



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, March 20, 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. Ward 4 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 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Absent: None

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Interim Finance Director Carolyn Sheldon, 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 Laws Open Meetings Act.

Presentations/Announcements

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio requested an Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of compensation of personnel.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to adjourn to Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of compensation of personnel; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo 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.

Council only to attend this Executive Session.

Approval of Minutes

March 6, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills 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, 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

City Manager Timonere requested to reappoint Jean Bento to the Ashtabula County Convention Facilities Authority board effective retroactively May 21, 2022, with a term to expire May 20, 2024. He would also like to appoint Toni Carlisle to the Ashtabula County Convention Facilities Authority Board effective immediately with a term to expire May 20, 2024. He would like to appoint Chris DiGiacomo to the Ashtabula County Convention Facilities Authority Board effective immediately with a term to expire May 20, 2024.

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

By a 7 to 0 vote, these appointments were made.

The City Manager requested an ordinance to deem obsolete an HP server from the court, asset tag# 3214.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman 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.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

Formal Requests:

A supplemental appropriation ordinance to increase expenses for the general fund and fire escrow fund for the current year January through December 31, 2023.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the Interim Finance Director's request; 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.

Repeal and Replace ordinances for the payroll ordinance for the municipal court and probation divisions for the purpose of adding a new classification of acting bailiff/court security officer.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to approve the Interim Finance Director's request; Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford seconded.

Discussion: This is for ordinances 2023-43 and 2023-44

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio

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

MARCH 14- Report of Meeting

APRIL 11

MAY 9

JUNE 13

JULY 11

AUGUST 8

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo reported on the 3/14 committee meeting.

Bruce Schlosser provided an overview of the Ashtabula City and County housing market. Over the last three years, COVID has positively impacted the housing field. The estimated home value in Ashtabula City is currently \$148,000; for the county, it is \$170,000. In the previous three years, there has been about a 24-25% increase in the average home values for single-family residential dwellings. The percentage of ownership versus rental in the city is 49% versus 72% in the county. The percentage of non-home ownership will likely increase over the next few years. The average rent cost has increased by about 15% per year for the last three years. While the county's average sale value is up 24%, the rent value is up about 45%. The demand for rental properties is extremely high in this area. We have a huge imbalance in the market between supply and demand currently. Since the supply and demand are not in balance, we are seeing this price increase in home values. In a normal, healthy market, it is typical to have about 600 single-family properties on the market at any given time and currently they have only 118 for all buyers to look at in the entirety of Ashtabula County. We are about 500 properties below where we need to be to have a balanced market. Up until the last six months of 2022, buyer demand was through the roof. An increase in interest rates and inflation have dampened this somewhat, but people are still paying over the asking price, removing home inspection contingencies, and using an appraisal gap addendum to secure the purchase of homes. Appraisal gap addendums are used when a home's value is less than the asking price and the buyer agrees to bring the extra cost to the table. These were used frequently in 2020, 2021, and 2022. At the end of the first quarter of 2022 there was a 13% appreciation in the county and by the end of the year there was a 7% appreciation. Bruce believes we will see a 6-7% average appreciation in residential home values in the county in 2023. The buyer is coming to the table with cash out of other assets they may possess. The problem with getting inventory now is that current homeowners who have interest rates of 2.5-4% do not want to sell their houses because what they buy will be more expensive than two or three years ago and the interest rates will be between 6-7%. Bruce explained that during COVID, sellers did not want people in their homes and stringent showing standards had to be adopted to allow potential buyers to be in the properties. After the vaccine came out and some time passed, sellers were not as concerned about people being in

their homes. Realty is not a very elastic market and does not change up and down drastically, but when it does it is very hard to get inventory back to normal levels. There would have to be 3 to 4 years of exceptional listings to get back to the 500-600 range of houses on the market at one given time. The cost per square foot to build a residential structure is between \$90-\$145. For a 2,000-square-foot home at \$90 per square foot, you are looking at \$180,000 just for the structure. This does not include the land it will be on, infrastructure connections, driveways, etc. The average cost to build a basic 2,000-square-foot home is about \$220,000 in Ashtabula County. The lack of inventory and new building starts is a problem throughout the whole United States. Owners are building their own homes. Bruce stated that, in his opinion, there needs to be incentives for builders to build here. Our market is an internally driven market. This means it starts with a young couple buying a small home, then they have kids and get a job increase, so they purchase a bigger home, and they may move to an even more expensive home and then they either vacate the area or buy a small home and winter home somewhere else. The Pig Iron Plant will bring about 70 jobs to the city and this is the first time this has happened in many years. Bruce explained, in his opinion, a location needs to be picked where 5 to 10 houses can be built and then you can move to another area and do the same thing there. He was talking about picking a ward to start building houses in and then moving through the wards. This would encourage existing homeowners to renovate their homes. City Manager Timonere stated that they have had 17 new housing starts. Mr. Timonere asked Bruce how he felt about the city doing residential tax abatements and how this looks to a potential builder and buyer. Bruce stated that, in his opinion, tax abatements are one of the tools the city can use to incentivize people to build within the city limits. He stated that he and his wife built their house in the city 19 years ago and they would not have built within the city without the tax abatement. Without tax abatements, people would build where their average value is the highest. Council President John Roskovics stated that with the recent new builds in the city, they have sold for \$250,000-\$300,000 so that part of the market has been addressed, but he is concerned about the \$100,000-\$200,000 market for young families starting out. City Manager Timonere stated that the hard part of talking to developers for the lower-income market is that the cost of building the home is still the same. He stated that tax abatements are also available to individuals who remodel their homes. This can help get people into a \$40,000-\$50,000 home and then put \$40,000-\$50,000 into the home and be able to abate the new value of the home, which would bring the cost down for first-time buyers. It is also trying to work with the LIHTC funds. The ability to stack LIHTC funds on top of historic tax credits has been stripped. They are waiting on the proposal that is allegedly coming out to incentivize developers to build more affordable housing for the working class. It takes incentives to get developers. The average age for homes in Ashtabula City is 78 years old and it is 71 years old in the county. Homes that were built in that timeframe are different from what is attractive to new homebuyers now. Ranch-style homes are more appealing now but a lot of the homes in the city are two-story homes. Mr. Timonere spoke about the Made on Main project going on now. They are trying to identify properties on Main Ave. that future entrepreneurs that this group will bank are looking at. He stated that we do have some challenges but he is looking at it as we have 7 new properties on the Harbor High School property and all over \$300,000 in value and they are selling. All the townhouses that were built and sold. The housing starts we have in Ashbrook and Maredy have decided to build within the city. We have a lot of good things going on and it is a positive thing that these developers are choosing the city. For the Parks & Recreation report, Ken Vanyo stated he went down to Walnut Beach and measured the distance from the end of the boardwalk to the water and it was 170 feet. However, currently, you cannot see the water when walking down the beach due to a ledge in the sand. He was unsure how long the mats would be but stated you almost have to be at the water to see it due to the ledge. He mentioned one of the boardwalk boards is sticking up where you cannot roll anything over it. He stated it is nice to have the parks and recreation available for residents to enjoy. He stated the pickleball courts are fantastic. He requested more information on the outdoor shower. He stated he said it wrong at the last meeting. The shower will be on the east side of the concession stand. They are also interested in more way-finding signs.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated that Jaime Baker will be at our next Community Development meeting. Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that Jaime would be there along with Kara Norman with the food trucks on April 11th. Mrs. Mills stated that applications for the Made on Main project have been extended to May 1st. You can find the application at madeonmain.org. Mrs. Mills stated that Jaime is willing to set up zoom calls with individuals to answer any questions.

City Manager Timonere stated they are very excited about this project. He stated there are a lot of programs out there to help mentor business owners. Ashtabula has access to the NEO fund, small business development center, and SCORE. He encourages anyone to reach out to any of the organizations that service Ashtabula. Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo also mentioned Ginny Pasha at the Ashtabula Library.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills reminded everyone of ACMC's Topping Ceremony this Wednesday, which is a long-standing tradition to mark the placement of a building's highest structural element.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines, Roskovics

MARCH 17- Report of Meeting

APRIL 21

MAY 19

JUNE 16

JULY 21

AUGUST 18

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio reported on the 3/17 committee meeting.

The Finance & Personnel meeting was held on Friday, March 17th in the AAP Conference Room. The Interim Finance Director started off by discussing a letter drafted by the Assistant City Solicitor regarding appeals of tax assessments and where the letter is to be sent. A review board needs to be staffed. It was decided that letters of appeal needed to be sent to the Finance Director. Assessment letters need to be sent out for 2019 by April 19th of this year or the city will lose out on collecting that tax year. There are 388 delinquent accounts for 2019, 467 for 2020, and 471 for 2021. Some of these accounts overlap, so only one letter will be mailed out and some are minimal in amount. A discussion was held on the Income Tax Review Board. There is a board, but since the manager has been in the office, it has not met or been staffed with members. The manager has one appointment and the council has two appointments. A discussion was held on waiving fees and penalties for paying late income tax. As the letter currently states, if the late income tax is paid in full, fees and interest are fully waived. However, Mrs. Sheldon feels that since costs are incurred by the income tax department to send out certified mail, office costs, interest, etc. penalties should not be totally waived. After 60 days the accounts will go to the Attorney General's office and they can legally go after the funds. It was agreed that a policy needs to be put in place and followed and this needs to be put under the umbrella of the Finance Director. Once the policy is created, the Finance Director will then make the decisions on the questioned fees. If a resident is not in agreement with the decision, then the appeal can be filed within 60 days and referred to the board. A discussion was had about possible people to fill the board seats. The financial reports are good. We are still waiting for our property tax, which should be here the first week of April. ARPA funds have to be melded back into the budget and will be spent on paving, has been spent on the Waste Water Treatment Plant and some bills are still pending. The City Manager reported that the CDL trainer was coming on the 20th and the following week the two sanitation employees would take their tests. We will then have two more CDL holders. The next time we hire, it will be with the understanding that the employees have to get their CDL. We have two places to fill but cannot, as we cannot take people away from the Sanitation Department, as trash needs to be picked up. Our new Dog Warden came

from Motor Maintenance. When additional staff is needed, a temporary transfer will be made. We are still in need of a Forman in Motor Maintenance. This position has been open for a while now. The Forman needs a diesel certificate or ASE certificate along with their CDL. Promotional tests are coming up in April for Police and Fire. Lieutenant tests in the Police and Fire Departments and Captain in the Fire Department. Entrance exams will be done later in the year for both departments. The Fire Department has applied for an AFG grant through FEMA for a new ladder truck. The current ladder truck is approaching 45 years old. A major renovation was done to this truck about 6 years ago, but this was only to last 5 years. The truck is still doing great, but it is time to start thinking about a new one. The truck is between 1.5 and 1.8 million dollars and is a two-year build. The city has applied for the maximum grant amount of 1 million and believes we will get it as we have not heard we have not gotten it. We have nudged both Dave Joyce and Sherrod Brown to see if they can help push this application along as we have to plan how we will pay our portion of this cost. No plow trucks or police cars can be ordered in 2024 as they are all booked. We finally received our bucket truck, which was ordered in August of 2021. We will be putting funds aside for our new ladder truck until it is available for delivery. Raises for the City Manager and Solicitor were discussed and were to be brought out to the council this evening. However, that will be put on hold until after further discussion tonight during the executive session. The next meeting is on April 21st at 8:30 a.m. in the AAP Conference room.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stressed the importance of staffing the Income Review Board. Historically, this is not a board that has met that often but we need your help. Council President John Roskovics stated that as Mrs. Sheldon said there are about 400-500 cases in the last three years, so there will probably be some appeals.

City Manager Timonere stated they had started the training for the two employees who need their CDL. The sanitation laborer without a CDL job position has been posted. This position would have to get their CDL within 6 months. They can get it on their own or they can have the city pay for it with a commitment from the employee that they stay with the city for at least three years. If they are not with the city for those three years, there is a payback schedule they would sign into. This has been posted to the city's website under employment opportunities to see how to apply for these. A minimum of two people will be hired. As we get into summertime, we will be looking for summer part-time help. If you know anyone who needs a summer job, make sure to keep an eye on our website for this posting. We also publish them in the newspaper.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated that if you file your taxes online and you live in the city, those income tax programs do not file your city income taxes for you. You still have to come to the city to get the form and file your taxes. Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo asked what the penalty looks like if you do not file your city taxes. Mrs. Sheldon stated it is \$25 per month for a maximum of \$150 per tax year.

Public Works

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

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

MARCH 27

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

Public Works will have its next meeting on Monday the 27th at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Interim Dean Ayers of Kent State Ashtabula will be the guest.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

MARCH 27

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

Safety Forces will meet Monday the 27th at 8:45 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

Council President John Roskovics reported updates from the Planning Commission and the Historic Architecture Board. The Planning Commission had a sign request for the new gas station on Rt. 20. The Architecture Board approved a garage to be built in the Harbor on Morton Dr. Since it is a historical district, conditions such as historical colors must be met. There was also a sign request for one of the businesses on Bridge Street that is replacing their old sign.

Presentation of Legislation

Council 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

2023-40 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY Y.M.C.A. FOR LIFEGUARDS

2023-41 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT A DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING GRANT

2023 - 42 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL AND FIRE ESCROW FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023.

Council President Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for ordinances 2023-40, 2023-41, and 2023-42.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for ordinances 2023-40, 2023-41, and 2023-42; 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 reading of the legislation; 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.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo 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, 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.

2023-43 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE 2023-19, AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING THE NEW CLASSIFICATION OF ACTING BAILIFF/COURT SECURITY OFFICER.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the legislation; 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.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo 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, 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 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo
Nays: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio
Legislation passed.

2023-44 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to waive the reading of the legislation; 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, 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; 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 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

Discussion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated she was going to vote no on this because the judge just recently spent \$17,700 on stipends for her employees. On January 1st each city employee got a 2% raise. In February, the judge gave her employees in total \$17,700 in stipends. The average employee got \$1,100 for their stipend. These stipends came out of her special projects fund and not the general fund. Mrs. Foglio feels that the money to pay her bailiff should come out of her fund.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Unfinished Business

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked the City Manager to review what they spoke about in the Pre-Council meeting regarding the road list and when this 2023 paving list will be announced. City Manager Timonere stated they would go over it at the Public Works meeting on Monday the 27th.

New Business

Appointment of Addison "Chip" Goodell to the Planning Commission

Council President John Roskovics appointed Addison "Chip" Goodell to the Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford stated that St. John's drama club will be holding the play Peter Pan on March 31st at 7:00 p.m. On April 1st they are thinking of doing a matinee but are not sure yet. However, there will be a showing at 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, April 2nd they will have a 2:00 p.m. showing.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio congratulated St. John and Paul Scholastic Team as they won the county Scholastic Bowl.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated the ADDA is going to have its Easter Egg Extravaganza Event the Saturday before Easter, which is April 8th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at North Park. They will have games, prizes, the Easter Bunny, and an Easter Basket Raffle. Mrs. Mills also reminded everyone that RAM USA will be here the weekend of April 1st. This is free dental, vision, and medical. This event will be held at Lakeside High School. Saturday RAM will be there for 12 hours and Sunday until 3:00 p.m. Glasses will be made on-site, they will do fillings, extractions, women's health exams, etc. You do not have to have an I.D. to be served. If you need help with transportation to and from this event, we will do our best to help you.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that Empty Bowls, a fundraising project organized by Lakeside High School's Art Club, will be at the Art Center. All proceeds benefit Feed Our Vets. You will be able to purchase a handmade glazed bowl donated by local potters and can fill your bowl twice from a selection of soups provided by local restaurants and organizations.

Public Communications on General Matters

Resident Greg pointed out an incident that occurred on January 4, 2023. On January 4th, his mother called him to change her tire. He showed up on Center St. and he was able to see what she had hit in the roadway. Under the overpass on Center St., there was an open manhole cover. He stated two other vehicles had already struck the open manhole, which resulted in flat tires and bent rims. He parked his truck in the roadway with his flashers on and called 911 to obtain an officer for assistance. He directed cars around to avoid any further damage or injury. Another driver had called 911 prior to his arrival at the scene and it had been 50 minutes before they saw an officer. Officer P6 was flagged down and told about the open manhole and was asked to turn his lights on so he could move out of the way. After changing his mother's tire, he tried to flag down another officer, with no success. He then found Officer P35, who was kind and courteous. The damage claim for his mother's car was denied by the City's insurance. He found out the manhole cover had come off on the 3rd as well and it was reinstalled by Officer P9. He stated he has not been able to find any paper trail for this manhole cover issue. He made 9 phone calls over the span of 11 days and finally got a call back from the Public Works Supervisor and the City's engineer. He stated he was told that this problem has not been fixed and it is scheduled for a camera. He stated the City Manager's Assistant and Michelle from the Police Department were both wonderful and assisted him with his needs.

City Manager Timonere stated that he is aware of this situation and that this situation had happened in large amounts of rain and it was one of the first times this has ever happened where a manhole cover has popped off under this overpass. The line had been jetted and no obstruction was found. However, they are scheduling a camera hopefully for this week. As far as a locking manhole cover, they decided not to go forward with a locking manhole cover at this time until they find out what is causing the manhole cover to come off. If they were to install a locking manhole cover before the problem is found, the pressure could blow the lid off and the street apart.

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 8:34 PM by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, April 3, 2023, 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:

April 3, 2023

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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