



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, May 1, 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. Councilor Foglio offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Absent: Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Clerk of Council McKenzie Burgan

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford moved to excuse Mr. Speelman and Mrs. Mills from the meeting; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, 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

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

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to adjourn to Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of purchase and sale of property; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

The City Council, City Manager Timonere, and City Solicitor Cooper were to attend this Executive Session.

Approval of Minutes

April 17, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Council President John Roskovics moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Ayes: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

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

Administrative Reports

City Council

Formal Requests:

An ordinance to hire Marie Yvrose Augustin as Finance Director for the City of Ashtabula.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to approve the council's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to vacate Aden Court.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to approve the council's request; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

City Manager

Formal Requests:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Karvo Companies of Stow, OH for the purpose of providing street paving for the City of Ashtabula for the 2023 paving program for an amount not to exceed \$1,428,000.00. Funding for this project will be taken from Fund 212 and Fund 261.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: President John Roskovics stated he is happy the citizens passed the Paving Levy a couple of years ago, which allows us to do almost 1.5 million dollars worth of paving this year. He gave kudos to Mr. Pugliese who recommended putting this levy out.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None
Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Crowder Detention of Urbana, OH for the purpose of replacing two jail doors in the Justice Center for an amount not to exceed \$39,987.00. Payment for this project will be from the Permanent Improvement Fund 412.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Brobst Treet & Stump Service with a mailing address in Saybrook, OH for the purpose of providing bulk yard waste, tree stump, and limb disposal for the City of Ashtabula for an amount not to exceed \$11,400.00 for 2023. Funding for this expense will be taken from Fund 205.

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, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a settlement agreement with Pinney Dock & Transport LLC here in Ashtabula for the purpose of authorizing the acceptance of payment of \$175,000 in settlement of damage caused to the City's Wastewater Outfall Pipe.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion: President John Roskovics stated that it is nice that this has been worked out. He stated the Solicitor's office probably had a lot to do with this and Mr. Timonere said instrumental and Ms. Cooper said Mrs. Colgan did. Mr. Roskovics said it is good we have this settlement and get along with the businesses within the city.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Glazier Insurance Agency of Jefferson, OH for the purpose of managing the City of Ashtabula's Liability, Property, Casualty, and Auto Insurance for a two-year period. Glazier is a commission-based agency and any commission will be collected directly from the insurance carrier and not from the city.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Council President John Roskovics seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance on behalf of the Interim Finance Director in her absence to appropriate supplemental increases

and/or decreases in the Water Pollution Control and Special Improvement District Funds for the period of time from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

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, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Mr. Timonere would like to re-appoint Mark Brockway, representing the campgrounds, with a term to expire on February 4, 2028, to the Health District Licensing Council. He would also like to reappoint Ron Kister, representing the Marinas, with a term to expire on February 4, 2028, to the Health District Licensing Council. He would like to appoint Brian Pruitt, representing Pools and Spas, with a term to expire on February 4, 2027, to the Health District Licensing Council.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

The City Council approved these appointments by a 5 to 0 vote.

Mr. Timonere would like the consent of the council to hire Leonard Emch as a Patrol Officer in the Ashtabula Police Department as a lateral transfer.

Discussion: Council President John Roskovics mentioned that Mr. Emch is a K-9 officer and he will be bringing his K-9 with him.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

The City Council approved this lateral transfer by a 5 to 0 vote.

Mr. Roskovics asked if this would keep our Police Department fully staffed. Mr. Timonere said yes, they do have a retirement coming up, but this was in order to get all the paperwork done and have him start before the other officer's retirement.

Mr. Timonere stated that the 1.4 million dollars we will be spending on just the 2023 street paving program does not include the Route 20/Route 84 project. Route 20 is a mess with the current potholes. Unfortunately, it will get messier with all the construction. He gave a word of caution to everyone as there will be lane restrictions as the project goes forward. He believes they will begin milling on May 5th. They are excited about having this project kick-off. The intersection at Main Ave. and 48th St. lights and railroad crossing signal project has begun too. There is a lot of construction going on in the area. He stated Karvo seems to want to start the 2023 paving project rather quickly, so they should see quick movement on all this. Mr. Roskovics asked if Karvo was a new company for us and Mr. Timonere said this was the first time he, personally, had had them in a bid. All the bids were competitive and we shall see how it goes. Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated she knows we are making a ton of people happy with this paving program and, of course, there are still streets that need to be paved and we will be coming to you soon. Mr. Timonere said that now that the asphalt plants have started to open up the city, AQUA, and Dominion will start replacing their temporary patches with their permanent patches. There are a lot of temporary patches out there and they will get cut up, taken out, and permanent repairs will be made. We will see contractors out doing some of these spot repairs for holes that were made over the winter. Ward 3

Councilor RoLesia Holman asked Mr. Timonere how they decide which of the temporary patches get permanent patching. Mr. Timonere said all of them are done. If the holes were cut after the asphalt plants were closed, around November, they are filled with a temporary material and will be repaired with permanent asphalt once the plant opens up. Potholes will now be filled with a hot mix which is less than half of the cost per ton as the cold mix, but this is dependent on when the plants make the mix. Mr. Roskovics asked if we tried to get to as many potholes as we could and Mr. Timonere said that is correct.

City Solicitor

No Report.

Finance Director

City Manager Timonere provided the report for the Interim Finance Director in her absence and this was provided within his report.

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

JUNE 13

JULY 11

AUGUST 8

SEPTEMBER 12

OCTOBER 10

NOVEMBER 14

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo provided a report on the City Clean Up as there was no Committee report to provide. She stated that Saturday was cold and wet, but out of the 250 volunteers that signed up, 150 showed up. They collected 6 tons of trash, which is amazing. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo also reminded everyone that May 2nd is election day, so the Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Thursday, May 4th. She also thanked everyone who helped with the clean up as it warms her heart when our town has team spirit. Council President John Roskovics said kudos to everyone who helped with the Clean Up.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines, Roskovics

APRIL 21- Report of Meeting

MAY 19

JUNE 16

JULY 21

AUGUST 18

SEPTEMBER 15

OCTOBER 20

NOVEMBER 17

Councilor Kym Foglio provided the Finance and Personnel report. The committee met on Friday, April 21st. The meeting began with the Interim Finance Director, Mrs. Sheldon asking if there were any questions about the March expense and revenue reports and statement of cash. City Manager Timonere stated that the delay in receiving the property taxes would make the reports look very concerning until we received those funds. Mrs. Sheldon stated these funds would be reported in April. Mr. Timonere stated that many of the low balances seen are just the timing of that. He also

stated that Mrs. Sheldon brought to his attention that there was a bit of concern with the PI fund, but as he looks at it it is again a timing issue. We had to pay for three trucks and that money went out even though it was all encumbered. We have not paid for the other end of the trucks, such as the plows and dump parts. The four trucks purchased add up to about \$400,000 that went out the door in just two purchases plus our normal loans and debt payments that have gone out. A discussion was held on property tax issues and whether or not to request an advance on our second half of property taxes due to the fact that we did not receive our first half until April. A question was brought up by Mr. Roskovics about the JEDD Boards and what they are permitted to spend money on. Mr. Timonere stated that the JEDD Boards were permitted to spend money on anything that would advance economic development within the JEDD district. There are two different formulas here. There are funds the city receives for administering the Water Pollution Plant that come out of the JEDD funds. They also have their own separate bank accounts that the JEDD Boards manage. For instance, in the Ashtabula Township JEDD, if the board were to determine that signage was lacking and would improve economic development within the area, they could ask the JEDD Board to spend money on this. If some kind of contribution had to be made to a street project that ODOT was doing and it would enhance the area and access to businesses, they could request funds from the JEDD Board also. The City Manager reported that two sanitation employees that went through the CDL class both passed their tests. They were very satisfied with the company. The training was done in the conference room and maneuverability and walk-through of the truck were done in the parking lot. Although they had to take their test in Pittsburgh, it was not a problem. Two more individuals were hired into the sanitation department. They were able to shift people around within the city and he believes we are currently staffed, but we will have a few more shifts coming up. Promotional exams were done in the Fire Department and there will be promotions coming in that department. Unfortunately, no one passed the Police Department promotional exam, so they will have to figure out what to do with another test. The manager believes there is a period when they can object to questions and he will have to check with the Civil Service Commission. The manager is putting out a plea for anyone who is coming home from college or graduated from high school and is in need of a part-time job to let him know. He needs three people to fill in for the parks and one for City Hall to mow properties that residents do not take care of and calls are already coming in. The position pays the maximum allowable hourly rate and up to 29 hours per week. You must be 18 years or older. The position is posted in the local paper, Facebook, Monster, and Job and Family Services. The manager will take both males and females as long as you can drive a truck with a trailer and a zero-turn. Anyone who is interested can contact the City Manager or put in an application at any of the previously listed locations.

The next meeting will be held on May 19th at 8:30 a.m.

President John Roskovics stated that, as Mrs. Foglio stated, we had received all our money from the property taxes even though it was late.

Public Works

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

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

SEPTEMBER 25

OCTOBER 23

NOVEMBER 27

Councilor Calvin Crawford said the next meeting will have to be determined, it may have to be rescheduled.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

APRIL 24- Report of Meeting

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

SEPTEMBER 25

OCTOBER 23

NOVEMBER 27

President John Roskovics provided the committee report. He stated it was a quick meeting. We heard from the Police and Fire Departments and the statistics are normal for this time of year and there have not been any significant increases in activity. They stated we are pretty much back to pre-COVID levels in terms of calls, arrests, and assistance they provide to citizens. Mr. Roskovics also announced we still need someone to be the chair of the Civil Service Commission, so if you are a lawyer or a retired Police Officer, a Firefighter, or someone who has knowledge of these rules and regulations, the city could use your help.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

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

He stated the Planning Commission met last week. They had three items on their agenda and all were approved. One item was for a garage on the corner of Center St. and Elm using part of their lot to sell used cars. The commission was careful to make sure fences were in place and lighting would not become an issue for the area's residents. Another item was for the people who are repurposing the apartments across from Taco Bell on Route 20. They have about 12 apartments and they will be market-rate apartments. They hope to be done in 4 to 5 months as they repurpose these apartments. A while back, they had received a report on these apartments and they were awful, having holes in the ceiling, no electrical covers, etc. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked if this was the complex that had a fire. Mr. Roskovics stated he believes there was a fire there. The last item they had on their agenda was the old Sardis building, which has recently been remodeled. It will become a recovery house for people recovering from dependency. There will be about 30 beds and there will be a few employees, so that will produce some income tax. They will be working on getting that building up and running here soon.

The Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission will be meeting but the agenda has not been received yet.

Presentation of Legislation

Council President John Roskovics introduced the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

None.

Public Communications on Legislation

None.

Overview / Discussion

None.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio introduced the new Finance Director that was to be hired at that

meeting. Mrs. Foglio introduced her to the council members, Clerk of Council, City Manager, and City Solicitor. Marie said it was nice to meet everyone and she was excited.

Reading of Legislation

Clerk of Council Burgan read the titles of the legislation.

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

2023-61 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP OF AKRON, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE FERRY DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$92,689.00.

2023-62 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED POLICE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

2023 - 63 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE WATER POLLUTION AND SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023.

2023-64 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KARVO COMPANIES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,428,000.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAVING CITY STREETS

2023-65 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CROWDER DETENTION INC. FOR JAIL DOOR 135 AND 140 REPLACEMENT FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA.

2023-66 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF VACATING A PORTION OF ADEN COURT

2023-67 AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING MARIE YVROSE AUGUSTIN AS DIRECTOR OF FINANCE FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING ON May 22, 2023, AND AUTHORIZING A WRITTEN CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

2023-68 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR YARD WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES WITH BROBST TREE & STUMP SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA.

2023-69 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH PINNEY DOCK & TRANSPORT LLC AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF PAYMENT OF \$175,000 IN SETTLEMENT OF DAMAGE CAUSED TO CITY'S WASTEWATER OUTFALL PIPE

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; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, 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, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, 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, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked City Manager Timonere what the process is for the signs for littering. She asked what the process is after they make the recommendations. Mr. Timonere stated they would look at the area and then make or order the signs and then post them. Ms. Holman asked if they are allowed to propose certain locations and Mr. Timonere said yes and just send him the areas and they would take a look at them. Ms. Holman asked Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo after participating in the City Clean Up of the areas with a lot of litter and perhaps they could target specific areas. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo said at that moment she could list locations where there is a lot of litter and dumping.

New Business

Notice to Legislative Authority New Liquor Permit

For: Family Dollar Stores of Ohio LLC DBA Family Dollar Store 24600

848 Lake Ave., Ashtabula, OH 44004

Council President John Roskovics asked if any of the councilors had any concerns regarding this license. None of the councilors had any concerns. The Ashtabula City Council did not request a hearing for this liquor license.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated that Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo shared how successful the Clean Up was and how important it is to our community. She stated that throughout the partnership she asked if they had included Sal Jackson and that they had worked with him over the years. She stated it is a little-known fact that Sal Jackson, a resident, in her mind, spearheaded the cleanup. He has always been concerned about his neighborhood and always wanted the neighborhood to take responsibility and clean the neighborhood for a number of reasons. He started on his own block and when people came around they would ask what he was doing and he would tell them and they would join in with him. In 2017, it was the first year he invited more people to join him and some agencies to support him. His desire was needed. An underlying reason he did this

was to empower residents to take ownership of their neighborhoods. He continued to do his cleanup. She knows Councilor Haines-DiGiacomo and Councilor Mills wanted to make it bigger in order to have some city support and make it broader. She commends them for that as well. She wants to recognize Mr. Jackson in way of a resolution to thank him for taking the responsibility of starting this initiative. He is to be applauded for his efforts. She believes we will get more from our residents if we celebrate residents who want to do things on a large scale to empower and inspire residents to take responsibility. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo stated that Mr. Jackson gave them a lot of connections that helped make for a lot of volunteers. Ms. Holman said, especially our youth.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to create a resolution recognizing Mr. Sal Jackson; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Mr. Roskovics said it is nice to see what he has inspired to grow.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Council President John Roskovics mentioned that the City Council Ad Hoc Committee on Racism had its first public event and it was last Wednesday, April 26th, at Kent State Ashtabula. They had over 50 people attend the event. The crowd was varied in spectrum in terms of employment and where they came from and who they were representing. They watched the movie In Sickness and in Wealth, had a discussion, went over the Health Profile Report for Ashtabula, and then had a discussion group. The event lasted about two hours. It was a wonderful evening and the committee put together a nice meaningful event. Having the health report for the City of Ashtabula sort of reflected what was happening in the movie. In the movie, they spoke about the city of Louisville, KY, and how in one part of their town the life expectancy was longer than in the other parts of the city. In the health profile for the City of Ashtabula, we see the same things. In some parts of our town, there is an 8 to 10-year discrepancy in life expectancy. He stated that our town is between 7 and 8 square miles, so for that discrepancy to be seen in such a small area is really a powerful thing. It was an interesting night. He gave kudos to the committee and to the council for allowing this committee and being forward enough to discuss such an issue and being willing enough to deal with such an issue. There is an old saying, you move a mountain by carrying away one stone. He believes that night they carried away a couple of stones. Ms. Holman said thank you for the update and also thanked the planning committee which consisted of Jeff Griffiths, Michael Charney, Mary "Peachie" Chapman, Jessica Leveto, Trisha Patton, Jose Zavala, Terri Collett, and City Manager James Timonere. She also stated it was very nice to see Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo at the event and have her join in the conversation. There were a number of county agencies present and she hopes to continue this conversation. Perhaps they either repeat the film again or move to the next viewing. They will certainly keep us informed of their next event.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that about two years ago we painted the crosswalks on Main Ave. This Sunday there is a painting opportunity. You do not have to be talented, it is easy and fun. It will go from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The rain date is May 21st. You can go to the Ashtabula Arts Center website and find out. It is a lot of fun. She invited everyone to come out and join them.

City Manager Timonere stated he was notified today by Dr. Timothy Kalil that the Ashtabula Train Disaster movie has been nominated for five Emmys. The Emmy Gala is June 17th so we will be watching and, hopefully, that film will get some recognition.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman wanted to let youth and their families know that there are still a few opportunities left for scholarships if you are planning to go to college. One place you can check is the Ashtabula Area City Schools Lakeside High School website to apply for the scholarships that are still available. Graduation will be coming up soon. Ms. Holman said congratulations and to also be safe while celebrating.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio mentioned that May 2nd was election day and encouraged everyone to go vote.

Council President John Roskovics stated that summer is coming and Ashtabula really shines in the summer and he is looking forward to this.

Public Communications on General Matters

None.

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 8:16 PM by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, May 15th 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:

May 15, 2023

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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