



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, March 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 7:00 p.m. by Council President John Roskovics. Council President John Roskovics 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

Absent: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Interim Finance Director Carolyn Sheldon, Clerk of Council McKenzie Burgan

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford moved to excuse Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills and Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo from the meeting; 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

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

Council President John Roskovics and City Manager Timonere requested an Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purposes of employment of personnel and purchase and sale of property.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to adjourn to Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purposes of employment of personnel and purchase and sale of property; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

February 21, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

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

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Ayes: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

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 National Pump & Process of Aurora, OH for the purpose of providing a new pump for the Bridge Street Pump Station for an amount not to exceed \$12,500. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 504, the Capitol Expenses.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with HUD to execute documentation to administer funding through the Fiscal Year 2022 Economic Development Initiative, Community Project Funding/congressionally directed spending grant in the amount not to exceed \$460,000 for the reconstruction of Ferry Drive.

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

Discussion: President John Roskovics explained that Ferry Drive is in the Harbor between 6th Street and the old Coast Guard Station and will be paved this summer also. City Manager Timonere stated that it is their hope to have it paved this summer. It has been a long time waiting for these grants to come through. Congressman Joyce's office was a big help in getting this funding to us. Depending on how the bids come in, this should cover the entire cost of the projects. They are waiting to see if this is a reimbursable grant. They received help from the Ashtabula City Port Authority in writing this grant and working with Congressman Joyce's office to ensure we received these funds.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to repeal Codified Ordinance 141.11 and replace it with new Codified Ordinance 141.11 for the purpose of enacting legislation regarding police officer age limitations.

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

Discussion: City Manager Timonere stated that the Ohio Revised Code changed a little bit where it stated the maximum age for hiring police officers was either 35 or 40 but allows municipalities to choose their own age limits and 65 is the age the city decided upon.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

City Solicitor

No Report.

Finance Director

No Report.

Clerk of Council

The Clerk of Council reminded the council that the ACMC Topping Ceremony will be on Wednesday, March 22nd at 3:00 p.m. and if you are planning on attending an RSVP needs to be sent to Tina by March 17th. If the council would like to let me know they would like to attend, I can send the RSVP for them.

Volunteers are needed for our Local Board of Tax Review. If anyone is interested in being on this board, please complete the application of interest on the City's website- cityofashtabula.com or feel free to contact the Clerk of Council directly via email or phone at clerkofcouncil@cityofashtabula.com or (440)992-7119

The Clerk of Council completed the Ohio Sunshine Laws training on February 24th for herself and the council. Completion of the Ambassador Training through the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center was done on February 27th.

City Council Committee Reports

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation

(2nd Tuesday @ 4:00 p.m.)

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

MARCH 14

APRIL 11

MAY 9

JUNE 13

JULY 11

AUGUST 8

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 14th, at 4:00 p.m. Realtor Bruce Schlosser will be the guest and housing will be discussed.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines-DiGiacomo, Roskovics

MARCH 17

APRIL 21

MAY 19

JUNE 16

JULY 21

AUGUST 18

The next meeting will be on Friday, March 17th, at 8:30 a.m.

Public Works

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

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

FEBRUARY 27- CANCELLED

MARCH 27
APRIL 24
MAY 22
JUNE 26
JULY 24
AUGUST 28

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 27th, at 5:00 p.m. The last meeting was canceled due to the guest being unable to attend.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

FEBRUARY 27 -Report of meeting

MARCH 27

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

Report of the February 27th meeting:

Vice President Michael Speelman gave the Safety Forces meeting report. Visitors FBI Agent Sullivan, who is a member of the Safe Streets Task Force, and Ashtabula Police Department Lieutenant Palinkas, who is a member of the Narcotics Investigative Unit, attended this meeting. FBI Special Agent Sullivan stated that their part of the task force, the Safe Streets Task Force, is a nationwide effort to combat narcotics and gang activity. About 15 months ago, they got into a partnership with the Ashtabula Police Department. He stated that the FBI has 56 field divisions that cover the whole country and the closest one is Cleveland. Their size compared to other divisions is ranked 23 out of 56. They have 190 agents on board in the Cleveland division. Their New York office is their largest with just under 1,100 agents. Since their partnership with the Ashtabula Police Department, they were ranked number one in the Cleveland Division for gun seizures. They are ranked 23rd in size but number 7 nationwide. Since being partnered with APD, they have made 50 arrests and 56 drug seizures that total just shy of 13.5 kilograms of drugs, recovered 32 guns, had 24 indictments, and of those indictments, 12 have been convicted. If you compare their statistics from October 1, 2022-today to last year's, they are ahead of their statistical accomplishments. Special Agent Sullivan stated that with their experience here in Ashtabula, the cocaine they are seeing is coming from Puerto Rico, and the heroin and meth started coming from Texas but are now coming from California. Due to the weight of the drugs they are seeing here, cases are being taken to the Federal Government. Most defendants they are arresting have significant criminal histories and an amount of drugs that hit the federal guidelines for a mandatory minimum of a 10-year sentence. Coordination with the Solicitor's office is done constantly and if the case is appropriate, they will stay in the city, but if it is suggested they go to the federal government, they will do that too. Member President John Roskovics stated that with fentanyl being deadly, why are the dealers putting it in the drugs? You would think they would not want to try and kill their customers. Lieutenant Palinkas stated it is the addiction rate that drives this. Heroin manufacturing was reliant on crop cycles and fentanyl and the 100 or so analogs are made in a lab, cheaper to manufacture, and are being shipped into our country in bulk, which is making its way to our communities. With the professional labs pumping out large quantities of methamphetamine, it is now \$40/gram instead of \$100/gram like back in the day. Fentanyl can now also be bought for \$50-\$60/gram when heroin used to be \$100-\$200/gram. Fentanyl is cheaper, more addictive, and easier to make, and that is the draw over heroin. There are also a few members of the Ashtabula Police Department who are deputized federally on Title 18 and Title 21 which means they can investigate drugs and just about

everything else federally and do not have to stop at the borders of Ashtabula. City Manager Timonere stated that since they decided to start the NIU and work with the FBI on the Safe Streets Initiative, it has gone above and beyond what was expected in the beginning and has been a significant move for the city in tackling these issues. He also brought up that we do not hear a lot in the news or press releases in the paper about the drug busts going on and this is in an effort to keep things quiet so they can continue investigating the bad guys. The quietness is not because of a lack of activity but because they are going after bigger people. Vice Chair Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked if we still have a hotline where we can report suspicious activity or report a drug house. This tipline is still available and the number is (440)992-7126. They caution individuals to not leave a message if it is an active situation and to call 911 if this is the case. The messages are listened to and anything worth investigating they do investigate.

Chief Stell spoke about his annual report. There are no surprises, everything is on par with what they see every year. Safety Town is going well, money has been raised and more donations are coming in and the buildings for Safety Town are built and being stored at the school.

We did not hear from Chief Gruber but, his annual report is done and he will report on this at the next Safety Forces meeting.

The City Manager reported there is one police officer position open. There is an advertisement for lateral transfers. They have exhausted their Civil Service List, so an entrance test will need to be done. The Police Department has a Lieutenant test in April and the Fire Department has a Captain and Lieutenants test in April.

The City Solicitor is still working on the process to streamline their evidence destruction. It has turned out to be a bigger process than initially anticipated.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 27th, at 8:45 a.m.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated that FBI Agent Sullivan could not say enough about our Police Department and had a lot of pride in their accomplishments and the partnership they have with the Solicitor's office.

City Manager Timonere said thank you for touching on the subject of when people don't see the headlines and press releases they do not think these situations are going on but they are. He mentioned that Ashtabula's team, which is small in comparison to those such as Akron and Cleveland, is out-producing these other teams with fewer people than the bigger teams.

City Solicitor Cooper stated that this task force is not going after the low-level drug dealers or users and it is understood that drug addiction is an addiction and it is treated differently than the person who is feeding the addiction by bringing large quantities of drugs to our community and feeding these addictions. This task force is going after the bigger drug dealers.

Presentation of Legislation

President John Roskovics introduced the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

None.

Public Communications on Legislation

None.

Overview / Discussion

None.

Reading of Legislation

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

2023 -32 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NATIONAL PUMP & PROCESS, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW PUMP FOR THE BRIDGE STREET LIFT STATION

2023-33 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 SMITH PARK FIELD PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000

2023-34 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 141.11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION REGARDING POLICE OFFICER AGE LIMITATIONS

2023-35 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 141.11 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION REGARDING POLICE OFFICER AGE LIMITATIONS

2023-36 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING AROUND THE CUL DE SAC OF HIRAM AVENUE

2023-37 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH HARBOR HOMES, LLC, FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR A NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLING LOCATED AT 1429 BRIDGE STREET, ASHTABULA, OH 44004

2023-38 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL PAID VACATION LEAVE FOR THE CLERK OF COUNCIL

2023-39 STRONGLY URGING THE OHIO GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RESTORE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND TO PRE-RECESSION LEVELS

Council President 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; President John Roskovics seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice-President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Motion passed, however, President John Roskovics asked if there was an item Ms. Holman would like to be taken off of the consent agenda and she said yes, ordinance 2023-37. President John Roskovics withdrew his second and Vice President Michael Speelman withdrew his motion.

Council President Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for ordinances 2023-32, 2023-33, 2023-34, 2023-35, 2023-36, 2023-38, and resolution no. 2023-39.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for the above-listed ordinances and resolution; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; 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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

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

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

Nays: None

Legislation passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation for Ordinance No. 2023-37; 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

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 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

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
Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman
Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford reminded everyone that the Ashtabula Little League's deadline for registration is this Friday, March 10th. Tryouts for minors, majors, and baseball and softball will be held on the 11th of March at Lakeside Junior High. To register, go to their Facebook page and this will give you the time to be at the school for tryouts.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio congratulated the Lakeside Wind Ensemble, which received a one rating in districts last Saturday and will be going off to states. She also mentioned that Edgewood Senior High School is having a new uniform blitz. They are currently wearing uniforms that are 34 years old. They have to raise \$30,000 and are currently up to \$13,000 from alumni. If you would like to donate, you can go to [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search for New Uniform Blitz. Our Lady of Peace Parish has their fish fry on Fridays. Last week they sold over 350 dinners.

Council President John Roskovics stated he went to the open house for the Castle Block building. They were renting out apartments that day and the business space was almost all taken up.

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 Rokovics reconvened the public portion of the meeting, with no action taken.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 AM by Council President Roskovics.
Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, March 20th 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 20, 2023

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

McKenzie J. Burgan

McKenzie J. Burgan, Clerk of Council