



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, March 4, 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. Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed for Mrs. Bonnie Tulino Yost, a dispatcher for the Ashtabula County Sheriff's department, Secretary for the City Manager, and a dispatcher for the Coroner's Office.

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:

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

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 requested an Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of personnel employment.

Motion: President John Roskovics moved to adjourn to an Executive session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of personnel employment; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio seconded.

Discussion:

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.

Approval of Minutes

February 20, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Minutes

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

Formal request

An ordinance to deem obsolete, a 2001 International Truck, VIN 1HTSDAAR42H500847 for disposal.

Motion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman 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.

Formal request

An ordinance to enter into a new construction Community Reinvestment Area Tax Agreement with DSTRANS, LLC 1443 Bridge Street, Ashtabula OH 44004 at 100% for seven (7) years for the new residential dwelling, Permanent Parcel Number 68-409-10-007-01. An ordinance to enter into a new construction Community Reinvestment Area Tax Agreement with DSTRANS, LLC 1445 Bridge Street, Ashtabula OH 44004 at 100% for seven (7) years for the new residential dwelling, Permanent Parcel Number 68-409-10-007-02.

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

Discussion: Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman why tax abatement are offered at 100% as opposed to a lesser fraction to be mutually beneficial.

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 James Timonere wants to remind everyone that this Sunday we "Spring Forward" and lose one hour. He also said this is a good time to check your smoke detector. All fatal fires within the City limits have been due to non working smoke detectors. City Manager James Timonere also says the Fire Department will provide smoke detectors and install them.

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio asked the City Manager if there was a shortage in the Sanitation Department this morning. She said she observed one worker on Walnut Boulevard driving the truck and collecting garbage. City Manager James Timonere responded that he did not receive the attendance and he does not believe there was a shortage.

City Solicitor

None

Finance Director

None

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

February 27

March 26

April 23

May 28

June 25

Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo reported on the February 27, 2024, meeting.

At the Community Development /Economic Development/Parks and Recreation meeting the guest was Patti Baldwin-Andersen, the newly appointed Executive Director of The United Way. She shared The United Way has been in Ashtabula County for over 100 years. In 1920, the organization was started in the county and was known as the Community Chest Fund. Then, in 1974, it became a part of The United Way. The Ashtabula County United Way has 21 organizations that it helps. These organizations can come to The United Way with projects and apply for grant funding. This is a vetting process carried out by volunteers using a rubric rating system. Currently, the organization is accepting applications to become a volunteer. Please contact The United Way for more information. Currently, the organization has one employee. The organization would like to add two part-time people to their staff. Funding for this organization is largely driven by local employers whose employees are set up on payroll deductions contributing \$2-\$5 from their pay. 60% of the funding is raised this way. If your company is interested in this philanthropic endeavor, please contact Patti at The United Way. Last year, The United Way was able to give out just over \$364,000 to the community, according to Andersen.

During the meeting, City Manager James Timonere reported that work would begin soon on Smith Field. The project includes re-pavement of the track and the addition of basketball and tennis courts. Discussions were made about putting out applications for part-time park workers.

Ashtabula's Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 20 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Those who want to participate can RSVP by email to Clerk of Council Ashley Bell

(clerkofcouncil@cityofashtabula.com) by April 2. Prospective participants should include the number of volunteers in their groups, and the number of volunteers attending lunch.

Lunch will be provided by Signature Health. YMCA is donating the use of an all-purpose room.

Aqua is donating \$1,000 toward the clean-up. It will be taking charge of Walnut Beach.

Koski Construction will be paying their employees to clean Main Avenue from North Park to the tracks and all of Collins Boulevard on Friday, April 19.

The next meeting will be March 29, 2024.

Finance & Personnel

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

Members: Chair Foglio, Vice Chair DiGiacomo, Simeone

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio stated the committee will meet on March 15, 2024.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

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

Members: Chair Mills, Vice Chair Guerriero, Roskovics

February 27

March 26

April 23

May 28

June 25

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills presented the report from the February 27, 2024, meeting.

City Manager James Timonere stated the Assistant Superintendent of Water Pollution Control passed his Class Four Examination for his license certificate. There are 223 Class Four licensed operators in the state of Ohio.

Superintendent Craig Pierce provided a Water Pollution Control update.

Superintendent John Melnik provided a Public Works report.

Committee Chair Jodi Mills provided the committee purpose and introduced new committed members.

The next meeting will be March 26, 2024. Superintendent Lisa Newsome will be the guest speaker.

Discussion: President John Roskovics commented on the raising of water rates in the City of Akron.

City Manager James Timonere responded saying the City of Ashtabula is conducting a study and discussing how the rate increase will occur over a ten-year period. Mr. Timonere stated that an increase would happen in increments. He also said the City of Ashtabula has some of the lowest sewer rates in Northeast Ohio.

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero asked if a flashing draw bridge sign could be placed in another location to alert drivers that the draw bridge is up. City Manager James Timonere responded and said the lift bridge is owned by the State of Ohio and operated by Ashtabula County. Inquires have to be made about additional signage to the County and the State.

Safety Forces

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

Members: Chair Roskovics, Vice Chair Foglio, Simeone

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10

President John Roskovics stated the committee will meet on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 8:45 a.m.

Planning Commission and Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission

President John Roskovics provided a report for the Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission. He said during the meeting signage was discussed. He also reported that the Planning Commission approved houses being constructed on the Columbus Avenue Extension. President John Roskovics said there is room for three houses on the Columbus Avenue Extension. City Manager James Timonere said one owner purchased all three parcels.

Presentation of Legislation

Additional Formal Requests

Public Communications on Legislation

None.

Overview / Discussion

President John Roskovics introduced the legislation.

Reading of Legislation

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

Legislation - Enactment, Passage or Adoption

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 27 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF AN OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED VEHICLE

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 28 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR YARD WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES WITH BROBST TREE & STUMP SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-29 ORDINANCE RETAINING MCKENZIE BURGAN AS A TEMPORARY CONSULTANT TO THE CLERK OF COUNCIL, FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR WEEKS

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 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 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo moved to waive the reading of the legislation; 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 Charter Requirements of two readings of the legislation; Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio 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

None.

New Business

Ward 2 Councilor Terence Guerriero advised the public to avoid traveling on Columbus Avenue because of construction. City Manager James Timonere responded and said there were signs indicating the road closures. He also stated that the only people that should be traveling in that area

are the residents of that area. City Manager James Timonere indicated you can use Harbor Avenue or 21st Street to Route 11.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio announced that Little League sign-ups are available until March 8, 2024, at www.ashtabulalittleleague.com. She mentioned Our Lady of Peace is hosting a Fish Friday every Friday from 4pm-7pm, available for dine-in or take out.

Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills provided an update from the Access to Care Committee. She mentioned that the committee met on Thursday, February 29, 2024. She stated the new Health Ashtabula County website is live. You can explore the website for tutorials, events, and resources. The committee's mission is to improve the health of Ashtabula County residents. Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills also mentioned that Sunset Taxi will shuttle people from the warming center on Lake Avenue to the RAM Clinic that will take place at Lakeside High School.

Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman mentioned that she will have a report from the Ad Hoc Committee. She stated 11 people were at their previous meeting and the next meeting will take place on March 26, 2024. The committee is also hosting a community event in April.

President John Roskovics mentioned Connie Shultz was at The Art Center for a book signing. He also mentioned the local newspaper that wrote a story about a sign in Ashtabula that says "Home of Connie Shultz."

Public Communications on General Matters

Ann Stevenson addressed council about a previous concern. She lives on West 10th Street. She spoke at the previous council meeting and expressed her concern about a Boarding House on her street. City Manager James Timonere stated he is looking into the Boarding House. He also mentioned he has spoken with the City Solicitor, Assistant Solicitor, as well as the Planning and Development Department in regard to the Boarding House. At this time, City of Ashtabula officials are discussing if updates need to be made to zoning and ordinances. President John Roskovics advised Ms. Stevenson to contact the Planning and Community Development Department with any concerns. City Manager James Timonere provided the phone number for the Planning and Community Development Department, 440-992-7118. Ms. Stevenson also mentioned a person in her neighborhood who has live chickens. She mentioned that sometimes the chickens are in the street. City Manager James Timonere said the animals have to be in a fenced-in area.

Executive Session (if needed)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. by Council President Roskovics.

Ashtabula City Council will meet again on Monday, March 18, 2024 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:

March 18, 2024

ATTESTED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

Ashley M. Bell
Ashley M. Bell, Clerk of Council