



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, May 15, 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 Haines-DiGiacomo offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence for Dave Close and Rihanna Gilbert

A moment of silence was observed for Dave Close and Rihanna Gilbert.

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 Borgan

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

Kids for Positive Change Presentation

Ms. Licate and the Kids for Positive Change students provided a presentation on climate change and climate action. The students provided the following information:

- Kids for Positive Change takes positive actions for animals, people, and the planet. Together with the Ashtabula community, they are making a difference locally and globally.
- With the community's support, the Kids for Positive Change series is now on TV. The series features the Kids for Positive Change team and inspires viewers to take positive action for the planet. Episodes air every Saturday at 8:30 on WQLN PBS.
- Kids for Positive Change episodes focus on climate change contributors like deforestation, food waste, plastic pollution, and fast fashion. They teach us we can take positive action to curb climate change locally and globally.
- Some positive actions we can take are wasting less food by eating everything on our plates and eating plant-based meals three times a week.
- We can use reusable products instead of plastics. We can repurpose items and recycle plastic, paper, and aluminum cans. We can repair and care for the clothing we have or shop second-hand.

- We can save trees and forests by using paper products from sustainable materials instead of trees. For example, we can use toilet paper made from bamboo and paper made of elephant poo.
- The Kids for Positive Change television series on WQLN PBS is sponsored in part by the Ashtabula community. They said thank you to the Robert S. Morrison Foundation, The Ashtabula Foundation, The Kendall Foundation, an anonymous donor, After School Discovery, and Huffman Mayer Paolo Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, who recently donated additional funding for their upcoming season three.
- Birds, bees, and butterflies are important because they help keep ecosystems balanced. In Ashtabula County, we have many birds, bees, and butterflies. We can help birds by keeping cats indoors, especially in the spring when baby birds are learning how to fly. We can help birds by never using rodent poison. If a hawk or bald eagle eats a poisoned rodent, the hawk or eagle could die. We could help bees and butterflies by never using toxic pesticides on our lawns and gardens and instead using eco-friendly products that keep bees and butterflies safe and healthy.
- Examples of single-use plastics are plastic water bottles, straws, bags, and utensils. Single-use plastics harm the environment. Plastic water bottles take approximately 450 years to break down in a landfill, a plastic straw takes 200 years to break down, a plastic bag takes 1,000 years to break down, and plastic utensils take 1,000 years to break down. We can take positive action.
- Sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics are reusable water bottles, reusable straws, not using a straw, reusable bags, and reusable utensils. Together we can take positive action for a brighter future.
- Some sustainable tips include ordering ice cream in a cone instead of a cup. The cups are usually lined with a thin coat of plastic and by ordering a cone you are not using the cup or the plastic spoon.
- When ordering drinks, politely inform your server that you do not need a straw. Carry a reusable straw with you.
- This is a friendly reminder to our city restaurants and customers. In 2018, the Kids for Positive Change helped pass a straw-upon-request resolution for all city restaurants. Please do not offer straws to customers unless they are requested. Customers, please politely tell your servers you do not need a straw.
- Have a plastic-free party. Ditch plastic tablecloths, plates, cups, and utensils. Instead, use a fabric tablecloth and reusable plates, cups, and utensils. If you do not want to deal with the cleanup, you can use sustainable products like fully biodegradable plates made out of palm leaf shells.
- When visiting beaches and parks make sure to carry out whatever you carry in. Trash left on beaches or in parks can make its way into city drains or Lake Erie.
- Have a mini cleanup. It takes only a few minutes to clean up litter on beaches, in parks, and in neighborhoods. All you need is a bag and a glove. Mini-cleanups can lead to big results.
- Avoid food waste by planning meals and eating leftovers, instead of using five paper towels to dry your hands, use one, repair and care for clothing and shoes instead of buying something new. When you do buy new clothing, products, or food, do your best to support Ashtabula businesses by shopping locally.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked if one of the students said toilet paper was made out of bamboo and elephant poo. She said yes. Mrs. Foglio said that is very interesting.

Ms. Licate reminded everyone that the Kids for Positive Change series is currently airing on WQLN and PBS Channel 379 for spectrum users on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. If you are not a spectrum user, you can go to the website WQLN.org at 8:30 a.m. every Saturday and click the live button to watch the show online.

President John Roskovics said he enjoyed the presentation and thanked them for coming. He also stated he still does not use straws in restaurants and has cut down on his use of plastic bags.

President John Roskovics requested an Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of employee compensation.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to adjourn into Executive Session before the adjournment of the meeting for the purpose of employee compensation; 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.

Approval of Minutes

May 1, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the minutes; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia 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 Council

Formal Request:

Ordinance Number 2023-70 to vacate a portion of East 16th St. at the very end right before the Rt. 11 freeway fence.

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

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

City Manager

Formal Requests:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with IEN Risk Management here in Ashtabula as the sole bidder for the Group Health Insurance Consultant proposal in the amount not to exceed \$10,000 annually with applicable bonuses in accordance with the proposal. Payment for this expense will be taken from Fund 602.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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 enter into an agreement with the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners in Jefferson, OH for the purpose of the sale of property located at 4717 Main Ave. in accordance with the agreement.

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

Discussion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated she believes what is about to happen on Main Ave.

is tremendous. We will be moving, so there will be three fewer blighted buildings. We will have more people working on Maine Ave., which will be a plus for businesses and she is excited. President John Roskovics stated that this transition will take time. The courts are utilizing the Council Chambers, so all committee meetings will be moved to the AAP Conference Room on the second floor. City Manager Timonere stated that the three buildings we are purchasing need to have some remodeling done and his concern is that we stay within a budget and that we make sure money is put into the City's coffers when this is all said and done and we are on track to do this. As we progress through the process, if there are other things that can be done to brighten the corner up as the entrance into the city, they will be brought to the City Council for recommendations. Mr. Timonere said there are a lot of good things going on on Main Ave. President Roskovics mentioned potentially getting a sponsorship or business that could paint a mural in the new council chambers. Mr. Timonere said he just spoke with a local artist about murals in the city where he believes they would brighten up some of the darker areas and areas that tend to be graffitied. It has worked in other cities where they put murals in high graffiti areas and it stopped the graffiti from occurring.

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 an agreement with Dr. Norman and Nancy Gloekler on Lake Ave. for the purchase of the properties located at 4733 and 4239 Lake Ave. in accordance with the purchase agreement for a price not to exceed \$115,000.00. Payment for this purchase will be taken from Fund 412.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Timonere stated that the price in the ordinance says it is not to exceed \$115,000.00. They had agreed upon a price of \$112,500.00 and the rest of this is for the incidentals that may come with closing and he is predicting this will be about \$2,500.00. If they needed more money, he would have to go back to the council and ask for it. As they get closer to closing he will be looking at that. He also mentioned the county will be giving us a down payment and those funds will be used to purchase the properties and begin remodeling. No loans will be taken out, they will monitor the cash flow as it comes in from the county and then go out to these properties we will be purchasing and remodeling. The goal is to have the Health Department in the Gloekler building by early July. Very little remodeling needs to be done to that building, but some is needed and a generator has to be onsite for the vaccines and refrigerators. The second focus will be where council chambers will be going on the Stouffer Herzog property. Hopefully, by November the rest of the offices on the second floor will be ready to move. President Roskovics gave Mr. Timonere kudos. Mr. Timonere had always thought our current location held too much room for what we are and had an idea that maybe things could be different. He also gave kudos to Judge Camplese, who is one of the leading juvenile judges in the state, for him realizing his people could be better served by being here. Mr. Timonere said he has been speaking with Judge Camplese about this for years. Mr. Timonere said he believes we are in a very good spot and believes we came up with a very good deal and he is excited to see this through. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo gave Mr. Timonere kudos for being conservative about the financial aspects of all this and with the taxpayer's money and she believes that is important. Ms. Holman asked Mr. Timonere if the dais would be going with us when we move. Mr. Timonere said he did not believe so, as it may not be moveable. He believes it can be repurposed with the courts and it does not really work with the way the new building will be configured. However, one way or another, they want to see it be repurposed.

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.

Mr. Timonere stated that what we do not see on the agenda is the ordinance for the other properties that are referred to as the Stouffer Herzog properties, as they are still negotiating all of that. They intend to do a developer agreement. This would include a purchase price for the property that includes us stating what we would like the property to look like and, once those requirements are met, we would purchase the properties for the purchase price. They will have to redo the whole first floor of the building, but very little will have to be done to the basement. The basement will mostly be used for storage, but if there comes a time when more space is needed, there is

plenty of room in the basement to add offices.

An ordinance to grant permission to the Lift Bridge Community Association to hold the annual Ashtabula Wine and Walleye Festival in the Ashtabula Harbor on July 21st through July 23rd of this year.

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford moved to approve the City Manager'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.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with American Fireworks for the purpose of providing a firework display for the 2023 Wine and Walleye Festival in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Payment for this expense will be taken from the Parks Fund 233.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Timonere stated that although this is coming out of the Parks Levy Fund the Ashtabula Fire Department Union does contribute towards the festival and these fireworks. Although we pay this all out of the Parks Fund they make a donation back to the department. The Park Board traditionally puts in anywhere between \$5,000 and \$7,500, the firefighters put in whatever they can raise, and then the rest is covered by the Lift Bridge Community Association from the proceeds from the Wine and Walleye Festival.

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 an agreement with Xylem Water Solutions in Charlotte, NC as the sole source supplier for services of our UV system at the Water Pollution Control Plant in an amount not to exceed \$37,947.40. Payment for this expense will be taken from Fund 504.

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

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a new construction Community Reinvestment Area Tax Agreement with Craig and Traci Julioan for a tax abatement at 100% for seven (7) years for the residential dwelling located at 122 Walnut Blvd. Ashtabula, OH.

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, Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

City Manager Timonere stated that curbside leaf bag pickup will be coming to an end at the end of May. This week they are picking up in the harbor. The next week they will be picking up in the wards, and then the last week they will be back in the harbor. This does not resume until the end of September. You are able to drop your leaf bags off at the Public Works Facility. They do not take sticks and limbs, only the leaf bags at the facility. If you need limbs and sticks picked up, please call Public Works at (440)993-7036 to make arrangements for pickup.

Mr. Timonere stated milling for the Rt. 20 paving project is scheduled to begin on May 16th. It sounds like they will start from Woodman Ave. and make their way East. He advises caution with traveling on Rt. 20 with these lane constrictions and through the construction and the city's paving projects.

President John Roskovics asked Mr. Timonere about the telephone pole issues in town. There are many places where there are two telephone poles with one falling over, broken and the other being new. Mr. Timonere stated the issue is the telephone poles were originally installed by CEI, so if something happens to one of these poles, CEI will come out and replace them. They would move all the CEI equipment to the new pole. The old pole, a lot of the time, is chopped off. This is because the equipment below belongs to Windstream and Spectrum. Windstream and Spectrum are responsible for coming out and transferring their equipment to the new pole and then removing the old pole, patching the hole, and cleaning up the area. The moving of the Spectrum and Windstream equipment is something they are having an extremely big issue with as they are poor at doing their job. They are constantly in communication with them to make them take care of these poles. This is something that has been discussed internally and something he will bring to the solicitor's office. He truly believes we should have an ordinance giving them a set amount of time from when a pole is damaged or replaced for everything to be cleaned up. They have been fighting with Windstream and Spectrum since early March regarding the three poles on Lake Ave. He stated they would stay on them. Mr. Roskovics said whatever they can do as these issues are all over town. Mr. Roskovics said thank you and he was glad Mr. Timonere is aware of this problem.

City Solicitor

Formal Requests:

A resolution honoring Alexander J. Turner, an employee of O'Reilly Auto Parts. A resolution honoring Catherine Munger, an employee of O'Reilly Auto Parts. On May 5, 2023, there was a fatal shooting in the parking lot of O'Reilly's. These two employees heard the gunshots and both got customers and co-workers who were in the store to the back of the store to safety. They went outside, while the gunman was still outside, and saved two children, one who was five years old, and one who was an infant in a car seat. They got the kids into the store unharmed and away from the shooter. She asks that the council individually recognize Mr. Turner and Ms. Munger's bravery, courage, and care for their fellow man. She would also like a resolution, which she has discussed with the Police Chief and they are in agreement, for Patrolman Logan Nickles. Officer Nickles was one of the first officers on the scene at O'Reilly's that Friday. He stayed at O'Reilly's while Officer Allen went in search of the other victim. Officer Nickles went to Ms. Gilbert's car did what he could, called for medical assistance immediately, and saw other people in the parking lot and other cars. He was told the shooter was still there and the shooter was pointed out to the officer. Officer Nickles confronted the suspect in a calm, de-escalating manner and managed to disarm the suspect and get the gun away from him. When Officer Allen arrived back on the scene, Officer Nickles had already taken possession of the gun. They got the rest of the ammunition from the suspect and put him into custody without either of them drawing their own weapon of any kind. When Ms. Cooper spoke with Officer Nickles about this last week he said that was his job. This tells us the caliber of the people we have working for us.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the Solicitor's three resolution requests; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: President John Roskovics stated that these resolutions would be made by Ms. Cooper and we will make sure these two gentlemen and the lady are invited to our council meeting. He said we would certainly like to thank them in person.

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.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked Solicitor Cooper how everything with Matrix was going. Ms. Cooper stated they started working on Matrix for the Police Department in March and they have been working on transferring all the data from the old system to the Matrix system and then preparing the Matrix system to go live for the Police Department. The Solicitor's office is still waiting for them to start. They were supposed to start in May, but now they have pushed it back to August. It all depends on who is in line ahead of them, and how long it takes to get their engineers to them, so they are looking at starting their project in August. She has emailed them twice to see if this can be moved up. They are excited and are hoping to have it all in place by fall.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman gave a heartfelt thank you to Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo for giving a heartfelt message to the participants who attended the vigil for Rihanna Gilbert on Friday, May 12th.

Finance Director

Formal Requests:

An ordinance repealing payroll ordinance 2023-49 for the purpose of setting the salary for the Finance Director in accordance with ordinance 2023-67.

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

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing compensation and salaries to the City of Ashtabula employees and the City Health District, ordinance 2023-74.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the Interim Finance Director'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 make supplemental increases to the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund in the amount of \$728,000.00 to supplement the 2023 Paving Program.

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

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 let everyone know they can go to the City of Ashtabula's Facebook page to find the Bands on the Beach information. You can mark yourself as interested in this event and your phone will remind you about the dates.

- June 8th- InCahootz
- June 22nd - Oldies by Nicely Done
- July 6th- Madison Jazz Project
- July 20th- Bobby Hayes & H20 Band
- August 3- Stratford Hill Band
- August 17th - Ernest T. Band

These events are all free, just bring your chair. These events go from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and the concession stand will be open.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated that the Art Center's paint the sidewalk event was rained out so it will be held this Sunday the 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You will meet at the Bakery on Main at 9:00 a.m. The road will be closed. They like to do this on Sunday due to not wanting to interfere with the businesses that are open on Saturdays.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines, Roskovics

MAY 19- CANCELLED

JUNE 16

JULY 21

AUGUST 18

SEPTEMBER 15

OCTOBER 20

NOVEMBER 17

The May meeting has been canceled due to our Interim Finance Director being out of the office. The next meeting will be on June 18th at 8:30 a.m. in the AAP Conference Room on the second floor.

Our new Finance Director will be in on May 16th to sign her paperwork and get everything set up for her first day on May 22nd. At our next meeting, she will be with us. Mrs. Foglio thanked Ms. Sheldon for all she has done and said she is very much appreciated, President John Roskovics seconded this.

Public Works

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

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

MAY 22- CANCELLED

JUNE 26

JULY 24
AUGUST 28
SEPTEMBER 25
OCTOBER 23
NOVEMBER 27

The May meeting was canceled to allow for as many council members and the city's executive team to attend the meeting in Jefferson. The next meeting is scheduled for June 26th at 5:00 p.m. and this will be held in the AAP Conference Room on the second floor.

President John Roskovics asked Mr. Timonere to reinform the council when the Jefferson meeting was taking place. Mr. Timonere said he believed it is to start at 4:30 p.m. and it would be in the Peace Officers Memorial area right outside of the courthouse.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

MAY 22

JUNE 26

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

SEPTEMBER 25

OCTOBER 23

NOVEMBER 27

The next meeting will be held this upcoming Monday, May 22nd at 8:45 a.m. in the AAP Conference Room on the second floor.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

The Historic Preservation Commission has a meeting scheduled for May 17th. So far on the agenda are plans for more townhomes in the harbor.

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

2023-70 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF VACATING A PORTION OF EAST 16TH STREET

2023-71 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE 2023-49 FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTING THE SALARY OF THE FINANCE DIRECTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORD 2023-67

2023-72 AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH IEN RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 PER YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS

2023-73 AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GLAZIER INSURANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANAGING THE CITY OF ASHTABULA'S LIABILITY, PROPERTY, CASUALTY, AND AUTO INSURANCE FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS

2023-74 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT

2023 - 75 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023.

2023-76 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SELL CERTAIN UN-NEEDED PROPERTY (4717 MAIN AVE.) TO ASHTABULA COUNTY

2023-77 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE PROPERTY FROM DR. NORMAN AND NANCY GLOEKLER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$115,000 PLUS CLOSING COSTS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFICES

2023 - 78 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING THE LIFT BRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PERMISSION TO HOLD THE ANNUAL ASHTABULA WINE & WALLEYE FESTIVAL IN THE ASHTABULA HARBOR HISTORIC DISTRICT ON JULY 21 THROUGH 23, 2023, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

2023 -79 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN FIREWORKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 TO PROVIDE A FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR THE 2023 WINE & WALLEYE FESTIVAL

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, 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; 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.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2

Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 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.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo asked if there was a sign-up for volunteering. Mr. Timonere said they would be using the same format in the past, SignUpGenius, but that is not out yet, but it will be announced soon.

Unfinished Business

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated she received an inquiry asking if we would be having a parade for the holiday. She stated she knew we were not, but asked Mr. Timonere if he had any information on an event taking place at Veterans Park. Mr. Timonere stated there is typically a ceremony at Veterans Park. He believes the VFW puts this on. He is unsure of the start time but believes it is usually 11:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that we usually have a parade and Mr. Timonere stated we have not had a parade in a few years. He stated at one time the Downtown Development Association ran the parade, then one year Abby Kist ran it, and then the Lakeside Band Director was supposed to take it over, but unfortunately, that year it did not materialize. No one has come forward for a parade this year.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio mentioned that on Sunday, May 21st at 2:00 p.m. there will be a stained glass concert at Our Lady of Peace Parish, Mount Carmel. Choirs from other parishes will get together and they will have a nice concert.

President John Roskovics stated that the Land Bank is advertising proposals for the old football field property. There is nothing set yet. When they get the proposals, they are brought before the council for discussion. Mr. Timonere advised people to put a proposal in if they have an idea for that property. President Roskovics stated he had also seen in the paper requests for work at Smith Field for the basketball courts and the pickleball courts. So that will be getting on its way soon as they are requesting proposals as well. He stated that there are a lot of new things going on in town. The ice cream parlor in the harbor on Lake Ave. is adding an addition to their building. The restaurant next door to the ice cream parlor had an accident and now they are remodeling. He said there would be a new breakfast place in the old Doxie Deli which should do quite well once the hotel opens. He stated the apartments on Chestnut are moving along as well.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that in March we had the Edgewood kids come in and present a hurtline presentation. She asked Mrs. Mills to speak more on this. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated that on March 22nd they attended the warmline presentation in Council Chambers and it was very impactful. It was a group of brave young men from Braden Jr. High under the direction of Joslin Seeds and Sally Bradley. These young men are just a step above. They were dressed in dress shirts and ties and shook our hands and made eye contact. They were truly amazing. They noted that there was no way for someone to reach out if they felt like they wanted to hurt someone else. Nine times out of ten, people who are thinking of hurting others or themselves will try to reach out to someone. For people thinking of hurting others, there is no number to contact. The kids brainstormed how they would reach someone and thought they could put the flyers in the bathrooms as everyone has to use the restroom. They created a flyer that did not frighten you but grabbed your attention. It has a person with a hoodie on, their head is down, and it says "If you are hurting, is it worth it to hurt someone else?". Their thought was maybe this would start locally and then maybe move on. Mrs. Mills asked Mr. Timonere if he had any other information he could share regarding this. Mr. Timonere said this all started when Mrs. Seeds reached out to him and let him know she had been discussing this with her son and asked if there was a time he could meet to discuss

some ideas. They came in within a matter of days, about a year to year and a half ago. They started brainstorming this and they had the idea of a hotline. He remembered during COVID Community Counseling, they had a phone number in which all the councilors 24/7 would carry a cell phone and it would ring if someone needed help. He said they sort of had something established and maybe it could be morphed into this new idea. They met with some other people and the idea started catching fire. This was when Sally Bradley and Joslin Seeds said they would take this to the Braden students and see what they came up with and that is where the flyer came from. Since then, the logistics are still being worked on, such as what the number will be, and how it will be called and managed, but last week they presented to the Building Resiliency Together team in Ashtabula, and News Channel 5 came in and videotaped that meeting. Hopefully, this week there will be a story about it. Mr. Timonere believes this could go national. There is a lot of information and hotlines out there for abuse and suicide prevention, but there is nothing, particularly for men who feel like they are going to cause harm. While Mrs. Seeds and her son, Billie, were researching they found that in some of these shootings, the individual is sitting in the bathroom for hours or they call the suicide hotline and they either did not get the type of help they needed or, in one instance, no one picked up for over an hour. Mr. Timonere stated programs like the one these gentlemen are a part of at Braden need to be in all our schools. Unfortunately, violent occurrences are not a matter of if anymore, but of when. He said how we respond and deal with these difficult situations is truly what it is all about. There is a huge mental health crisis in this country. We have a lot of things in the works, such as this hotline. He also mentions they are trying to get all the agencies together to work on some type of day center for our homeless population and for those who are in a mental crisis. We helped write the grant that got the Samaritan House over \$400,000 and they are now working on expanding. While everyone likes to criticize the City of Ashtabula, we are currently the only place doing anything about these issues. Ms. Holman had gotten the group together to speak about the health disparities in how racism plays a part in that and the presentation that was put on. The City of Ashtabula is the only political subdivision that puts any funds into our bus program. Not only do we provide in-kind services with the building on West 24th St. that the buses occupy, but we also put \$30,000-\$40,000 a year from our budget into providing access to transportation for the city. We do have a homeless population within the city and this is because all of the services for those in need are located within the city because of the work we are doing. He believes if we can get this hotline out there and if it changes just one person's life, it is worth all the work that has been put into it. Their poster can be changed to color-match the schools or locations as well. Mr. Timonere stated they had done a tremendous job. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo stated this hotline is not only for individuals who are thinking of hurting others but for people to call anonymously to report violent activity. Mr. Timonere said the purpose of this hotline is not to get someone in trouble, but to get people help and de-escalate situations so harm does not come to anyone.

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 8:27 PM by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, June 5th 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:

June 5, 2023

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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