



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 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 Jodi Mills offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Ashley Bell

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Digiacomo moved to excuse Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio Jane Digiacomo moved to ; Ward 3 Rolesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: none

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

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

January 2, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero moved to waive the reading of the minutes in their entirety; Ward 4 Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman wanted to include if there was consideration for a new flow of traffic by the DG market. Ms. Holman asked if that would be a cause for a traffic assessment and the minutes were amended.

President John Roskovics asked if the new Dollar General Market has opened? City Manager James Timonere said that it has opened, but a public announcement has not been made. Mr. Timonere said that there is meat and

produce in the DG Market, confirming that it is a smaller grocery store. The City Manager encourages people to visit the new store. He also reassures the need for the market in the area, because it was a food dessert. President John Roskovics complimented the appearance of the building. Mr. Timonere expressed the ease of working with the company. He said he and the planning committee got the company to agree to the monument sign, windows on the front, and siding on the building. The store is putting sidewalks all around the building and new curbs. Those requirements are not in the city's zoning laws. The company originally wanted to build a 6000-foot dollar store. The city did not "like" that idea (Per Mr. Timonere). Mr. Timonere informed the company that there was a food dessert in the area. So, the company agreed to build a 12,000-foot market.

Ms. Holoman asked about changing zoning standards and expectations. Mr. Timonere stated that he plans on updating the comprehensive plan for the city. Once that is updated, the next step is to modify your zoning to match your comprehensive plan. He said it will take a while and a lot of money to complete, but it is imperative that it is done.

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo asked who is on the team to make those changes. City Manager James Timonere says it will be a consultant that is chosen through a bid process. The consultant then does several charettes. Inviting community members, business owners, large groups, small groups, manufacturing owners, getting a lot of input from those groups, gathering information and putting together a comprehensive plan. In regard to zoning, you look at what you currently have and look at the new standard. Mr. Timonere's goal is for anyone to be able look at the zoning in that area and not have any questions. Mr. Timonere noticed that in our C1 and C2 districts, pharmacies are not allowed. Pharmacies that are out of that area have to come before a board to make a request. Mr. Timonere said the zoning is not business friendly. He said the changes would be for residential zoning as well. Mr. Timonere said when the changes take place, he would like to include in-fill-zoning. A lot of places where the city has taken down housing are not buildable lots (Per Mr. Timonere). Due to the fact that the lots do not meet the sixty-foot frontage, most of the frontage is about 25 feet. In-fill zoning will provide alternate guidelines to use those lots for houses and offer affordable housing. The city manager plans to initiate the process this year. He said he would at least get out the RFQs.

VOICE VOTE

Ayes: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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 Manager

Formal Requests

2024-08 An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract for the lease of Massucci Field with the Saint John Youth Football League

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

Discussion: Terence Guerriero said the field is in his ward. He says the field has been neglected, and he is hoping more land can be cleared out for the organization. Mr. Timonere said once we get the field laid out, the city will provide maintenance. Vice President Russell Simeone clarified the league is a separate organization from St. John School.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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 the following former police vehicles to be obsolete 2007 Jeep Cherokee, 2008 Dodge Charger, 1997 Ford Ranger, 2009 Charger, 2001 Ford F250, 2003 Ford F250, 2013 Dodge Charger, and 2011 Dodge Charger.

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

Discussion: Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked if the cars are auctioned. Mr. Timonere said the cars are advertised in the paper for auction (its a bid process). There is also a designated day for people to view the vehicles at public works. Mr. Timonere said all police decals were removed. The police light bars can be

used on other vehicles the city buys for the Police Department. Mr. Guerriero asked about the average life expectancy for a police vehicle. Mr. Timonere says approximately 10 years. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills asked if other municipalities use hybrid cars. Mr. Timonere responded not for police cars. He said the city's police cars have to be all wheel drive. Mr. Guerriero asked how many cars does the city have? Mr. Timonere says the police department has approximately 28 cars. Mr. Roskovics commented and said there are city cars for the housing department and fire department as well.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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 Solicitor

Absent

Finance Director

Absent

Clerk of Council

None

City Council Committee Reports

**Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation
(4th Tuesday @ 5:00 p.m.)**

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

January 9 - 4:30 p.m.

February 27

March 26

April 23

May 28

June 25

Chair Jane Digiacoimo states the Parks and Recs Board needs more members. She asked the public to volunteer. James Timonere says the application to volunteer is on the city's website. Jane Digiacoimo made a statement saying there are over 500 million pickle balls manufactured in a year, the majority of them end up in landfills. There is a company that will send you a bin for free for you to put at your ports, once the bin is filled, the company will send you postage paid mailing label. You will need a box to place the balls in so that they can be recycled. Mr. Timonere addressed the concerns about the ADA accessible mats being moved closer to the water's edge. The mats are placed according ODNR guidelines.

Discussion: Mr. Timonere said with the new health department building being in a former doctor's office, the building needed only a few modifications. Mr. Timononer said the city feels it is necessary to update one of the bathrooms in the Health Department to comply with ADA standards. Secure doors, a generator, and new floors were added. The restroom renovations will be putout to bid sometime this year. The address for the Health Department is on Lake Avenue. The parking lot needs to be paved. Mrs. Mills said the DG market may partner with the Health Department for fresh food education. The next meeting is February 27, 2024. Patti Baldwin with the United Way will be the guest speaker.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Simeone

January 19

February 16

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Simeone

January 19 - canceled

February 16

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

Next meeting is February 16, 2024 at 8:30 am. The January meeting is canceled.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

(4th Tuesday @ 8:30 a.m.)

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

January 23

February 27

March 26

April 23

May 28

June 25

Next meeting is January 23, 2024 at 8:30am the department heads will be in attendance.

Safety Forces

(2nd Monday @ 8:45 a.m.)

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Simeone

January 8

February 12

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10

Discussion Mr. Timonoere said he mentioned reaching out to the current chair of the Civil Service Commission. He will do a presentation on The Commission Civil Service. Ms. Holman asked if the meetings are open to the public. Mr. Timonere and Mr. Roskovics said all meetings are open to the public.

The next meeting will be February 12, 2024. The guest is the Chair of the Civil Service Commission.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

The Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday Jan. 18, 2024 they are hearing an appeal from the Historical District.

President John Roskovics said the Historic Preservation Commission met last week and had four or five sign requests.

Presentation of Legislation

President John Roskovics presented the legislation.

Additional Formal Requests

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills moved to have a resolution drafted for Dr. Huang; Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo seconded

VOICE VOTE

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

Nays: None

Discussion: Mrs. Mills said an atrium is being name after Dr. Huang at the Ashtabula County Medical Center. He practiced for over 40 years and delivered over 5000 babies. He was devoted to his family, patients, and community. Mrs. Mills would like to honor him.

Public Communications on Legislation

None

Overview / Discussion

Reading of Legislation

Clerk of Council Ashley Bell read the titles of the legislation.

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

2024 - 08 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE LEASE OF MASSUCCI FIELD WITH THE SAINT JOHN YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE, INC.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 09

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER #1 WITH ECLIPSE COMPANY FOR ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE HIGHLAND BEACH STORM SEWER PROJECT

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

Motion: Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills seconded.

Discussion: None

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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; Vice President Russell Simeone seconded.

Discussion: None

Yeas: Members President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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; Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman seconded.

Discussion: None.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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

Ayes: President John Roskovics, Vice President Russell Simeone, 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

None

New Business

Mrs. Mills reminded everyone about the grand opening of Serendipity Massage Studio on Lake Ave. The grand opening and ribbon cutting will take place on January 17, 2024 at 12pm.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

President John Roskovics said the Architectural Board approved a sign for the new business Fork and cake. A bakery located on Bridge Street. He also said Bridge St Tavern will be opening. Mrs. Digiacomo said The Youngstown Business Incubator will host an event on January 23rd at the library from 5:30-7pm. Mrs. Digicomo also said the library is hosting a winter carnival on February 19th. A whole day of scheduled events and more information is on their website. On February 9th the United Way is hosting a "Galentines Luncheon" for women. On January 20th the library is hosting an event from 10am-11 "Every day manners for kids" for ages 5-12. Registration is required. Mrs. Mills wanted to remind everyone to check their smoke detectors. Mrs. Mills says they are free through the Fire Department. Mrs. Mills encourages everyone to be ready for emergencies: have flashlights, charge your cell phones, check on your neighbors. Mr. Timonoere says carbon monoxide detectors should be in the home. The city has had several fatalities in homes where there were non-working fire detectors.

Public Communications on General Matters

Kimberly Sims voiced a concern about the condition of the underpass on Center Street. She stated that the roads damaged her car. She contacted the city previously about repairing her car and did not receive any resolution.

She also expressed her need for a public pool and playground for children in her neighborhood. She was directed to fill out an application for the Parks and Rec Board.

Executive Session (if needed)

None

Adjournment

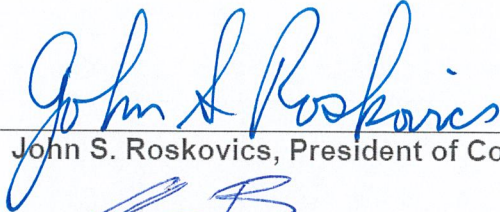
The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, February 5, 2024, in the Council Chambers. The Pre Council Meeting will begin at 6:30pm, followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00pm.

DATE APPROVED:

2-5-2024

ATTESTED BY:



John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:



Ashley Bell , Clerk of Council