



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council
Safety Forces Committee
Monday, March 27, 2023 at 8:45 AM
4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council Safety Forces Committee was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by Committee Chair Michael Speelman.

Roll Call

Members Present: Chair: Council Vice President Michael Speelman, Vice Chair: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Member: Council President John Roskovics

Absent: none

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council McKenzie Borgan

Ashtabula Department Heads Present: Police Chief Robert Stell

Visitors: None.

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 Laws Open Meetings Act.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

None.

Police Department – Chief’s Report

Chief Stell stated that nothing was out of the ordinary regarding statistics. He reported that last week they ran an operation with the State Patrol and they brought in portable scales for overweight trucks. For the trucks that had obvious violations, they sent them over to the scales to be weighed. The State Patrol stated in a regular operation they get between 2 and 5 violations and this operation had 4. One truck had 26 violations. Chair Vice President Michael Speelman stated this helps protect the integrity of the roads by not having these overweight trucks on them.

Fire Department – Chief’s Report

Chief Gruber was not present at the meeting to give a report.

2022 Annual Report

City Manager’s Report

City Manager Timonere stated the city had sporadic power outages but, overall, we did not fair too bad as far as damages go. Assessments are still being done this morning. He had not heard too much about any building damage. There have been some reports of limbs striking pieces of people's homes. The roadways were not impeded too much. They were out over the weekend putting generators on traffic lights and then, once the power came back on, they went out to reset them.

They also had to reset the traffic lights in places where there were flickers. The Waste Water Treatment Plant was down most of Saturday and the power came back on early Sunday morning. The plant was on standby power for that time. They had to monitor the pump stations. As of this morning, there are some places that are still out of power. They have reported what they considered the critical assets to try and get these back online sooner rather than later. Some of the initial reports say Tuesday or Wednesday for full restoration. He spoke with a colleague down in Warren and they had 20,000 people without power still as of last night. They also had several roads shut down due to lines intertwined in trees that they cannot move until the power company cleans those areas up. We are one of many areas still suffering from power outages.

Promotional exams are coming up in April for the Police and Fire Departments. They are looking at possible entrance exams for both departments at the end of the year. Chief Stell is reviewing applications received from when they put lateral transfers out, so a lateral transfer hire may be coming shortly.

Member Council President John Roskovics asked how the Civil Service Committee was going. Mr. Timonere stated they still have not found a replacement for the committee chair, Mr. Balog, and are trying to expedite this. Mr. Balog has agreed to stay on for a little bit longer but someone needs to replace him. The replacement would have to step in as the chair of this committee and would have to handle the tests and everything. Mr. Roskovics asked if it had to be a city resident and Mr. Timonere said yes. Mr. Roskovics asked if they had to have some kind of experience and Mr. Timonere said they did not have to but it would be beneficial. Chair Council Vice President Michael Speelman asked what kind of experience Mr. Timonere said experience in civil service, fire, police, or law.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on April 24th at 8:45 a.m.

The next meeting will be on April 24th at 8:45 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 AM by Chair Council Vice President Michael Speelman.

Attested By: McKenzie Burgan, Clerk of Council