



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 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 7:00 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Councilor Jodi Mills offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo
Absent: Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman
Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Interim Finance Director Carolyn Sheldon, Clerk of Council McKenzie Burgan

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to excuse Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford and Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman from the meeting; 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

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; Vice President Michael Speelman seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Council members were requested to attend this Executive Session.

Approval of Minutes

February 6, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

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

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Ayes: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, 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 the next meeting:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD Group of Akron, Ohio for the purpose of providing design and construction administration for the Smith Field Park Project in the amount not to exceed \$20,000. Funding will be taken from fund 233.

— Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a new construction community investment area tax agreement with Harbor Homes LLC for an abatement in the amount of \$195,054.42 at 100% for 7 years for the new residential dwelling located at 1429 Bridge Street in Ashtabula.

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

Discussion: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if all the homes on Bridge Street were sold now. City Manager Timonere stated all the construction is done. He is unsure if all have been sold. There may be one left to be sold.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to amend the Traffic Control Map to enact a section of no parking on Hiram Ave. located around the cul-de-sac.

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

Discussion: City Manager Timonere explained that a call was received from a resident in regard to the resident and the school district having some issues with buses being unable to go around the cul-de-sac as people were parking on the road. Letters were sent out to the five properties that would be affected by this and four responded back in favor of no parking. The letter stated there would be no parking from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on school days.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Board and Commission appointments:

With the Council's permission, City Manager Timonere would like to appoint Paul Hamilton as a member of the Tax Incentive Review Board for a term effective immediately.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Paul Hamilton will be appointed by a 5 to 0 vote.

With the Council's permission, City Manager Timonere would like to appoint Joseph Craine as a member of the Ashtabula City Port Authority Board for a term effective immediately with a term to end on October 22, 2024.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Joseph Craine will be appointed by a 5 to 0 vote.

City Manager Timonere stated that garbage is on their normal route even though Monday was a holiday.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo asked Mr. Timonere to go over the trash ordinance. Mr. Timonere stated that in the two areas with the city containers and recycling, the recycling is every other week, and garbage is limited to one 64-gallon trash container provided by the city. In all other wards, the limit is 3 32-gallon trash cans or 9 bags of trash.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills thanked the City Manager for his timeliness in getting the complaint from Riverside Dr. addressed. There is now a dumpster there and the trash is being picked up.

City Solicitor

Formal Request for this meeting:

An ordinance approving the appointment of a special assistant solicitor to handle one case with a flat fee rate.

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

Discussion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated that when things like this come up she does not want the solicitor's office to have to choose not to go to a seminar because of these situations. They will find the money to send them to the seminars.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Finance Director

No report.

Clerk of Council

No report.

Council Formal Request for the next meeting:

Council President John Roskovics requested a resolution on behalf of the council asking the state to return the local government funds to the original funding levels.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to approve the council's request; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

This will be passed on to the State Legislator

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

DECEMBER 13

JANUARY 10

FEBRUARY 14

MARCH 14

APRIL 11

MAY 9

JUNE 13

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo reported on the February 14th meeting.

At the last meeting, Sharone Sing, chairman of the Hubbard House Board, was our guest. The Hubbard House's mission statement is "Against Slavery Then, Against Oppression Now. The Hubbard House was built in the 1840s by a family of abolitionists and it serves, today, as a great historical piece. Ohio has always been a free state and Ashtabula had many people who helped get slaves to freedom. They helped get slaves across Lake Erie to Canada. Hubbard House is open from Memorial to Labor Day on the weekends. They will do a tour outside of their regular business hours if you give them a call to set this up. The City Manager also reported on Smith Field. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo asked if Mr. Timonere would explain the plan for Smith Field to the council. Mr. Timonere explained the plan is still the same. They will be using a combination of allocation grant funding and park levy funds to do some construction at Smith Field. They are going to reconfigure the baseball field to accommodate a soccer and football field also. The former Harbor High School football field on West 10th has been donated to the Land Bank and it is anticipated that a project will go out to developers to develop this site. The Ashtabula Midget Football League and some of the YMCA soccer programs have been using this field. They intend to host them to use the field as well. The parts of the track that were not paved when the bike path went in will be re-paved. A basketball court and two pickleball courts will also be added to the property. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo stated that \$80,000 was coming from the parks fund and the rest is grant funding. Mr. Timonere said yes and it was over \$100,000 in grant funding. Beach mats will be purchased. A request was made at the committee meeting for an outside shower. Mr. Timonere stated he would take a look at that. The next meeting will be on March 14th and the guest will be Realtor Bruce Schlosser.

President John Roskovics stated that the Hubbard House used to be the City Recreation

Department and was not treated as a historical site. In 1983, they got the house on the historical registry. An addition has been added to the Hubbard House since then. He went to the Hubbard House on February 18th as they were hosting an event and there was nowhere to park it was so busy.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines, Roskovics

DECEMBER 16

JANUARY 20

FEBRUARY 17

MARCH 17

APRIL 21

MAY 19

JUNE 16

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio reported on the February 17th meeting.

The meeting began with Finance Director Welch reporting that the city closed for the month of January with nothing outstanding except for a negative balance in the 412 account. This will clear up once the first round of income taxes come in. These will be late this year due to computer problems at the county level but they should be here by the end of March. Ms. Welch was working with Mrs. Sheldon to get her up to speed on duties she will need to perform once Ms. Welch is gone. Mrs. Sheldon will have help from LGS to help with some of the tasks of the Finance Director's position, as well as Ms. Welch if she needs any help. The City Manager mentioned we have had a busier February than usual for income taxes this year and Ms. Welch stated that many letters were sent out which may have caused this. Mrs. Sheldon reported that working with the Attorney General's Office has been slow-moving. This is still of high priority and will be done as soon as possible. The City Manager reported we are losing our Animal Control Officer to the county and that position will need to be filled. A job applicant who has his CDL was received for Sanitation and two of the three personnel in Sanitation have signed up for the CDL Program Agreement with the city. CDL classes will take between 1 1/2 to 2 weeks to complete. The Police Entrance List has been exhausted and we will be looking for lateral transfers. We have one opening and it will stay up until March 3rd. Mr. Timonere is also checking on someone to take over Mr. Richard Balog's position on the Civil Service Board and we thank him for his dedication. Lastly, Chair Foglio brought to the committee's attention that it is time to review the City Manager's and City Solicitor's salaries for raises before this year's election or it cannot be done for another four years.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to go into Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of discussing salaries and compensation; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

The next Finance and Personnel meeting will be held on March 17th at 8:30 a.m. in the AAP Conference Room.

Public Works

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

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

NOVEMBER 28

DECEMBER 27

JANUARY 23

FEBRUARY 27

MARCH 27

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

The next Public Works meeting will be on Monday, February 27th at 5:00 p.m. Interim Dean Ayers of Ashtabula Kent State will be the guest.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

NOVEMBER 28

DECEMBER 27

JANUARY 23

FEBRUARY 27

MARCH 27

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

The next Safety Forces meeting will be Monday, February 27th at 8:45 a.m. in the Council Chambers. Chief Stell invited some guests from the FBI and Police Force to the meeting.

Presentation of Legislation

President John Roskovis Introduced the Legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

None.

Public Communications on Legislation

None.

Overview / Discussion

None.

Reading of Legislation

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

2023-26 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR BICYCLE ROUTE SIGNAGE INSTALLATION

2023-27 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT A NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT

2023-28 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL ASSISTANT SOLICITOR FOR A SINGLE CASE AND AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION FOR SAME

2023-29 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP OF AKRON, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE HIGHLAND BEACH STORM SEWER OUTFALL PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$29,500.

2023-30 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP OF AKRON, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR THE ASHTABULA CITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT GRIT BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.

2023-31 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP OF AKRON, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE 2023 PAVING PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$105,000.

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

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to waive the reading of the legislation in its entirety; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo asked if we were going to say what the paving program is. City Manager Timonere stated this ordinance is only for putting the design together for the project, not the actual project. The actual streets will most likely be discussed at the Public Works meeting on Monday the 27th.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Notice of Interest to Serve: Tax Incentive Review Council

City Manager Timonere completed this appointment during his Officer Report with the Council's approval.

Reappointments to the Planning Commission:

Pattie Donato

George Toth

Bonnie Cannon

Cheryl Guyton

President John Roskovics stated that he contacted Pattie Donato, George Toth, Bonnie Cannon, and Cheryl Guyton of the Planning Commission and they would all like to be reappointed. President John Roskovics asked for a voice vote to have them reappointed.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Pattie Donato, George Toth, Bonnie Cannon, and Cheryl Guyton were reappointed to the Planning Commission by a 5 to 0 vote.

President John Roskovics also mentioned there is still one vacancy on the Planning Commission. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills thanked the members of the Planning Commission that were reappointed for their services.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

President John Roskovics stated that AMHA received a \$1.9 million grant. City Manager Timonere stated he does not believe this was a grant but rather their yearly allocation. Mr. Timonere said he would follow up on this.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated that tomorrow, February 22nd, is Ash Wednesday, so the Catholics are entering Lent. Every Friday during Lent, Our Lady of Peace Parish has a fish fry from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at their Community Center. Food is available for takeout or dining in. Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo asked if reservations are needed. Mrs. Foglio said, no they are not, you can just stop by.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated that on March 4th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. the Castle Block on Center St. will have an open house where you can walk through the building, speak with the developers, participate in activities the business owners are holding, and view the apartments. The apartments were staged by Furniture Towne and Dawn McNutt from Thrifty Designer. City Manager Timonere mentioned that we have had over \$100 million worth of construction within the last few years and this has not happened since the 70s or 80s. He stated there are still inquiries being entertained and lots of developers looking for properties and these are good things. Mrs. Mills stated that the weather had been great and Mr. Timonere said it had been a wonderful winter for construction. Mrs. Mills said this has probably saved money on extra crews and plowing. Mr. Timonere said it has saved on overtime but, with the state contracts, there is a minimum amount of salt that has to be purchased regardless, so it has not saved on that. Mrs. Mills also mentioned that she, Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo, and Mrs. Sheldon attended a Galentine's event that was put on by United Way. She stated that it was a lunch event and it was wonderful to see young people excited about working and living here and even starting businesses here was wonderful.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that the Ashtabula City Clean Up will be on April 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If you are interested in helping grab your friends and bring them along. Currently, sites for the clean-up are being documented and with the wind lately, there is lots of trash out there. If you want to participate, please email Jane, Jodi, or the Clerk of Council.

Public Communications on General Matters

None.

Executive Session (if needed)

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, March 6, 2023, 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:

March 6, 2023

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

McKenzie J. Burgan

McKenzie J. Burgan, Clerk of Council