpst. This will be from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is a free event that will have basket raffles, big-ticket items, and more. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The goal is 9,700 pounds of food and \$9,700. Last year they raised \$23,000. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo also spoke about a children's book by a local author, Alan Coleman.

Public Communications on General Matters

J.P. Ducro of 430 West Prospect Rd. notified the council of the RAM Clinic. He stated that free cleanings, fillings, and extractions would be available for dental care. Free eye exams, glaucoma tests, eye prescriptions, and, in most cases, glasses are available for vision care. The clinic doors open at 6:00 a.m. on both days. Entry into the clinic has changed due to COVID. Instead of waiting outside in line like last year, this year you will check in from your car and receive a notification when it is time to go in. About 10% of patients previously have been children, so he emphasized that children are encouraged to come. There is no I.D. or income verification required. No one will be turned away for services. He also mentioned that the U.S.S. Ashtabula will be coming to town on June 10th and there will be a banquet at the Elks. They plan on opening this event up to the community so you can go and speak with the Navel Veterans.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked Mr. Ducro if masks will be required for individuals going to RAM. Mr. Ducro stated that to his knowledge, masks will not be required but he will check to make sure. Mrs. Mills also asked about transportation to and from RAM. Mr. Ducro stated ACTS is providing transportation for this event. He also stated to tell anyone who has an issue with transportation to and from this event to reach out to him directly and he will find out what options are available to get them there.

Executive Session (if needed)

Council President Roskovics announced the executive session would convene off camera. After the executive session was over, Council President Roskovics reconvened the public portion of the meeting, with no action taken.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 PM by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Tuesday, February 21st in the 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:

February 21, 2023

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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