



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 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 John Roskovics. Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Finance Director Marie Yvrose Augustin, Council Clerk McKenzie Burgan

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford moved to excuse Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

The motion to excuse the absences 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

Approval of Minutes

August 21, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

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

Administrative Reports

City Manager

Formal Requests

An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Fire Force Inc./Eagle Emergency of Hudson, Ohio, to purchase a self-contained breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and related equipment for use in the Ashtabula Fire Department in the amount of \$150,584. This contract will be paid through the AFG Grant.

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

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion duly passed.

An ordinance authorizing the city manager to purchase a compactor-compatible refuse trailer for the sanitation department from Refuse Equipment and Truck Services, Inc.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded. Discussion: VOICE VOTE Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane HainesDiGiacomo Nays: None Motion duly passed.

An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Greatwave Broadband Services for the purpose of providing fiber optic lines and internet circuits at the property located at 4233/4239 Lake Ave. And 4230 Lake Ave./4047 Main Avenue in the amount not to exceed \$2,050.00/month.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded. Discussion: These are the addresses for the new buildings. A move-in date has not yet been determined but is expected to be at the end of November or early December. VOICE VOTE Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills,

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo Nays: None Motion duly passed. An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Wilkinson Paving for sidewalk restoration on Lake Avenue in the amount not to exceed \$31,500.

Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford seconded. Discussion: VOICE VOTE Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo Nays: None Motion duly passed.

An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a community reinvestment area tax incentive agreement with Paul & Stacy Hamilton, for tax abatement at 100% for 7 years for a new residential dwelling located at 2012 Ashbrook Drive, Ashtabula, OH 44004. Motion: Vice President Michael Speelman moved to approve the City Manager's request; Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford seconded. Discussion: VOICE VOTE Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo Nays: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman Motion duly passed.

Announcements:

Trick-or-Treat for the City of Ashtabula will be Saturday, October 28, 2023, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Leaf Bag pick-up will resume the week of September 25th. The first area is the Harbor Area. The schedule is posted on the website. Residents are asked to put leaf bags at the curb on Monday and to limit the drop-offs at the Public Works Department as curbside is resuming. Sticks should be no longer than three feet long and no more than twenty pounds and be bundled together. If residents have something larger, please call the Public Works Department at 440-993-7036 to schedule a pick-up at no charge in many cases.

The garbage pick-up this week is on its regular schedule.

Ms. Mills noted that the City Public Works Department offers the ability for residents to call and schedule a pick-up for large items such as furniture. Ms. Mills has received compliments on this service.

City Solicitor

No Report.

Finance Director

No Report.

Clerk of Council

No Report.

City Council Committee Reports

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation
(2nd Tuesday @ 4:30 p.m.)

Members: Chair Haines/Council Liaison to Parks and Recreation Board; Vice Chair Mills; Roskovics

AUGUST 8
SEPTEMBER 12
OCTOBER 10
NOVEMBER 14
DECEMBER 12

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Room.

The Parks Board canceled the September meeting.

Finance & Personnel
(3rd Friday @ 8:30 a.m.)
Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair Haines, Roskovics
AUGUST 18
SEPTEMBER 15
OCTOBER 20
NOVEMBER 17
DECEMBER 15

The September meeting for Finance & Personnel has been cancelled.

Public Works
(4th Monday @ 5:00 p.m.)
Members: Chair Crawford, Vice Chair Holman, Mills
AUGUST 28
SEPTEMBER 25
OCTOBER 23
NOVEMBER 27
DECEMBER 26

A Public Works Committee meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

On October 23, 2023, Diane Crumbly, Director of Clubs for the Boys and Girls Club will be the guest. The Boys and Girls Club was started up in the City meeting at the Huron Primary School.

Safety Forces
(4th Monday @ 8:45 a.m.)
Members: Chair Speelman, Vice Chair Foglio, Roskovics
AUGUST 28
SEPTEMBER 25
OCTOBER 23
NOVEMBER 27
DECEMBER 26

Vice President Speelman provided the Safety Forces Report.

Safety Forces met on Monday, August 28, 2023. Police Chief Stell reported normal call volume for August; between 1,500 and 1,600 calls for service. Service calls begin to slow down around November. A brief report on Safety Town was provided. This year, the first year back, had reduced participation. Sixty-five children signed up. Fifty to fifty-two children went through the program on the day of the event. Jim Oatman, who ran Safety Town for several years, stated the first few years

were slow and then participants picked up to over two hundred participating.

Fire Chief Gruber stated that calls for service are normal. EMS calls are down. Community Care Ambulance added an additional squad.

Captain Chase of the Fire Department is requesting the City update Codified Ordinances Section 1501 Fire Code Section dealing with sprinklers in commercial buildings. There is a small loophole where a commercial building can use the same water supply line for their sprinklers as their regular water. This is not recommended. Captain Chase's suggestion is to change the Fire Code to require a dedicated line for the sprinkler system. Should the City adopt this change, any existing building or commercial building under construction would be grandfathered. This would affect new construction in the future. Most buildings do have a separate line for the sprinkler system. This change will eliminate a loophole.

The legalization of golf carts on the street was briefly discussed. The City Manager will talk with the Police and Fire Chiefs and provide additional information at the next Safety Forces meeting.

The SCBA Grant for the Fire Department was also discussed.

The next meeting will be held October 23, 2023 at 8:45 a.m.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President Roskovics provided the report from the Historic Preservation Commission.

At last week's meeting, a sign request was approved for a new business in the Harbor. Two demolitions were approved for structures that were not salvageable and uninsurable in the historic area; a private residence at the corner of Morton Drive and Division Place and a building on Bridge Street. Also approved were four townhomes on the Harbor High School property. The builder built one townhome on Pennsylvania Avenue and is proceeding with building one on Lake Ave. A road will be constructed and the townhomes will be built when sold.

Presentation of Legislation

Additional Formal Requests

Formal Request:

Vice President Speelman moved that the City update the City's Fire Protection Codes Section 1501 of the Codified Ordinances to change the wording to require a separate water pipe for each sprinkler system in a commercial building. President John Roskovics seconded the motion.

Discussion: This change would eliminate any projects in the future from exercising the loophole and not providing a separate line for the sprinkler system.

VOICE VOTE Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane HainesDiGiacomo Nays: None Motion duly passed.

President John Roskovics made a request for a Resolution commemorating the one-hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Chapter 360 in the City of Ashtabula. It is the fourth oldest Knights of Columbus Chapter in the State.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to approve the City Council's request; Ward 2 Councilor Clavin Crawford seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Michael Speelman, Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane HainesDiGiacomo.

Nays: None

Motion duly passed.

Public Communications on Legislation

None.

Overview / Discussion

Reading of Legislation

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

2023-131 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FIRE FORCE INC./EAGLE EMERGENCY OF HUDSON, OHIO, TO PURCHASE SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN THE ASHTABULA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion duly passed.

Motion: Vice President Speelman moved to waive the Charter requirement of two readings of the legislation; Ward 3 Councilor Rolesia Holman seconded.

Discussion:

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Motion duly passed.

Adoption of the Legislation:

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None
Motion duly passed.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Notice to Legislative Authority Liquor License Transfer

From: Ritika LLC DBA Perry Park News 4910 Main Ave. 1st Fl Ashtabula, OH 44004

To: Stop & Go LLC DBA Perry Park News 4910 Main Ave. 1st Fl Ashtabula, OH 44004

The business is in Ward 5. Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo has no concerns. No additional concerns were noted. The council will approve the transfer.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

City Manager Timonere announced that on September 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. the Land Bank will host a meeting at Bethany Lutheran Church near the old Harbor High School football field with a developer who has been somewhat selected to redevelop the Harbor football property. Proposals will be discussed. If the weather is good, the meeting will be held in the parking lot. If not, the meeting will be held inside the building. The garage building is owned by a landscape company and is not a part of the property to be redeveloped.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman reported that the Ad Hoc Committee exploring racism as a public health crisis will be meeting on September 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the pre-council chambers. The Juvenile Courts and Cadence Care will be special guests.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills is a member of the Access to Care Workgroup. The group meets monthly at the County Health Department. Information is taken from the Community Health Improvement Plan which outlines actionable objectives and strategies used by Healthy Ashtabula County to address identifiable health priorities in the community. The three categories they are working on are obesity, access to care, and depression and anxiety treatment. Ward 4 Councilor Mills is on the Access to Care. The 2024 Report should be completed soon. Councilor Mills hopes to have the City Health Department in to speak on the report.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines-DiGiacomo - This Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. is Majic on Main. The event is put on by the Arts Center and Bakery on Main. On October 21, 2023, the Library is doing a Books and Brew. This is a fundraiser for the Book Mobile. You must be 21. Volunteers are needed.

The Brewfest will be on October 14, 2023.

October 8, 2023 Harvest in the Harbor will be held.

The GEO CDC food event is the following week.

City Manager Timonere reported that the City is seeing an uptick in the flu, RSV and COVID-19. Many of the symptoms are similar. It is important that residents home test for COVID or visit their doctor for a test. The CDC does have guidelines if you test positive for COVID. Links can be found on the City's website. The City's Health Department does have some tests available. The flu

shots are out. The newest COVID-19 vaccine is due out by the end of September.

Vice President Speelman thanked Detective Taylor Cleveland, an Officer with the Conneaut Police Department. Detective Cleveland was at a book signing at the Feed Our Vets building. Detective Cleveland was a Reserve Coreman attached to the 325 Marine Corp. Unit out of Brookpark in Iraq in 2005. They suffered horrible losses during their time in Iraq. Officer Cleveland recently wrote a book and published it keeping history alive. The book is called "Mother's Day."

Public Communications on General Matters

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. by Council President Roskovics. Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, September 18, 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:

9/18/2023

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Phyllis Dunlap

Phyllis Dunlap, Temporary Clerk of Council