



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, July 3, 2023 at 7:00 PM
4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Minutes

Opening of Regular Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Councilor Mills offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper, Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin, Clerk of Council McKenzie Burgan

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to excuse RoLesia Holman from the meeting; 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 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

June 20, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Administrative Reports

City Manager

Formal Requests:

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Ziegler Heating of Ashtabula, OH for the purpose of providing labor and materials to repair the rooftop air conditioning units at the Justice Center in an amount not to exceed \$10,650.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the Permanent Improvement Fund.

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Rising Son Properties of Ashtabula, OH for the purpose of demolition and renovation to the property at 4239 Lake Ave. in the amount not to exceed \$29,610.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the Permanent Improvement Fund 412.

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

Discussion: City Manager Timonere stated this is for the first renovations to the building that they purchased for the Health Department. After we close on the property, which should be this week, they will be able to start the renovations so we can move in.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

City Manager Timonere stated that there was garbage pick up on Monday, July 3rd but there will not be garbage pick up on Tuesday, July 4th due to the holiday. So trash pick up will be delayed one day, starting with the Tuesday route. The Tuesday route will be picked up on Wednesday, Wednesday's route on Thursday, and so on. Friday's pick-up will be on Saturday and also recycling will be picked up then too.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that Tuesday is usually Ward 5's pick-up date and she just wanted to let everyone know in Ward 5 to wait to put their trash out until Wednesday.

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cooper reminded everyone that possession, let alone lighting off fireworks within the city limits of Ashtabula, is a misdemeanor of the first degree. They had at least one citation come across her desk that morning and she was sure there would be others after last night. She understands it is the Fourth of July. She advised people to at least show their neighbors the courtesy of stopping at a reasonable hour.

Finance Director

Formal Request:

An ordinance to make a supplemental increase to the Permanent Improvement Fund in the amount of \$700,000.00 for the down payment of the buildings located at 4230 and 4250 Lake Ave. and to purchase 4239 Lake Ave.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to approve the 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

President John Roskovics stated that we had our Public Hearing for the Tax Budget. The Tax Budget will be on display until our next council meeting on July 17th. He stated that anyone who would like to see the budget may do so up until our next council meeting. City Manager Timonere stated that the budget will also be online on the city's website under the Finance Department section. He stated he would try to get that up the next day.

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

JULY 11

AUGUST 8

SEPTEMBER 12

OCTOBER 10

NOVEMBER 14

The next meeting will be held on July 11th and Amanda Wood an arborist with The Holden Arboretum will be our guest.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo reminded everyone that July 5th at 5:00 p.m. will be the Parks and Rec Board meeting.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines, Roskovics

JULY 21

AUGUST 18

SEPTEMBER 15

OCTOBER 20

NOVEMBER 17

The next meeting will be held on Friday, July 21st at 8:30 a.m.

Public Works

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

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

JUNE 26- CANCELLED

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

SEPTEMBER 25

OCTOBER 23

NOVEMBER 27

The next meeting will be on Monday, July 24th, at 5:00 p.m.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

JUNE 26-CANCELLED

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

SEPTEMBER 25

OCTOBER 23

NOVEMBER 27

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

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

The Planning Commission should have a meeting coming up this month. City Manager Timonere said there should be a meeting. Mr. Roskovics said it will be held on the third Thursday.

The Historic Preservation Committee has a meeting coming up, but Mr. Roskovics has not heard if there will be a need for one.

Presentation of Legislation

President John Roskovics presented the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

None

Public Communications on Legislation

Resident Mr. Goodell had a question regarding the \$700,000.00 that was being added to the budget to purchase the buildings for the city employees to move into. He stated that while reading the paper he was confused about the whole purchasing side of things. He stated he is confused about the \$830,000.000 being spent and if this includes the \$115,000 for the Gloekler building or if this is in addition to that. He said if not, we are looking at spending around \$945,000.00 to purchase the properties and we are selling 4717 Main Ave. property for \$1.1 million dollars. He said the 4717 Main Ave. building is a 37,000-square-foot building on 2.3 acres that we are selling for \$1.1 million and we are buying 11,000 square feet and about 3/10 of an acre for \$900,000.00 and asked if he was correct. City Manager Timonere stated that he is doing the math correctly except there are a few pieces he is missing. The Gloekler building was purchased for \$112,500.00 and there is a little bit of renovations that need to be done there that will be passed tonight. The other building they are buying is a developer's agreement. The building purchase itself was \$250,000.00 and there is a little bit more than \$550,000.00 of renovation that needs to be done in those two buildings. Mr. Goodell said that is not clear to the public at all and in the paper. Mr. Timonere stated this is something that has been discussed at length at meetings and it was also in his comments that they were doing this as a developer's agreement. Essentially, what will happen is the agreement they are signing states they will pay them \$830,000.00 once the building looks like this. Mr. Goodell stated he understands and that he just wanted to get this out to the public because when you read the newspaper it just sounds like we bought the buildings for \$830,000.00 and then it says plus closing costs and he was thinking also about the renovations that would be needed.

President John Roskovics stated that he believes it is important to also know that even though this is a larger building we are selling, we are not using all of it. The basement is being used by someone else, the bank is using a large portion, and we have areas upstairs that are vacant. He said these new buildings will serve us better as far as space requirements, but it is good to point out that once we move into the building it will be done and serve our purposes.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that what excites her is that this will be another area of downtown that will be developed, so instead of it being an empty or blighted building, we are

creating activity on the south end of the street as well as bringing a lot of employees to this building. She believes this positions downtown to be developed.

Overview / Discussion

None.

Reading of Legislation

Clerk of Council Burgan read the titles of the legislation.

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

2023 - 103 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE A SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASE TO APPROPRIATION IN THE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE DOWN PAYMENT AND THE APPROVED PURCHASE OF REAL-ESTATE OFFICES FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023.

2023-104 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING WAIVER OF THE PERMIT AND TAP IN FEES OTHERWISE PAYABLE BY THE ASHTABULA AREA CITY SCHOOLS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TRANSPORTATION FACILITY ON STATION AVENUE

2023-105 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR LABOR AND MATERIALS NECESSARY TO REPAIR ROOFTOP AIR CONDITIONING UNITS AT THE CITY OF ASHTABULA JUSTICE CENTER.

2023-106 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR DEMOLITION AND RENOVATION SERVICES WITH RISING SON PROPERTIES FOR 4239 LAKE AVE, ASHTABULA.

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

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; 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 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 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; Vice President Michael Speelman seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None

Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated recently she has noticed a lot of golf carts in the harbor area on 5th Street. It is not that she does not like golf carts as she does, but they do not belong on the road in the city. She stated they have talked about them and they have decided they are not going to allow them, yet every day she sees multiple golf carts parked in parking spots on Bridge Street. She said this is a safety issue, someone is going to get hurt. She said she was going down Lake Ave. and a golf cart was in front of her, driving right in the center of the road. She did not know where he was going to turn. The golf cart did not have any lights on the back either. On her way to the meeting, she saw a golf cart parked in a parking space at Rite Aid. She said she does not want to see anyone get hit and the golf carts are out of control. She said something needs to be done either by allowing them to be here or making sure something is done about them as they are everywhere. President John Roskovics stated that he knows there are a lot of golf carts out there and believes as we continue to grow as a tourist location, a lot of the golf cart usage is coming along with that. Mrs. Foglio stated she is not opposed to them but if they are going to allow them, they need to have lights and a license plate on them for the safety of those in the golf cart and those around them.

New Business

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that she would like to see, as a council, a rule be adopted that the gazebo in North Park needs to be rented out. She said currently it is such an eyesore. She would like to see it be a rented piece of property to be able to control how it looks. Mrs. Foglio stated it was a shame, as when she worked at the court they would always go have lunch in the park.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated she has received quite a few calls regarding water issues. She said AQUA has been great about getting on those but then she would receive calls asking if the water is safe to drink or not. She said the city has been great about alerting us on Facebook and on our website. She asked City Manager Timonere if he could go through the process of when they test the water and if there is anything urgent, how folks are notified. Mr. Timonere stated that he does not want to go through too much of that process as it is not our process, it is the water company's process and he does not want to speak on their behalf. He said that if there is an issue where there needs to be a boil alert, they will contact the city and then we put it out through our social media outlets and if there is a need to make a reverse 911 call, that can be done. However, that still does not mean that everyone will be notified. He said one of the topics he is going to bring up for Safety Forces is to have someone from our county EMA share the importance of being signed up for these notification systems. Reverse 911 does not mean they have your cell phone number and most people no longer have a landline phone. So, unless you are signed up for these alerts or your contact information is on file with AQUA, it is harder to notify you that there is an issue. He stated we do our best to notify our citizens and even citizens who do not live in the city, as other places do not have the type of notification systems that we do. We try to do our best. If the water company notifies us, we know of a break, or we are in communication with them and there is a need, we will do our best to get the information out there. He said it is the responsibility of AQUA to do this but we will obviously assist to make sure everyone is safe. Mrs. Mills stated when she spoke with AQUA they told her anyone is able to call them at any time to verify what contact information is on file for them. She asked if the pipes are the responsibility of AQUA as well. Mr. Timonere said yes, the city does not own any of the water lines.

Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo stated she has had a few people message her during the meeting asking where they could go to see fireworks in Ashtabula. Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford said Conneaut had their fireworks that night, starting at 10:00 p.m. Mrs. Mills said Wine and Walleye would have them on July 22nd in the evening. City Manager Timonere stated he believes Geneva on the Lake's fireworks is traditionally held on the Fourth of July.

President John Roskovics stated he has been asked about passing a resolution in opposition to Issue 1 because it is potentially not a good thing for cities. He said some cities are adopting resolutions in opposition to Issue 1. He said he would send the council that information, but he believes we do not have much time to do anything as the election is in the first week of August. He said early voting begins next Tuesday.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford congratulated the Ashtabula Little League's major girls softball team which consists of 10, 11, and 12-year-old girls as they won state for this district and will be representing the district in Rock Hill, OH starting this upcoming weekend. We will also be holding the 50-70 state tournament at Little League since the EAC Field has a new fence put in for the outfield.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio reminded everyone that the Our Lady of Peace Parish Mount Carmel Bizzare is on July 14th, 15th, and 16th. Mr. Roskovics said this is their 126th year.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills mentioned the G.O. back-to-school event. You have to sign up by July 15th. She stated she would be there on Saturday, August 5th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She said this was a great event with free bookbags, socks, shirts, and underclothing. They will have an ice cream social and free lunch.

Vice President Michael Speelman stated that on July 3rd they wrapped up their Chalkbox girls competition in Florida. They were at the AAU Nationals. He said there were 30 or so girls who competed and many finished first, second, and third. He said Ashtabula represented itself well at the AAU National Gymnastics Competition in Florida this past weekend. He said he was very proud of those girls. Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo stated that her granddaughter had just started at the Chalk Box and she loved it. He said they would have her down in Florida in a few years and Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo stated she is just doing it for cheer. Mr. Speelman said they also had two coaches down in Florida who busted their butts the whole time as well and he gave a lot of thanks to them.

Public Communications on General Matters

None.

Executive Session (if needed)

The Executive Session that started at the end of the Pre-Council meeting was recessed to begin the Regular Council's regular business agenda and then resumed at the end of the Regular Council Meeting's regular business agenda at 7:37 p.m. The council and the solicitor attended the executive session for the purpose of compensation of personnel.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, July 17th in Council Chambers. The Pre-Council meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

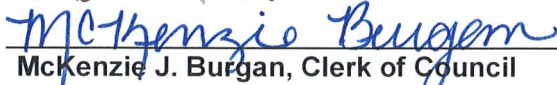
July 17, 2023

ATTESTED BY:



John S. Roskovics, Vice President of Council
MICHAEL D. SPELMAN

ATTESTED BY:



McKenzie J. Burgan, Clerk of Council