



City of Ashtabula
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, July 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 7:00 p.m. by Council Vice President Speelman. Councilor Foglio offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: 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: President John Roskovics

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

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford moved to excuse John Roskovics from the meeting; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

The motion to excuse the absence was adopted.

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

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman and Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo presented Sal Jackson with his Resolution. Sal said thank you to the City Council for taking the time to recognize him and to all the residents of Ashtabula who have helped support the vision of trying to make this a better place. He stated he would not have been able to do it without them.

Approval of Minutes

July 3, 2023, Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

July 3, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes and the Regular Council Meeting Minutes; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Ayes: 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 2023-109 An ordinance approving additional paid vacation leave for the Clerk of Council.

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo moved to approve the City Council's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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 Rocky Road Paving of Geneva, OH for the purpose of road restoration for a section of Bridge Street and Hulbert Hill in the amount not to exceed \$14,700.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the Water Pollution Control Fund 503.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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 Cadence Care Network of Niles, OH for rent of an office space here at 4717 Main Ave. in the amount not to exceed \$1,100.00 per month in accordance with the lease agreement.

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

Discussion: City Manager Timonere stated that this is just a lease renewal and they are a current tenant.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo
Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to deem a 2013 Dodge Charger obsolete. This vehicle has been utilized by the Municipal Court and is no longer drivable and will be scrapped. Any funds will be deposited into the Municipal Court Fund.

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

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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 Solicitor

No Report.

Finance Director

Formal Request:

An ordinance adopting the Tax Budget of the City of Ashtabula for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2024, and submitting the same to the Ohio Budget Commission. The Ohio Revised Code section 5705.28 requires every taxing authority in the city to submit a tax budget for the following fiscal year to the County Budget. The finance office has prepared and referred to the council a proposed tax budget for the City of Ashtabula for the Fiscal Year 2024. The proposed tax budget has been available for public inspection open and easily accessible in the Finance Director's and Clerk of Council's office for 10 days and the council conducted a Public Hearing on said tax budget on July 3, 2023. Prior publication of said hearing was done on June 23, 2023.

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

Discussion: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills said thank you to Ms. Augustin for this great budget and Vice President Michael Speelman agreed and said this is not an easy task and said thank you.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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

JULY 11- Report of Meeting

AUGUST 8

SEPTEMBER 12

OCTOBER 10

NOVEMBER 14

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo provided a report on the July 11th meeting.

Amanda Wood from the Holden Arboretum was our guest speaker. She spoke about the benefits of trees. Trees improve air quality by producing oxygen and by cleaning the air by absorbing CO2. Trees promote beneficial water quality. They reduce stress on stormwater infrastructure by slowing the rate of water entering the storm system, which eases the pressure on said storm systems and pump stations and allows for fewer detention ponds needed. Trees moderate temperatures by providing shade and reflecting heat. They boost property values by increasing the sale price because you are adding greenery to your space. Trees are good for businesses as it has been shown that they boost occupancy rates, increase property values, provide a buffer for pedestrians, and people tend to be more attentive and slow down while walking and driving in an area with tree

coverage. Trees are good for physical health and also mental health. Trees support wildlife by offering wildlife a protective cover along with seeds, nuts, and fruits for consumption and a natural corridor for migrating wildlife. They also create community.

What Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo was hoping for by having this speaker, which she did not get, was a way to fund more tree planting in Ashtabula City. She is still working on this.

Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo highlighted the City Manager's report that was given at the committee meeting. New grills have been installed at Walnut Beach along with an ADA-accessible grill that swivels instead of lifting off so you can get closer to it. The mats for the beach are in and the guys are going to work on getting the land ready to roll the mats out at Walnut Beach, so it is an extension of the boardwalk. Smith Field came in over the engineer's estimate. They thought they were going to be able to pick apart the project but the CDBG rules state that this project has to be rebid. There was only one person who bid originally and it was too high, so they will probably chop this up into three projects and put it out for bid that way if they are able.

The next meeting will be held on August 8th at 4:00 p.m.

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 this Friday, July 21st, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

Public Works

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

Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

SEPTEMBER 25

OCTOBER 23

NOVEMBER 27

The July 24th meeting will be canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for August 28th where we are hoping to have a work session with the data that is being processed by the GPD group for the waste system.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics

JULY 24

AUGUST 28

SEPTEMBER 25

OCTOBER 23

NOVEMBER 27

The next meeting will meet on July 24th at 8:45 a.m. in the AAP Conference Room. Tim Settles, the Deputy Director of the Ashtabula County Emergency Management Agency will be at the meeting. He will be speaking on how you can register for the reverse 911 notifications so you get all the alerts regarding things such as water boil alerts.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

No Report.

Presentation of Legislation

Vice President Michael Speelman 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

2023-107 A RESOLUTION HONORING SAL JACKSON FOR HIS CONTINUED SERVICE TO AND SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA

2023-108 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,700.00 WITH ROCKY ROAD PAVING FOR THE HULBERT AVENUE ROAD RESTORATION

2023-109 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ADDITIONAL PAID VACATION LEAVE FOR THE CLERK OF COUNCIL

2023-110 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2024, AND SUBMITTING THE SAME TO THE ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO BUDGET COMMISSION

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

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: 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 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford seconded.

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None
Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked City Manager Timonere if he could address what we do in regard to complaints involving raccoons. She received a complaint about raccoons on Union Ave. and was told they are coming out of the drains and the residents are trapping them and, of course, we are not picking them up. She asked if he can go over what we should do if we have gophers, skunks, or raccoons and asked what the City's policy is. Mr. Timonere said this individual he believes she is referring to has been dealing with this for a very long time. He said it is coming to a point where you keep putting out these traps and it keeps attracting the animals. Even though you are trapping them, you are feeding them. Raccoons, possums, etc. can smell things from miles away. In our opinion, this is why these animals keep coming around this property. The city picks up trapped animals as a courtesy and is sometimes on a case-by-case basis. If someone is near the woods, this is always going to happen. If the animals are in the middle of a concentrated area and start becoming a problem or are rabid, they will help handle that. Private trappers cost money, so many people think they can just call the city and we will take care of it. Mrs. Foglio asked if the city does not normally do this and Mr. Timonere said that is correct unless it is an issue with a sick animal or an animal causing a problem beyond just being in its natural habitat.

Mrs. Foglio stated that she received a complaint about a property on Lyndon Ave that morning about 8 cats being at this particular home. She said the residents who called her have called the Animal Control Officer and the Police Department and they have been told they do not take nuisance calls. The person who lives in the home with 8 cats has not been cited. The cats are causing havoc with the neighbors by using the bathroom everywhere. Mr. Timonere asked if they were stray cats and Mrs. Foglio said they are the resident's cats. Mr. Timonere said they were only supposed to have two animals. He said that when people say that they called and this is what they were told, we really would like to know the time and date they called, because if they call the Police Department, the calls are recorded and we are able to go back and listen to them. He said these animal complaints are always investigated. This is an issue of whether they are feral cats in the neighborhood that someone is just feeding or if they actually belong to the person- this would have to be determined. Mr. Timonere said he believes this particular house is in court for other nuisances and Mrs. Foglio said that it was.

Mrs. Foglio stated she also received a rooster call. She asked if chickens were allowed in the city. Mr. Timonere said chickens are allowed but roosters are not. Vice President Speelman also stated that we are not allowed to have hoofed animals either. There is a rooster on West 16th Street and Ohio Ave. Mr. Timonere said if she had an address we could go pay the rooster a visit. Mrs. Foglio said she would get him that address.

Mrs. Foglio stated that the potholes on Allen Ave. by Carpenter are still not filled. Mr. Timonere said okay.

Mrs. Foglio stated she has seen one golf cart in particular on multiple occasions over several days driving on the road with two adults and two kids, sometimes three, and on a few occasions one adult was holding an infant and there was even a time when the adult who was holding the infant was

driving the golf cart. This is child endangerment and something needs to be done about the golf carts. Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo said there was a golf cart she saw on Woodman Ave that was pulled over by the police. Mrs. Foglio said they are using golf carts as their vehicles and something needs to be done. Mr. Speelman said, as a reminder, golf carts are still not legal to drive on the streets in the City of Ashtabula.

Mr. Speelman said while chickens are allowed in the city, there are very strict guidelines on where the coop is allowed to be, and if you are interested, you can contact the City Manager's office and they can inform you of the requirements and guidelines for having chickens.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked City Manager Timonere what the protocol is for individuals who are jeopardizing the safety of themselves and their children. Mr. Timonere said if someone witnesses this, you can call the non-emergency police number. They have to see this occurring. They can and do pull people over and ticket them for this. If they see golf carts they will pull them over, but if you see instances like Mrs. Foglio mentioned give us a call, and if we are able to send someone out, we will.

Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo asked if we still needed part-time employees to mow people's yards. Mr. Timonere said we have a part-time worker who is doing this. We did have that stretch of no rain for 30 days which helped with the lawns not needing to be mown. We do have someone who has been keeping up with this and he said if she has more residences that need to be mown to let him know. She said she believes she reported them already. She asked if we could increase the fines as they are always the same houses. She said if they can increase the fine each time we have to mow their lawn she believes that would put a stop to us having to do this. Mr. Timonere said that it costs \$450 for the city to show up the first time and out of all the residences they bill and then put on their taxes, rarely do we see a penny of it. The city spends about \$10,000-\$15,000 and some years even \$20,000 on mowing people's lawns. Mr. Timonere said they usually leave the houses on their lists if they have had to go out and cut their lawns multiple times already they know they will have to go back.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if Mr. Timonere could provide us with more information on the K9 dogs. She stated she had a call where a resident's family member had donated vests to the K9s. She asked Mr. Timonere how the K9s are funded and how many K9s we have. She said it sounded like there was an outpouring from the community, which is a good thing. Mr. Timonere said we have been very fortunate that several donations have been received and several organizations have funded our K9 unit. We currently have six K9s and through this pot of money that has been established over the years, any time there is a need for the handlers, they are able to provide items that are requested. If the donations were not coming in, the city would certainly provide for the K9's needs. We have been fortunate that there has been so much support for the K9s that we have not had to take much from the city's coffers. However, we do have handler agreements with each of the K9 officers so they are provided funds for care of the animals at their home off duty. They have veterinary care that is mostly donated to them also. We do not rely on donations to fund our K9s but we have been fortunate that we have received a lot of support for the K9s. Mrs. Foglio stated that she believes she received the same call from this resident and she believes their question was why the vests were not being worn by the K9s. Their other question was if we were paying the handlers for the dog's food. Chief Stell stated that as far as food goes, in the past it has all been donated. He will have to check to see if this has changed but believes it is all still donated. Pertaining to the vests, they are designed to be worn in specific instances where you know there is going to be a problem, you put them on the dogs. The vests are heavy and hot and they cannot wear them all day. You do not see the vests on them often unless you know you are going into a gun situation. Mrs. Foglio asked if this was a bulletproof vest and Chief Stell said yes, it was body armor for the dog. He stated

they receive a lot of donations for the dogs. They have money in the bank for them.

Mrs. Mills stated she did have someone call and thank the city for the guardrail on Valleyview. She stated she noticed some other areas that look questionable and she is not sure how they stop that kind of erosion. Mr. Timonere asked if she was talking about Valleyview and she said yes. He stated the reason for the guardrail was because there was a repair done there to a storm outfall about three to four years ago. Now that it all has settled, it has taken the curb with it. If you look at Valleyview, there are 12 inches of curb, which prevents anyone from going over it. The curb in the location where the guardrail was installed had sunk, which is why the guardrail was needed. Mrs. Mills stated that she received a thank you for the repair done on 32nd and State Rd. Mr. Timonere stated that it was the city and they are doing all of their catchup now for storm and sewer repairs. He said Dominion and AQUA are out doing repairs also. Mrs. Mills said she has heard from individuals about digging being done everywhere and she is ensuring them that everything will be put back correctly. Mr. Timonere stated that mostly the tree lawns and sidewalks are the utility companies and the sidewalks will be new when they are done working on them if they were taken out.

City Solicitor Cooper stated she did want to respond to Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo's question about the lawns. If someone gets cited for a lawn care violation for having tall grass, the first time, it is a minor misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$150, the second time within two years is a misdemeanor of the 4th degree with a fine of up to \$250 and it can be a new violation for each day. So, if the city tells them to cut the grass and they do not cut it for 30 days that is technically 30 violations. She said if Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo makes sure Ms. Church gets those addresses they will make sure to have the inspectors go and take photos so they can then cite them along with cleaning it up.

New Business

Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford thanked the city and ODOT for the grass-cutting on Walnut Beach's hill. His kids were fascinated by watching ODOT run that. He said thank you for having that cleaned up. Mr. Timonere stated that it was a machine he wanted until they priced it and it was almost \$80,000. He believes they are going to try and do the hill by Point Park this week as well, so hopefully, it will be cleaned up for the Wine and Walleye Festival.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo stated that on July 20th there will be a food truck at Zaback-Williams-Ducro Funeral Home for Food Truck Thursday. You can see Vice President Speelman and Mrs. Haines-DiGiacomo there volunteering at the dunk tank. It is \$1 per chance at the dunk tank. Recovery Court will also be held on July 20th at 5:00 p.m. at Lakeside Auditorium. She said it is a moving event for people who have truly turned around their lives and then you have people who have come back after being clean for 5 or more years and they share their stories. Bands on the Beach is also on July 20th. The band is Bobby Hayes & the H2O Band.

Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford wished his son, Donald Crawford, a happy 16th birthday on Monday, July 24th! Mr. Speelman said happy birthday to Donald.

Public Communications on General Matters

Linda, an Ashtabula City resident, thanked City Manager James Timonere and Sal for the cleanup of Ashtabula and the beautification and the continued development we are seeing in the community, particularly on Bridge Street. She said with growth comes problems. She said she was really glad to hear about the paving that will be taking place on Bridge Street as that is needed. They are having some issues at the west end of Bridge Street on the other side of the lift bridge. Every time that area gets patched, it sinks and cracks due to the increased traffic we have, mainly the construction trucks that are going through there. The gravel trucks are not covering their trucks and are speeding down that street and tearing it up. She was wondering, because Bridge Street is a historic area, why do commercial trucks need to use Bridge Street when they have access to Route 11 and Columbus

Ave. She stated she wanted to bring it up to the City Manager and the City Council to see if there was anything that could be done. She believes it would save the city money on repairs and time cleaning up the roads with the city sweepers. She also stated that vehicles need to slow down while going down Bridge Street. She stated there are speed limit signs on the east end but there are none further down. She again said thank you and that she was one of the owners of the townhouses on Bridge Street.

Karey Lunghofer, an Ashtabula City resident, who resides at 1439 Bridge Street stated she concurs with pretty much everything Linda stated previously. She said she is new to the city and loves Bridge Street and loves Ashtabula. Her main concern is dump trucks. She works from home every day and she hears them every day, they shake her house. The trucks run up and down the street from about 6-7 a.m. until about 2-3 p.m. every day. She asked if there was anything out there that said trucks should not be using that road due to it being a historical district.

Vice President Speelman said thank you to the residents and that speed is a concern we hear frequently in regard to Bridge Street. He referred to City Manager Timonere about the construction vehicles. Mr. Timonere said these are all things we have thought of as well, but unfortunately, since Bridge Street is a State Route, it is actually considered St. Rt. 531, so limiting trucks is something they cannot do. However, they have tried to work with Sidley, Kinder Morgan, and all the delivery companies to ask if they could use Rt. 11 and Rt. 20 and stay on those State Routes to avoid coming on Bridge Street. Unfortunately, some of the truckers we get in town like to speed out that way. If you ever see a truck and are able to find out what company it is from for the trucks that do not have tarps on them or are dropping gravel, let us know as we do try to go after them and help out when we have to send the sweeper out. Norwood Dr. on West 9th St., all the way to Lake Ave, North on Lake Ave. to Bridge St., all of Bridge St., over East 6th St. just past Rt. 11 is considered 531 within the city limits. ODOT wanted to wait until 2028 to pave this but the city was able to convince them to complete this project next year.

Resident Linda asked about having more of a police presence on Bridge Street. Mr. Timonere stated that they sometimes have a motorcycle down there that kind of stays hidden and then gets people and they have also done a partnership with the State Highway Patrol where they pulled over trucks to do DOT inspections and weight inspections. That was a good initiative for the city as they caught quite a few people. It is not an intentional thing, but they know that some of this overloading is an issue and it does wear on the roads and they do intend on doing more of these initiatives.

Mr. Speelman asked about the lift bridge, as cars are getting bigger. At what point does it become one way or at what point do we prohibit commercial trucks on the bridge as people do not fit? Mr. Timonere said one of the smartest things the city has done in its history is never taking possession of the lift bridge, so this is an ODOT problem. So, if the bridge needs to be rebuilt, that is something ODOT will have to handle. Mr. Speelman asked if we were not able to do anything to the bridge and Mr. Timonere said we were not able to.

Mr. Speelman said thank you to the residents for voicing their concerns and that we are taking note of them and that we will take the action that we can. Mr. Timonere said we will be doing more law enforcement and DOT inspections as summertime goes on and they will also look at signage. Ms. Lunghofer stated that she is outside a lot and she does see a lot of city cops down there.

Executive Session (if needed)

N/A

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM by Council Vice President Speelman.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, August 7, 2023, 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:

August 7, 2023

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

McKenzie Burgan

McKenzie J. Burgan, Clerk of Council