



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, April 3, 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, 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

City Manager Timonere requested an Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of purchase and sale of property and pending or threatened litigation.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to adjourn to Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purposes of purchase and sale of property and pending or threatened litigation; 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.

Council, City Manager Timonere, and City Solicitor Cooper attended.

Approval of Minutes

March 20, 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 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:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Classic Chrysler Jeep and Dodge Ram with a mailing address in Madison, OH to purchase a 2022 Dodge Ram 3500 regular cab truck with a dump body in the amount not to exceed \$75,754.50. This purchase is for the Sanitation department, funding will be taken from the 225 fund.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing the continuation of 8 Community Reinvestment Area Tax Incentive Agreements with the recommendation of the Tax Incentive Review Council.

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

Discussion: City Manager Timonere reminded everyone that this happens yearly for all commercial tax abatements issued. Each year, those that are active are reviewed. A report detailing what is going on in their business and if they are meeting the criteria for what they originally received the tax abatement for is received from each business. The Tax Incentive Review Committee comprised of the County Auditor, persons from the Ashtabula Area City School District, representatives from Saybrook and Ashtabula Townships, A-Tech, and members appointed by the City Manager and Council. The committee comes together to review all the tax abatements and makes recommendations to the council.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked City Manager Timonere what happens when a commercial abatement is in question. Mr. Timonere stated that if the committee found discrepancies, they would make a recommendation to the council to either lower their percentage or to discontinue the tax abatement and it would then be the council's final vote to continue, reduce, or discontinue the tax abatements. Ms. Holman said, that if at any time during the seven years, they do not adhere to what was agreed upon, then their abatement percentage would be reduced or canceled and not continued and Mr. Timonere said 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 to enter into new construction Community Reinvestment Area Tax Agreement with Judith Runnion for a tax abatement at 100% for 7 years for the new residential dwelling located at 1620 Walnut Blvd in Ashtabula.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to approve the City Manager's request; 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

Motion passed.

An ordinance to deem the following two vehicles obsolete. A 2007 Chevy Blazer and a 1994 Ford Ambulance.

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.

With the Council's consent, he would like to hire Robert Gifford II as a police officer of the Ashtabula Police Department. The reason for this is, we have rules in our charter that outline that when a lateral transfer hire is done, a person they would like to hire must be approved by the majority of the council before its effectiveness. A voice vote from the council is needed.

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 seven to zero vote, Robert Gifford was welcomed to the Ashtabula Police Department.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked if the council is allowed to see the candidate's resumes in order for them to make an informed decision. City Manager Timonere stated they have not done this in the past but he does not see any issues with this. Mr. Timonere asked City Solicitor Cooper if she saw any issues with this. Ms. Cooper stated that she does not see an issue with it, but technically the hiring is up to the City Manager with the consent of the council in regards to lateral hires. Regular hires just go through the civil service process and then the City Manager has the final say on the recommendation of the Chief. Ms. Holman stated she would like to be able to make an informed decision if they are being asked to vote on something. Mr. Timonere stated the reason this clause came about is that with past lateral transfer hires, there was a lot of hiring of friends of friends and this was added to prevent these instances from happening. He stated he would be more than happy to provide resumes to the council for any future lateral hires as long as there are no issues with doing so. Ms. Holman asked if the resumes cannot be shared are they allowed to abstain from the vote at that time. Ms. Cooper stated there has to be a reason for a member to abstain. Council President John Roskovics stated he understood what Ms. Holman was saying, but as a councilor, he did not want to be involved in the day-to-day operations. Mr. Timonere stated he would like the Council to be comfortable with the process. When they get lateral transfers, it is advertised within as many departments as they can and this only occurs when their civil service list has been exhausted and they have openings and no time to put together another test and go through the testing process. With the current opening, applications were received by the Police Department and a committee has been formed within that department. The committee goes through interviews, sometimes more than one, checks past employment reputations, and then makes the recommendation for the hire.

City Manager Timonere stated leaf bag pickup will start April 10th in the wards and then the following week in the Harbor area. The Harbor route is defined as Walnut Blvd south to West 19th St. and then from the Ashtabula River west to the City Limits. They ask that leaf bags be put at the curb and not in the street and try to put them out on Monday. Leaf bag pick-up is done almost every day, dependent on weather conditions and other jobs. The biodegradable bags must be used. If you want to bring these to Public Works, they only accept biodegradable bags. Last year there were a lot of issues with limbs and brush being dropped off. If you have excessive limbs or brush at your property,

they ask you to call Public Works at (440)993-7036 and make arrangements for them to pick this up. Cameras have been installed at the Public Works drop-off location and they will be watching for abusers of the rules. The time, cost, and energy to clean this drop-off area when abused will result in the stopping of this service if the abuse continues. Recycling for the rest of the city is currently a funding issue. It is between 1.5-2 million dollars to finish recycling throughout the city. This would include containers for recycling and garbage and then a few trucks with a side-arm automatic loader to make it feasible to do this throughout the city. He believes they have proven the city is ready for recycling with the program they have done so far. They are working with the partners at the Ashtabula County Solid Waste District and the Ohio EPA to help with the funding aspects of this. A grant was received the first time around, but this is a much bigger expenditure with the trucks involved. Once this is all done and the trucks have arrived, they will be able to do garbage and recycling each week at the residence. Currently, recycling is every other week. They hope this will reduce landfill costs and help the environment by recycling. It is a catch-22 with recycling because, currently, the way the state funds the solid waste district is based on tipping fees at the landfill. Those tipping fees are generated by solid waste and we are one of the biggest contributors to the landfill. As we go to full recycling, this will cause less money coming in through tipping fees, less money to the solid waste district, and fewer funds going towards household hazardous waste drop off or the tire amnesty days. These are all funded by this. They are also advocating at the state level for a change in the funding mechanism for solid waste districts because if you are going to encourage recycling, there needs to be another avenue to help fund their solid waste district to continue with the programs people are used to.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if, once the whole city goes to recycling, how does it work if your items do not fit into one container? City Manager Timonere stated that if you are religiously over the quantity of the garbage limit, the residents will have to get another container. There is an additional fee for having two containers, which is outlined in the ordinance. If you have more than one container for recycling, there is no additional fee for that as they encourage people to recycle. He stated the number of items that are recyclable is amazing and the amount of garbage in his household has been reduced tremendously. There has been anywhere between a 15-20% decrease in the landfill bill for having just the two current areas on recycling and are expecting the same result once this program is city-wide.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo pointed out that there is no fee for tree limbs that are wrapped, a max of three feet long, and put on the curb to be picked up, and asked if she was correct. Mr. Timonere said yes, as long as they are a max of three feet long, bundled together, and a max of twenty pounds, they will be picked up on the regularly scheduled curbside pickup day. He did state if there are larger limbs or piles of brush bring them to the tree lawn and give Public Works a call to let them know those are there and they will pick them up. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo asked if we have the signage down at Public Works stating we are not accepting loose brush, twigs, etc. Mr. Timonere said yes and it is right there when you pull up, but people are still ignoring it.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked Mr. Timonere to repeat the phone number for the branch pick-up. Mr. Timonere said this is the number for extra leaf bags, brush and branch pick up, etc. and this will all start April 10th. The number is (440)993-7036. He said with any storms that cause tree limbs to come down, to get them to the tree lawn and they will come around with their own chainsaws and chipper and get those removed.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated she hates to complain as the sanitation employees are wonderful, but she has received a few complaints about the sanitation workers opening the cans and taking the bags out, and not dumping the cans. She also stated they are not putting the lids back on the garbage cans. Mr. Timonere stated the workers find it quicker if they just take the bags out of the

cans. He has stressed to them that the cans go standing back up with the lids on and get placed back on the tree lawn or end of the driveways and make sure everything is out of the containers. They do ask that everything is bagged and a lot of times when it is not bagged it becomes mush at the bottom of the cans, and even if they bang the cans on the side of the truck, this stuff does not come out. If this is the case, please take a hose and rinse it out and they will pick up the rest.

City Manager Timonere stated they completed their first round of CDL training where the trainer came to us. The training lasted a week and went really well. They go this week to take their tests. There was a small delay as they were supposed to go take their tests last week, but overall it is great to be able to get this done in two weeks. They do have advertisements for people with or without a CDL. If you are hired without a CDL, you have 6 months to get it. You can sign an employment agreement to be employed by the city for a minimum of three years and the city will pay for your CDL schooling. However, if you leave the city before those three years are up, you will have to pay back the training costs. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo asked if there were two people who went through this training and Mr. Timonere said yes.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if Public Works has been better since the cameras have been put in. Mr. Timonere said yes and no. They caught someone, but they were unable to read the license plate but were able to get a good description. He stated he thought it was a contractor who did work at someone's house and then dumped it at Public Works. He did not think it was a resident due to the number of limbs being dumped.

Vice President Michael Speelman said that on East 42nd by the new corner store, he believes AQUA tore up the road at some point and it is pretty bad now. Mr. Timonere said he believes that was them and as soon as the asphalt plant opens they can take the temporary patches out and put the permanent patches in. Mr. Speelman said it is just dirt in there now. Mr. Timonere said they would fix that until the permanent repair can be done.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked Mr. Timonere, if AQUA comes and does a dig on a sidewalk, do they just put stones in and then come back later and pave it? Mr. Timonere said anytime AQUA does a cut when it is outside the paving season or when the asphalt plants are not open, they usually let it settle for a certain amount of weeks and then will have their contractor come through and compact the dirt and put the asphalt on top and seal the edges. If they ever cut any sidewalks or curbs, they have to replace that as well.

City Solicitor

No Report.

Finance Director

Formal Requests:

Ordinance 2023-48 repealing payroll ordinance 2023-20 for the purpose of setting the salary for the City Manager and City Solicitor for the next term of office. Ordinance 2023-49 an ordinance authorizing compensation, salaries, and wages to employees of the City of Ashtabula and the Ashtabula City Health District.

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

Discussion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated she recalls a conversation ensuring they are comparing apples to apples instead of apples to oranges by looking into local cities and townships and their budgets and tax collections so they can make an informed decision and she does not recall getting any of this information. Council President John Roskovics stated he believes they had two discussions. One was to bring the City Manager and City Solicitor in line with the union contracts that are usually done every election year. The other discussion was on doing something extra and this was when they were talking about searching for other cities and comparable positions. This ordinance is just to move these two positions to be in line with the union contract so they get their

yearly raises just like the union members would. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo said it is like a cost of living raise. Ms. Holman said, as this is an election year, she wants to know what the timeframe is for this to be finalized. Mr. Roskovics stated that is why they are doing this now, as both the City Manager and City Solicitor's positions are up for election and this is to make sure whoever holds these offices going forward would get the same raises as the union employees. Then, if the council decides to adjust them in another fashion, they can do so at a later date. City Solicitor Cooper stated that the salaries can only be adjusted prior to the next term of office, so that is every four years, and the adjustment has to be in place before the winner of the Solicitor and City Manager election takes office on December 1st and then is set until the four-year term is over. Mr. Roskovics stated that right now they are focusing on adjusting the salaries to reflect the raises given to all the union employees and then if the council decides, within these next few months, they want to do something extra, they can do so as long as it is done before November. Ms. Cooper said she misunderstood and thought he meant they could make changes over the next few years. Mr. Roskovics stated that the council felt that they did not have enough time to discuss anything extra or further adjustments, so they just wanted to make sure they did the raises to reflect the union. Mrs. Sheldon stated there was an adjustment to the Solicitor's salary by \$1,000 and then the 2%, 2%, 2.5%, and 3% raises. Mr. Roskovics let Ms. Cooper know the council was aware that anything else would need to be done by November.

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.

Mrs. Sheldon announced that the Income Tax Department will have extended hours from Thursday, April 13th to Tuesday, April 18th. The hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Formal Request:

An ordinance to approve current replacement pages to the Ashtabula Codified Ordinances for the next Regular Council Meeting.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the Clerk of Council'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.

The Clerk of Council informed the council that she was working on the list of descriptions for the boards and commissions.

Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo asked if we had any interest in the Income Tax Board of Review and the Council President said no. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo said that we are still in need of volunteers.

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

APRIL 11

MAY 9

JUNE 13

JULY 11

AUGUST 8

The next meeting will be on April 11th at 4:00 p.m. and the guests will be Jamie Baker with Ashtabula Hustles and Kara Norman with the Food Trucks.

Council President John Roskovics asked what Ashtabula Hustles was and Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo said it is the group doing Main Street.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines, Roskovics

APRIL 21

MAY 19

JUNE 16

JULY 21

AUGUST 18

The next meeting is on April 21st 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

MARCH 27- Report of meeting

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford provided a report on the March 27th Public Works meeting. There was a guest speaker, Interim Dean Ayres from Kent State. The City Manager reported on water pollution. They repaired a lot of the Bridge and Morton Pump Station, but they are still waiting on one of the pumps they ordered for the station. The secondary pump they had was put in. They have done some suppression surge protectors down there, so hopefully, they will not take any hits on electricity going forward. They have installed motor starters, and uninterrupted power supplies have been installed also. A lot of electrical work has been done to make sure this station stays functional. The Ashtabula Harbor Architecture Review Board has been in discussion for better curb appeal for the pump station down there. One of their suggestions is to paint the big fuel tank from green to black. They were working on the bar rake at Morton Dr. They had some issues with it but took care of them.

The City Manager reported on public works also. Public Works, at this point, had not been back to all being on first shift but as the City Manager mentioned today, they are all back on first shift now. While they did have a night crew, they were out patching the streets and also street sweeping. They cut branches that were hanging low. The sanitation department, when driving around, would let public works know which trees need to be trimmed. The City Manager had the two trucks purchased from Nelson Sand and Gravel inspected further and there was some frame issues that the City Manager did not feel like spending that kind of money when they needed that kind of work, so they were returned to Mr. Nelson. Now we are short on trucks. Purchase orders cannot even be put in to get a truck because right now they are scheduled out past 2025. The trucks they need are big dual-axel trucks. Hopefully, we will find some more that pop up at different dealerships.

The City Manager's report stated that GPD is actually putting together the final bid packages for the streets, so hopefully, this will be going out shortly. We are hoping with the Rt 20 project someone will want to get all the roads and provide a better price. There will be a lot of streets taken care of this year. The city is spending a large portion of money this year on getting a lot of streets paved. Next

year they are trying to look at Rt 531 from Kent State through the city, to Lake Ave, down Bridge St, and up past the Crows Nests. That is a lot of miles of roads, so this will be a big ticket item. The City Manager is looking into grants to get other things in there too. One grant he is looking into is the Transportation Enhancement District. This has been used before when the roads were done by Kinder Morgan. The City Manager is trying to get the concrete portion of Michigan Ave. done. This grant has to be used to help with economic development. With Chromaflo, now Vibrantz, this will potentially have more lines brought to the city, which would bring more jobs to the city also.

There was mention of calls received about Clean Harbors. They are not bringing anything in from any other disaster site. When gravel was being brought in they were doing it for their cleanup of the area so trucks could come in and get onto the property. They have a product absorbing any contaminants from the soil which will take about two to three months and once it is done the city will hopefully be able to move something else to this location. The City Manager spoke about the West Ave. redo. The cross-section part of the bike lane with the rumble strips will be ground out and new asphalt will be put down. This buffer is there because it is a pedestrian and a bike lane and the buffer is required. This is being made into just a bike lane. Pedestrians at the 38th St. traffic light will go from the Eastside of West Ave. to the Westside of West Ave. and will take the sidewalk. They will then take the new safe routes to schools sidewalks to Michigan Ave. and rejoin the bike lane where it comes out by the bank on Michigan. Bikers can either take that route or keep going on West Ave. to Smith Field. This eliminates the buffer lane, leaving us with a northbound lane, a turn lane, and a southbound lane.

The Dean of Kent State came out to speak with us as the board wanted to know what his goals were and what he wanted to do with his campus. He has served in a lot of different colleges and is an Ohio State University graduate. He stated that Kent State is the third-largest college in the state. He spoke about the enrollment and said that it was down about 40% over the last ten years across all the regional campuses. He stated that Kent State as a whole, because of the main campus, is very stable. The main campus enrollment is increasing. He mentioned he is trying to figure out how to outreach the community better and he is currently doing studies and trying to figure out how they can increase their enrollment. One of the questions Ms. Holman asked if the demographics seen at the campus match the demographics in the city and they do not. Dean Ayres is trying to find out through outreach programs how we can get people to understand there is funding out there to come in. He didn't know if it was the stigma that college is too expensive, but if people were eligible for financial help, they could go to school for about \$100-\$200. He also mentioned that when you start telling parents about taking the FAFSA and all those applications you are basically putting the cart before the horse. People do not understand that part so it is how do they get people to understand how to get grants and make their future life more improved. He also mentioned the Kent State University's President and Vice President have been making trips to all the regional campuses to see how it is helping. The mission of Kent State as a whole is to transform the lives through education. The particular mission of Kent State Ashtabula is to transform lives through education to those who, but for us, would not have the opportunity to get a college education. The whole purpose of having the structure they have and being where they are is to extend the reach of higher education to serve those who have been left out of the broader higher education system. They have four priorities. 1. They need to increase the number of learners they impact. The more learners they get, the more impact they can have. They are looking at how to get those who have typically been left out into their schools. These individuals include first-generation college students, adult learners, etc. 2. Increase the success of the learners they serve. Given the challenges their learners face, the success rate is not surprising and it is not out of line with the rest of higher education. 3. Serve the needs of the community around us. He asked if they are offering the programs needed for our community. 4. Continually improve their infrastructure to better serve the previously listed priorities. The Council President gave a little history of when he went to school there. He spoke about their Rising Scholars

Program. This program starts in the seventh grade and they currently have four cohorts and there are six students in each cohort. This program allows them to go to Kent State Ashtabula after graduating high school for free.

City Manager Timonere stated that as far as the Rising Scholars Program, it was very rewarding to hear that not one of the students has been disqualified or dropped out of the program. So they have been meeting all the criteria of the program. He stated that since the committee meeting they have made the TID grant and the application has been sent in. A lot of the grant is based on some lines moving here from other areas of Vibrantz, which holds a possibility of increased employment along with employment increases at MFG. As part of the 2023 paving project, they are planning on doing the asphalt part of Michigan Ave. They are applying for the TID grant to complete the concrete section of Michigan Ave. which is about a half-a-million-dollar project for just the concrete section. They asked for \$400,000 in the TID grant with a \$100,000 match. This is a competitive grant but they have been successful with the people they know and making contact with them.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated she found out that Kent State Ashtabula will be starting Food Truck Fridays this Friday, April 7th from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. They will welcome a new food truck to the Main Hall parking lot each Friday from April through October. This Friday they have Mary's Urban Kitchen.

Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford mentioned that during the Public Works meeting, they asked Dean Ayres what the number one program was and it is Nursing and their number two program is IT, which is offered as a two-year and four-year degree. He also mentioned that this upcoming fall they will have a Social Worker program which our community has voiced a need for.

The next meeting will be on April 24th at 5:00 p.m.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

MARCH 27- Report of meeting

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

Vice President Michael Speelman reported on the Safety Forces meeting.

Safety Forces met on Monday, March 27th. Chief Stell from the Police Department reported they worked with the Highway Patrol targeting overweight trucks. During their operation, they ended up catching four trucks that were overweight and one truck had 26 different violations and they were ticketed appropriately. No report from the Fire Department. City Manager Timonere spoke a little bit about the storm which has passed. He mentioned promotional exams will be coming up in April for the Police and Fire Departments. Possible entrance exams will be held at the end of the year for both departments. The Civil Service Commission still needs a committee chair. Mr. Balog recently left and we do not currently have a replacement. If anybody is interested in being the chair of the Civil Service Committee, we do need someone. The person who will fill this role will need some experience in the civil service, fire department, police department, or the law. If you are interested, please contact the city.

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

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission updates provided by Council President John Roskovics

No report. They will be meeting within the next few weeks and a report will be made then.

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

Clerk of Council Burgan read the titles of the legislation.

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

2023-45 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED COMPUTER RELATED EQUIPMENT

2023-46 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF EIGHT (8) COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENTS UPON CONDITIONS AS INDICATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL

2023 - 47 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CLASSIC CJDR FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A DODGE RAM 3500 CREW CAB TRUCK WITH A RUGBY Z-SPEC DUMP BODY FOR THE SANITATION DEPARTMENT

2023-48 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE 2023-20 FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTING THE SALARY FOR THE CITY MANAGER AND THE CITY SOLICITOR FOR THE NEXT TERM OF OFFICE

2023-49 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT

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

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Vice President Michael Speelman seconded.

Discussion: Council President John Roskovics asked if Ms. Holman wanted something separated out and she said yes. He asked which item she would like separated out. She said she does not think it is on here and she is fine with this. Mr. Timonere stated that if she was looking for the residential tax abatement, that was just a request tonight and she said okay.

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 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.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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.

Unfinished Business

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked City Manager Timonere about the sidewalk reimbursement program and how this works. Mr. Timonere stated to receive information on this program you would call the Planning and Community Development Department at (440)992-7118 and let them know what you will be doing. The reimbursement is on materials only, not labor, so the contractor does have to itemize those things. The city will come out and measure the area and give you an estimate of what the reimbursement would be. This program is first come first served. They usually put about \$20,000 into the account and it goes quickly. If you are anticipating doing any sidewalk around your home, give us a call and get this set up with us and complete the necessary paperwork. An estimate for reimbursement will be given to you once the project is finished and everything is processed. Mrs. Mills said it is hard to get a contractor to do small areas and she asked Mr. Timonere if, since the pandemic, are we going through the whole \$20,000 each year and Mr. Timonere said yes. They have never had an issue getting rid of this pot of money. Mrs. Mills asked if they got a list of any contractors to choose from and Mr. Timonere said they try not to make any recommendations. A few years back, an ordinance was passed that limited the amount of money given to commercial properties for sidewalks because some residents would get this help and then a large commercial project would eat up a large portion of those funds. They do extend this money as best they can.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio mentioned that on May 6th Pauly and the Greaseballs, the Beach Boys bands will be playing at the Our Lady of Peace Community Center. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m., dinner is at 6:00 p.m., and the show starts at 7:00 p.m. They had this band last year when they were Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and they were very good. It is \$25 per person and she believes there is a couple's charge, but she is not sure what that is. If you are interested, call Julie Petro at (440)969-0385. There will be county officials there tending the bar, a 50/50 raffle, and some sideboards.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman mentioned that the Ashtabula City Ad Hoc Committee that explores racism as a public health crisis will have its first event on Wednesday, April 26th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. This event is a film screening titled "In Sickness and In Wealth". They will also offer a presentation about the health equity study in Ashtabula and there will be a discussion by community members. This event will take place at Kent State University Ashtabula, located at 3300 Lake Rd West in the main hall auditorium. Council President John Roskovics stated there was an article in the Plain Dealer that rated Ashtabula County as 64th out of 88 counties in Ohio in health data. He stated he believes this is an important thing this council committee is working on. City Manager Timonere asked if her committee is meeting prior to this event and she said they have a planning meeting. Mr. Roskovics said he believes it is on the 12th. Mr. Timonere said to double-check and let him know.

City Manager Timonere stated the RAM event was this past weekend and it was a wonderful event. The final tally was 543 people served, which is the exact same number of people they served last year. \$293,845 worth of care was given out at the event. They also had different vendors set up from several different agencies, including Signature Health and Community Counseling. They got to see people as they came through the clinic as well. Mr. Timonere stated, to him, the most interesting area of this event is the vision section. During his first year working at the RAM clinic, when it was held at the mall, he saw a young man and his daughter walking around holding hands. He did not realize what was going on until he spoke with him and he was there for the vision clinic. As he was helping this man through the process, he realized that his daughter was actually his eyes. That's how bad his eyesight was. She was leading him around to the different stations. After he came out with glasses, he was then able to see. He mentioned that Mr. Ducro spoke at a meeting that morning and said a woman came out and said "So this is what the world looks like". This clinic certainly does help people in the area. We are hoping they come back next year. If you get a chance to participate by receiving care or by volunteering, it is a very rewarding experience. He thanked the group who set this up and runs the clinic and also all the sponsors and volunteers. Ms. Holman said that once the RAM clinic gets all their data around who they served and separates the zip codes to see who received care outside of the city and within the city, they can provide information on what services the city residents received. This can help with seeing what prevention services and treatment services the city residents need, which will then help inform the council about the work they are doing. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated that 90% of what happens at RAM is by volunteers. She thought they served more people as it was very busy for the whole 12 hours. She stated they tried to give out as much information as they could to help better serve and teach the individuals. Mrs. Mills stated she saw people from Cleveland and southern Ashtabula County. She said someone even heard about RAM on the news.

Public Communications on General Matters

Resident Tim Lesperance, who lives off East 16th St. and Scott Ave., stated his concerns. He stated there is a house across the street from him, located at 913 East 16th St., that has been unoccupied for the 22-23 years he has lived there and now the sides are caving in and all kinds of animals are going in and out of the house. He is wondering when this will be torn down before it decides to cave in or someone goes into the house and it collapses on them. Council President John Roskovics stated that for it to be torn down it would have to go through the process of taxes not being paid, being taken over by the county, and so forth. City Manager Timonere stated that by just hearing this address he knows it is on their radar. He will get some information and get back to them on this.

Mr. Lesperance stated his other concern is the condition of the road he lives on, Scott Ave., as he believes the last time it was redone was 15 or so years ago. He said Scott Ave. is falling apart and only small patches are being filled every so often. He stated he keeps getting told his road is on the list to be paved and then it gets dropped. He stated he is getting concerned as a lot of cars use that road and you can hear them rattle and hit the bottom of their cars. The holes are getting wider and

wider. He stated he knows the paving list is out now but he would like to see this road get done as he has been there since 1999 and it has been about 14 years since it has been paved. City Manager Timonere stated, if he is not mistaken, Scott Ave. was a chip and fog seal back in the day. He said they would go out there and see what they can do in the meantime and see what can be addressed.

Executive Session (if needed)

Council President John Roskovics wished everyone a Happy Easter.

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 8:44 PM by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, April 17th 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:

April 17, 2023

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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