



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, December 18, 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 Guerriero offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members Present: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Absent: None

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

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

Council President John Roskovics requested an Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of employment of personnel.

Motion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio moved to adjourn to an Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of employment of personnel; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

All the councilors, City Manager Timonere, City Solicitor Cooper, and Finance Director Augustin were invited to attend the Executive Session.

Approval of Minutes

December 1, 2023, Organizational Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Ayes: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

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

Administrative Reports

City Council

Formal Request

Ordinance No. 2023-176 An ordinance accepting volunteer services from McKenzie Burgan during the period December 5, 2023, through January 19, 2024, for the limited purposes of certain administrative tasks, transitioning the position of Clerk of Council to her successor, and providing a stipend.

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

City Manager

Formal Requests

An ordinance to enter into an amended agreement with Community Care Ambulance Network for a period of five (5) years, to commence on January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028. This is for the purpose of providing ambulance and medical transportation and fire department dispatching services in the amount not to exceed \$11,592.74 for the first year with a 3% increase for each subsequent year. Funding for this expense will be taken from Fund 101.

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into two agreements with the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners of Jefferson, OH for the purpose of providing public transportation services and lease for the operations center. Funding for the expense of the City's contribution for this effort will be taken from Fund 101.

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: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2

Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo
Nays: None
Motion passed.

An ordinance to provide for appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, OH from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a contract with Usalco of Baltimore, MD for the purpose of providing the chemical Sodium Aluminate, at a price of \$4.4962 per gallon or \$1,922.37 per dry ton for a period of one year. Funding for this expense will be taken from Fund 503.

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

Discussion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked City Manager Timonere what this is used for and Mr. Timonere stated it is used to remove phosphorus and the Waste Water Treatment Plant goes through about 100 tons per year. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman asked Mr. Timonere if this went out to bid and Mr. Timonere said yes. She pointed out that this company is located in Maryland and Mr. Timonere said that is where their headquarters are located, but they have a local business on the corner of Russell and Lake Rd. which is where they will get this chemical from.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance to enter into a contract with Polydyne Inc. of Riceboro, GA for the purpose of providing the chemical Clarifloc at a price of \$13.76 per gallon or \$1.60 per lb. per dry ton for a period of one year. Funding for this expense will be taken from Fund 503.

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

Discussion: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked City Manager Timonere what this is used for. Mr. Timonere stated this is a polymer that is added to the sludge to allow water out and solids to coagulate. They use about 35,000 lbs. per year. Vice President Russell Simeone asked if the cost of not using this chemical would cost us more. Mr. Timonere said yes, it would, and it would also not be safe to transport the wet material out to Geneva as it could slosh over the side of the truck.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

City Manager Timonere informed city residents that, since the city is a NOPEC community, everyone should

be receiving a letter from NOPEC in the mail soon. There is a card that you can fill out requesting to opt out of NOPEC if you choose. This must be completed and returned by January 5, 2024. If you choose to stay enrolled in NOPEC, the rate will be 6.6 kW per hour for February through May. After May, the price may fluctuate from month to month. Mr. Timonere encouraged residents to go to the PUCO website and use their Apples to Apples tool to shop around for a supplier. He advised everyone to read the fine print as some suppliers may have termination fees, rates that may fluctuate, etc.

Mr. Timonere also informed everyone that trash pick up would be delayed by one day, the week of Christmas and New Years. He wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

City Solicitor

City Solicitor Cooper wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Years and encouraged everyone to be smart and stay safe.

Finance Director

Formal Requests

An ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations in the General Fund, Police Levy Fund, Public Works Fund, AMC Probation and AMC Security Funds, Municipal Court Special Projects Fund, Sanitation Fund, Fire Pension Fund, Police Pension Fund, Marina Fund, Housing Code Enforcement, Permanent Improvement Fund, Wastewater Treatment Fund, and Workers' Compensation Fund for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, state of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2023.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to approve the Finance Director's request; Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance repealing, in its entirety, payroll ordinance no. 2023-96 for the purpose of approving and adopting new compensation for employees of the City of Ashtabula and Ashtabula City Health Department.

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

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

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

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5

Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance repealing, in its entirety, ordinance no. 2023-44, authorizing compensation, salaries, and wages to employees of the Ashtabula City Municipal Court and Probation Divisions for the purpose of approving and adopting new compensation, salaries and wages to employees of the Ashtabula City Municipal Court and Probation Divisions.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to approve the Finance Director's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

An ordinance authorizing compensation, salaries and wages to employees of the Ashtabula City Municipal Court and Probation Divisions.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to approve the Finance Director's request; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Finance Director Augustin showed off the award the City of Ashtabula received for their excellence in financial reporting for the Fiscal year 2022. The council congratulated Mrs. Augustin and the Finance Department on receiving this certificate.

Mrs. Augustin thanked everyone who congratulated a Finance Department employee who recently received a job promotion within the department.

Clerk of Council

No Report.

City Council Committee Reports

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation

(2nd Tuesday @ 4:30 p.m.)

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

JANUARY 9

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9th at 4:30 p.m. and there will be a guest speaker.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Simeone

DECEMBER 15

JANUARY 19

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19th.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

(2nd Tuesday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Holman, Guerriero

JANUARY 9

The next meeting is scheduled for January 9th with the time to be determined.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Simeone

JANUARY 22

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22nd.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President John Roskovics stated that the Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission did not have a meeting. He stated the Planning Commission did have a meeting that he could not attend, but they had two items on the agenda. One was the car lot on Main Ave. which went through, and the other was the drive-thru at Arby's being moved as they plan on tearing the current building down, rebuilding, and changing the drive-thru location.

Presentation of Legislation

Council President John Roskovics presented the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

None.

Public Communications on Legislation

None.

Overview / Discussion

None.

Reading of Legislation

Interim Clerk of Council McKenzie Burgan read the titles of the legislation.

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

2023 - 169 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED VEHICLES

2023 - 170 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED AGREEMENT FOR AMBULANCE & MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION AND FIRE DEPARTMENT DISPATCHING SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO AND COMMUNITY CARE AMBULANCE NETWORK AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$11,592.74 FOR THE FIRST YEAR (WITH A 3% INCREASE FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR)

2023 - 171 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2023-96 FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING AND ADOPTING NEW COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2023 – 172 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT

2023 - 173 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE 2023-44, AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING AND ADOPTING NEW COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS

2023 – 174 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS

2023 - 175 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO TWO AGREEMENTS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2023 - 176 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING VOLUNTEER SERVICES FROM MCKENZIE BURGAN DURING THE PERIOD DECEMBER 5, 2023 THROUGH JANUARY 19, 2024, FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSES OF CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS, TRANSITIONING THE POSITION OF CLERK OF COUNCIL TO HER SUCCESSOR, AND PROVIDING A STIPEND

2023 - 177 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, POLICE LEVY FUND, PUBLIC WORKS FUND, AMC PROBATION & AMC SECURITY FUNDS , MUNICIPAL COURT SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND, SANITATION FUND, FIRE PENSION FUND, POLICE PENSION FUND, MARINA FUND, HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND, WASTEWATER TREATMENT FUND, AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023

2023-178 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO FROM JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024

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

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero 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 Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman moved to waive the reading of the legislation; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Motion: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills moved to waive the Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Motion passed.

Adoption of legislation

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero, Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman, Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo

Nays: None

Legislation passed.

Unfinished Business

Discussion was held between the City Council members regarding the Council Committee dates and times. The City Council wanted to hold the Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools Committee meetings during the work day, so the department heads could attend without having to stay after hours. Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman stated, since she works, she would not be able to attend the meetings if they were held during business hours. She stated she would take herself off of that committee, so it could be held during the day, and then would join the Community Development/Economic Development/Parks and Recreation Committee. However, she did want to point out that having the committee meetings during the day prohibits residents who work jobs from attending these meetings and believes the residents should have the opportunity to attend these if they wish. President John Roskovics stated this is a tricky situation, but if there is ever any resident who is not able to make it to a committee meeting, they are more than welcome to attend a Regular City Council Meeting to voice their concerns.

The City Council then brainstormed what days and times all committee meetings would be held. The following is the new schedule starting January 2024:

Safety Forces - Second Monday of each month at 8:45 a.m.

Finance and Personnel - Third Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools - Fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks and Recreation - Fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. - This committee has a meeting scheduled for January 9th at 4:30 p.m. and will be keeping this date and time for January as guest speakers are scheduled to attend. The new date and time of the Fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. will begin in February.

New Business

None.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Council President John Roskvics stated that Shelley Terry, who works for the Star Beacon, will be retiring. He gave his appreciation to her and wished her well on her retirement.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills stated she had a resident contact her and asked her to pass on her thanks to the City Manager and Public Works Department for picking up her leaf bags and running the street sweeper down her street of Grove Dr. She also was happy to see the house with fire damage on Grove Dr. on the demolition list. She also thanked the Code Enforcement Officers as they have been down there a lot. Mrs. Mills thanked the Police, Fire, EMS, and utility employees for their work and asked that they be safe and enjoy their holidays too.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked when the Health Department would be moving to the new building. City Manager Timonere stated they would be moving after Christmas.

Council President John Roskovics said he hopes everyone has a happy holiday and stays safe.

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 8:56 PM by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, in the 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:

January 2, 2024

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

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