



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, April 17, 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 7:01 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Councilor Holman offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: 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

Absent: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio

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 Mrs. Foglio from the meeting; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None

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: 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 Laws Open Meetings Act.

Presentations/Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes

April 3, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

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

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Ayes: 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: None

Hearing no corrections to the minutes, they were approved as presented.

Administrative Reports

City Manager

Formal Requests:

An ordinance 2023-55, a repeal ordinance, for Concord Road Equipment.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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 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 an agreement with Henderson Products with a mailing address in Chicago, IL for the purchase of three Munibody Snow and Ice Control Truck Equipment packages in the amount not to exceed \$120,152.00 per package for a total amount of \$360,456.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 412.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford seconded.

Discussion: City Manager Timonere explained that three new Mack plow trucks had been purchased and have arrived at the Mack dealership. They have been waiting for the upfitting, which was originally going to be done by Concord Road Equipment. The upfitting would include putting the dump body on the truck and all things needed for salt spreading and plowing. Unfortunately, Concord Road Equipment has moved locations and is now a buyer's dealership and has informed us that they will not be able to deliver the three trucks by the end of the year and we need these for the snow and ice season. Due to their relationships with other municipal departments, they heard this might be coming, so in the meantime, Hendersons was contacted. They have assured us that they can deliver by the end of the year, so they are switching from Concord to Henderson, hence the need for the repeal and replace ordinances.

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: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with FEMA for the purpose of accepting the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for the purchase of a new ladder truck for the City of Ashtabula Fire Department.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo said this was awesome.

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: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD Group of Akron, OH for the purpose of providing engineering design and construction administration for the Ferry Drive Reconstruction Project in the amount not to exceed \$92,689.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 290.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: City Manager Timonere reminded everyone that fund 290 is being used instead of fund 412 due to

the \$460,000 grant that was received to complete this project earmarked from the Federal Government. President Roskovics stated this grant was available because we had economic development occurring on Ferry Drive. Mr. Timonere said that is correct. The grant was for ports or river areas in which economic development could take place or was necessary. In the language of this grant, they put that with Northfolk Southern shutting down the coal operation and with the availability of extra space in the coast guard station which the Federal Government has finally given to the local County Port Authority. The Port Authority is renting it out and there is additional space there. If it weren't for a grant, they would not be redoing this road. Ward 4 Councilor Mills asked if there was a timeframe for this project. Mr. Timonere stated it would be done this year. Mrs. Mills said she knows how bad that road is and it is very much needed. Mr. Roskovics stated that as that area of the city changes, it is important for the city to keep on top of things, as there is a lot of valuable space down there and he believes the city will do so. Mr. Timonere stated he believes at some point this year the topic of zoning in the harbor should be brought up. Mr. Roskovics agreed. Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo said zoning beyond the harbor needs to be discussed. Mr. Timonere stated that, as they have said for many years, they need a comprehensive rezoning completed. However, it is extremely expensive.

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: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to deem obsolete the following equipment from the Police Department: one fingerprint machine, one polygraph machine, and one computer voice stress machine.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo stated she wanted the polygraph machine. Ms. Holman asked if it was possible to sell the equipment if people are interested in it. Mr. Timonere said it would be possible. However, the reason they are getting rid of these pieces is either that they are not working and are obsolete or not up to today's standards. He stated they do look to see if there is a place that would take them and pay us for it or see if it is just equipment that needs to be disposed of. Ms. Holman asked if folks in the city were interested do they just reach out to him. Mr. Timonere stated that if it were not through an agency, then they would have to accept bids for any assets that go outside of the city, but he would inquire about this.

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: None

Motion passed.

City Manager Timonere announced that he would be appointing Mr. William Niemi to the Board of Tax Review. President Roskovics asked if that needed a vote and Mr. Timonere said it did not need a vote. Mr. Roskovics welcomed Mr. Niemi and stated he appreciated his help.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated a number of residents have inquired about signs to dissuade folks from littering and asked what the process was for getting signs. Mr. Timonere stated that people could email his office requesting an area where they would like to see the signs and they would work on getting those together and see if they can get put up.

City Solicitor

No report.

Finance Director

Formal requests:

An appropriation ordinance for supplemental increases to the general fund and community development block grant funds for this fiscal period.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman 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 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 repealing the municipal court payroll ordinance for the purpose of adding the classification of temporary part-time deputy clerk.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

A new payroll ordinance for the municipal court and probation divisions.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman 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 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 create fund 804 for the Ashtabula Conneaut Energy Special Improvement District.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to approve the Interim Finance Director's request; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: Ms. Holman asked for more information on the fund and its purpose. Mrs. Sheldon stated the city of Ashtabula entered into an agreement with Conneaut to tag on to their Energy Special Improvement District, which is basically an incentive for businesses in the city where they can borrow funds, maybe at a special rate, for improvements. The city has to create this program in order for these businesses to work in the program. The borrowers pay through their property taxes which came into the city with the assessments and there has to be a fund created in order for her to book the money into the fund. There are also special reporting requirements that go along with this. Ms. Holman asked if this was for Conneaut and Ashtabula businesses. Mrs. Sheldon stated the money received was for Ashtabula. They tagged on to Conneaut's ESID program. City Manager Timonere stated that when they created the ESID the entire city is considered an ESID, so anyone, any business, anywhere within the city is part of this. They are also working on a program for residents as well. Basically, for anyone doing remodeling or building something new, you would send off your plans or what the renovations will be to one of the different companies that do processes like this. They would then come back and say, for example, we have determined that \$100,000 worth of your improvements qualify for the PACE program, which is energy savings related. What this does for a business or individual is it takes the funds off of their capital stack. In other words, if you go to the bank you do not have to get a \$1,000,000 loan, you could get a \$900,000 loan or use the \$100,000 for other purposes. The payback is on the property taxes and the improvement stays with the property for the length of the term, which could be up to 30 years. In other words, if you build a new facility and use this program, and sell the building after 10 years but have another 10 years left on your loan, that is all part of your sales agreement, and the new owner picks up those costs as it is on the property tax. It helps a business with its capital stack. Mrs. Sheldon stated that the city then, in turn, pays the lender, we do not keep the money, we take the money in and turn around and pay the lender. Mr. Timonere said we are essentially just a pass-through for it. He stated the reason they tagged on with Conneaut is that there was no reason to create a duplicate board or duplicate members, and they would eventually like to see the entire county have one ESID and one place to go for everything.

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: None

Motion passed.

Mrs. Sheldon announced that April 18th is tax day and the Income Tax Department is open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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

APRIL 11- Report of meeting

MAY 9

JUNE 13

JULY 11

AUGUST 8

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills provided the committee report.

Kara Norman of the Ashtabula Mobile Food Network was one of our two guests. She is the project coordinator. She is Ashtabula born and raised. She got into the restaurant business when she was about 17 years old, working at Applebees. She went to college and got her degree. She is extra passionate about the hospitality industry, especially in Ashtabula. She began working with the AMFN about a year and a half ago. She started working part-time and now is working for them full-time. The AMFN is a nonprofit organization that focuses on the guidance and development of local food entrepreneurs. Due to the number of summer events, tourists, wineries, and three-shift factories, Ashtabula is a great place for food trucks and this is where they are able to shine as they are non-traditional. Food trucks are a great way to dip your toes into the industry as an entrepreneur with lower start-up costs which would hopefully lead to more success. Food trucks are a great way to start, but they are also a great way to add an extra stream of income, marketing, and even catering if you already have a brick-and-mortar business. Food trucks can be run part-time, full-time, or seasonally. Kara has people who start food trucks as their retirement plan. The main goal of the AMFN is to provide easy access to resources throughout Northeast Ohio for existing and potential mobile food operators. They are looking to create a turn-key process for upcoming entrepreneurs as well as individuals who are looking to book food trucks for their events. The past year and a half has consisted of a lot of research on local ordinances to make sure people are being guided in the correct and legal way. They have partnered with the Lift Bridge Community Association, Kent State University, and the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association. They are working on a process to make things easier for everyone for the events and a continuous and consistent time and place for where the food trucks will be. They are working on getting the food truck owners on the app Street Food Finder. This app tells you where the food trucks are at and what kind of food they have. They also offer a lot of networking within their own network and also with other small business owners. They offer assistance throughout the whole process from building your business plan all the way to the end. They offer resources in education, training, mentoring, and finance. She has worked with the health department and NEO Fund. NEO Fund has a course called starting and growing a new business. The course is \$100 and you get a textbook, PowerPoints, Excel templates, and the instructor, Lary Paulina, as a mentor. They also work with Brad Blair of the Ashtabula Capital Access Program. He has a lot of banking experience. He helps figure out what the person needs before they go to the bank to ask for funding. All the corporations and organizations she works with have the same common goal of economic development and helping people own their businesses. They have about 4 to 5 food trucks currently in their network and she is working with three clients working on getting them into their own food trucks. She stated the most popular food truck is BBQ. A question was asked if there would be a way we would know which food trucks are with the AMFN. Kara stated they are working on getting magnets that have their logo so that could inform customers that they went through the correct steps for setting up their food truck. Another question was asked about how the brick-and-mortar buildings receive the food trucks and Kara stated they are received very well.

Folks are realizing the value of food trucks. She shared some testimonies from people she has worked with. Having food trucks at your brick-and-mortar business has shown an increase in revenue of about 15-20% for the business.

Jamie Baker of the Ashtabula Hustles: Made on Main was our second guest. She is an urban planner and has done initiatives like this from Cleveland all the way to the Bay area in California. She moved to Ashtabula about a year and a half ago to be closer to family. She started this project in January. They are recruiting makers for Main Ave. in Ashtabula. They have \$100,000 available for three to five makers and they will be doing a pitch competition. May 1st is the application deadline for this project, so there is plenty of time for makers to still apply. Jamie explained that makers are defined by a few things, such as that their revenue is not reliant on foot traffic. When they were studying Main Ave., they saw there was not a lot of foot traffic. Makers make something and distribute it and sell it locally, regionally, and even nationally. Scaling up makers is really viable because their market is not solely dependent on our local economy. Jamie said makers enjoy all kinds of pursuits such as engineering, manufacturing, craft work, clothing projects, and culinary arts. There are currently 20 applications that have been submitted. In the late summer, they will have their pitch day. Jamie stated that the biggest challenge is finding makers as most of them are busy working with their heads down making or doing something and they are not employed in a traditional setting. They are also looking at doing things in a possible cluster of groups because maybe one thing cannot sustain itself on its own. They are also looking at clusters that could draw in tourists. There are three cluster groups she is looking at so far. One is culinary arts, another is small manufacturing, and the last is filling the gap that there are not a lot of family-oriented activities to do here. She stated since COVID there has been a shift in consumer habits resulting in everyone getting their items in a cardboard box and everyone getting tired of having the same exact thing. There was an example of a spice maker who distributes spices online and to local businesses. They would be in their shop working in the back and if someone came in to buy items, that would be icing on the cake and not their total revenue. Mrs. Mills said it was really interesting to see a different concept now versus how things were in the past. Jamie stated they work with the ADDA, NEO Fund, and SCORE. Once the businesses are in their storefronts, they will continue to be surrounded by business planning support. Jamie did state that the math has to make sense and it cannot be just a dream or a good idea. So this is like sprinkling seeds to get started and see where the strongest cluster is and what makes sense for businesses. Rick Coblitz from the ADDA was a visitor and he stated he works with both the AMFN and with Jamie and the Made on Main project.

The City Manager's report stated that they have started working on clean-ups in the parks. They worked on the ballfields at Smith Field and Nappi, because Lakeside and St. John use these fields. They looked at the bathrooms at Smith Field and had a plumber look into them as well. Some work needs to be done to the bathrooms, so they are looking into this. We received a grant for new buoys at Walnut Beach and they should be in place this spring/summer. The details are being worked out with ODNR. These buoys will define the area that the lifeguards will be guarding. The City Manager reported having met with representatives of My Neighborhood Collaborative about Kayden Park and spoke about their growing season. There was a question about the medical marijuana site and this is not in the city but in Saybrook Township. There may be other licenses but they would not necessarily be in our area. It is possible other licenses may come along. Mrs. Mills asked City Manager Timonere at the City Council meeting if he had any updates on this. Mr. Timonere stated there are no updates on this. There is only a certain set number of licenses the State of Ohio issues and they believe for our region, which is not only Ashtabula County, there are additional licenses still available but the state has not issued them yet. Whether or not we get a crack at this is up to the state. When the latest license was issued, he filled out 8 to 10 different requests from people looking to put a dispensary within the city limits. The city has zoning regulations that specify where a medical marijuana distribution site can be, so a letter from the city is needed that indicates that the particular

address they were submitting met the zoning requirements. We have a lot of interest in this but how the lottery works is probably very political.

The Parks and Recreation Board did not have a representative at the meeting, but Mrs. Mills had attended their meeting and received their report so she provided an update. They reported looking into the ADA mats for Walnut Beach. The Walnut Beach sign is being worked on and City Manager Timonere is working on the permits for the electrical installation and did work out agreements with the Hubbard House about the meter being located on their building so they do not have to put another pole there. There is a lot that goes into putting the sign up but it is going up. Bands on the beach and the City Clean Up were also discussed.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13th at 4:00 p.m. and the guest will be the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo added that if anyone out there is interested in serving on the Parks and Recreation Board, we really need your help. She asked the Clerk of Council how they would apply. The Clerk stated they would need to visit the City of Ashtabula's website and there is an application of interest notice to serve that you would fill out and then send to her and it would be processed.

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 will be held on April 21st at 8:30 a.m.

Public Works

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

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

The April 24th meeting will be canceled and the next scheduled meeting will be May 22nd at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

APRIL 24

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

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

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President John Roskovics provided updates from the Planning Commission and the Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission.

The Historic Preservation Commission met last week. They approved three things. One was for the signage for the new Lash store on Bridge Street. He wished her well and stated she opened that day for business. Another was for new planters in front of the old fire station to complement the existing planters that the Bridge Street Association puts out. Lastly, they approved signage for the Fire! Chicken restaurant that is going in on 6th Street and Lake Ave.

The Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, April 20th, and they have three items on their agenda. One is someone who would like to sell cars at their business on Center Street. Another is the apartment building across from Taco Bell. The final agenda item is the use of the old Sardis building. Last month, at the Planning Commission, they approved signage for the new gas station by Wendys.

Presentation of Legislation

Council President John Roskovics presented 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

2023-50 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE ASHTABULA CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND REPEALING ALL LEGISLATION INCONSISTENT HEREWITH

2023-51 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED VEHICLES

2023-52 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH JUDITH RUNNION, FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR A NEW RESIDENTIAL DWELLING LOCATED AT 1620 WALNUT BLVD., ASHTABULA, OH 44004

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to waive the reading of the legislation for item 2023-52; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

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: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman
Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman
Legislation passed.

2023-53 AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2023

2023 -54 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL AND CDBG FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023.

2023-55 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE 2022-91, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SNOW & ICE CONTROL TRUCK EQUIPMENT PACKAGES FROM CONCORD ROAD EQUIPMENT MFG., INC.

2023 -56 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SNOW & ICE CONTROL TRUCK EQUIPMENT PACKAGES FROM HENDERSON PRODUCTS, INC.

2023-57 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE 2023-44, 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 TEMPORARY, PART-TIME DEPUTY CLERK

2023-58 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS

2023-59 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT A FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT

2023-60 AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE NEW FUND 804 "ASHTABULA, CONNEAUT ENERGY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FUND"

Council President Roskovics asked for a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda for items 2023-50, 2023-51, 2023-53, 2023-54, 2023-55, 2023-56, 2023-57, 2023-58, 2023-59, and 2023-60.

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

Discussion: None.

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: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman 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 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; Vice President Michael Speelman seconded.

Discussion: None.

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: 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: None

Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Notice of Interest to Serve: Local Board of Tax Review

The City Council appointed Pam Goodell to the Board of Tax Review. Mr. Roskovics stated Mrs. Goodell is a CPA with a master's in business and he believes she will be a good fit. They also received another notice of interest to serve from Casey Briones-Cole and the City Council decided to appoint Casey to the Board of Tax Review as well.

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: None

Pamela Goodell and Casey Briones-Cole were appointed to the Board of Tax Review by a six to zero vote.

Mr. Roskovics stated he appreciates their help and interest.

City Manager Timonere presented his piece of new business. He received a request from Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo that they take a look at no parking on Adams Ave. between Bunker Hill and West 59th St. The Chief went out and looked at this area and he recommended adding no parking on the west side of this section. Mr. Timonere asked Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo if she would like them to pursue this process and she said yes.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

City Manager Timonere stated they have finalized the schedule for Bands on the Beach. He thanked Brenda Sanders, his executive assistant, for taking this on, putting in different varieties of bands for Bands on the Beach. He also thanked our sponsors, APMC, Nelsons Sand and Gravel, VFW Post

943, JCI Contractors, and A.R.U. Marina and Campgrounds. Because of our sponsor's contributions, they have fully funded Bands on the Beach and no money will have to be taken from the Park Levy. Bands on the Beach will be held on every other Thursday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. right by the concession stand. They start on June 8th and the last date will be on August 17th. The concession stand will be open, so bring a lawn chair and join us at Walnut Beach every other Thursday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo asked if this would be posted to our website and Facebook page and Mr. Timonere said it is already on our Facebook page and our website does not have an events area, but we do have a calendar he could post these dates to. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo asked if the Facebook event is shareable and Mr. Timonere said yes. Mr. Timonere stated there would also be a sign at the top of Walnut Beach advertising the Bands on the Beach events. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills said thank you to Ms. Sanders and asked Mr. Timonere when the road heading back to the beach will be fixed and asked him to explain the reason why it was not paved. Mr. Timonere stated that the stretch once you get passed the little drive that goes over to the concession stand will be chip and fog sealed this spring. The reason the portion that heads back to the parking area by the break wall is not done is that during the fall, spring, and winter times, that area accumulates water with the storms pushing the water over the break wall. The water freezing and thawing would destroy any asphalt they put back there. What they do with that section is they level out the surface and put new grinding down if needed and roll this in. They do try to stay up on this as the season progresses. Mr. Timonere said this will be done for the parks that do not have asphalt.

President John Roskovics mentioned the Lash business that opened and also the Vital Spa that has opened. These are both located on Bridge Street. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo stated that May 6th will be the ribbon cutting for the Vital Spa and Mr. Roskovics stated he believes they opened informally last week. He also mentioned a ribbon cutting being done on Center St. and Mrs. Mills said it will be after the City Clean Up this Saturday. Mr. Roskovics asked what the business name was and Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo said it is At Your Best Esthetics.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that Saturday, April 22nd, it is the Annual City Clean Up. If you would like to join us, meet behind Key Bank at 8:30 a.m. Please bring your own gloves. We will have garbage bags and water available. Figuring low, we currently have 250 volunteers. She said she was very happy with this turnout. Ms. Holman asked if we would have the grabbers this year and Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo said there may be some but she is unsure. Mrs. Mills said not to forget that Signature Health is sponsoring our lunch at the YMCA in the all-purpose room after the clean-up. This event will take place rain or shine.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman mentioned the city's Ad Hoc Committee on Racism as a Public Health Crisis is planning their first event. The event is called Unnatural Causes: Is Inequity Making Us Sick? There will be a film screening titled In Sickness and in Wealth. The film lays out the big picture of who gets sick and why and shows how health and longevity are correlated with class status and other factors that impose additional risks and burdens and how the solutions lie in making inequality an urgent public policy matter. The health equity audit is available to the public via hardcopy or an interactive version online. After the presentation about health equity in Ashtabula, there will be a community discussion. This event will take place on Wednesday, April 26th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. and will be held in the main hall auditorium at Kent State University Ashtabula. Their partners include; Kent State University, the City of Ashtabula Public Health, the League of Women Voters, and the NAACP. She looks forward to seeing everyone who can come out on this evening.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated she received a complaint about the Ashtabula Gulf. She does not believe folks realize that the gulf is in the city, but it is not all in our jurisdiction but in the township.

There is quite a bit of trash in the gulf. The city did assist with the gulf cleanup alongside the township. She wanted to thank the city employees for going down there and helping clean up the gulf. She also mentioned last weekend was the Soil and Water Conservation clean up. She also reminded everyone about the NOPEC letters they received in the mail. Residents only have until May 2nd of 2023 if they want to change their enrollment options. If you do not change this, they will opt you back into NOPEC. They give you an initial price from June to December and then, after that, it can go into a variable. In the letter, it states you can call them if you want to look into options to make a certain longer fixed or you can go on the website to switch. Mrs. Mills also stated that May is skin cancer awareness month. Apex Dermatology Skin on Lake Ave. is doing free skin screenings for melanoma Monday on May 1st between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. She also reminded everyone that May 2nd is election day and encouraged people to exercise their right to vote. She mentioned that a new business will be going in on Main Ave., B&B Flooring will be opening on May 1st. The owner has been in the flooring business for over 20 years, so that is exciting. She also mentioned that Signature Health is having a spring craft and vendor fair on Saturday, April 29th, downtown from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and they will have a concessionaire.

Public Communications on General Matters

None.

Executive Session (if needed)

Not needed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM by Council President Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, May 1st 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:

5.1.2023

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

McKenzie J. Burgan

McKenzie J. Burgan, Clerk of Council