

Call to Order

Council met in a **REGULAR MEETING**. The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Ceremony (Prayer/Pledge/Moment of Silence)

The Clerk of Council offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

Members Present: Mr. Richard F. Balog, (Ward 1)
Mr. James M. Trisket, (Ward 5)
Mrs. Ann I. Stranman, (Ward 3)
Mr. August A. Pugliese, (Ward 2)
Mr. Christopher J. McClure, (Vice President)
Mr. JP Ducro IV, (President)

Member(s) Absent: Mrs. Julie A. Lattimer, (Ward 4)

Officer(s) Present: City Manager James M. Timonere, City Solicitor Michael Franklin
City Auditor Dana D. Pinkert, Clerk of Council LaVette E. Hennigan

Officer(s) Absent: None

Excused Absence: The President announced having not heard from the Ward 4 Councilor that he hoped she was alright. No action was taken to excuse the Ward 4 Councilor from this meeting.

Sunshine Law: The Clerk of Council certified conformity to the Sunshine Law.

Presentations

The President reported he was an Ashtabula High School track coach for 10 years; therefore knows what a feat it is to qualify for a state track meet. He thanked Otis Conel for representing the City of Ashtabula, said everyone was very proud of him, and congratulated him on his accomplishment. The President presented Otis Conel with **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-106 A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING OTIS CONEL ON PLACING 9TH IN THE OHIO STATE TRACK MEET BOY'S 400 METER DASH**. Mr. Donald Rapose, Principal, Lakeside High School, said "Otis' dedication to his athletics and academics are second to none. He exemplifies what we are trying to do at Lakeside. Through his heart, character, and desire, it got him there, and it's going to take him to great places in life – there's no doubt in my mind." His brother, Kyle Conel, just went to state for wrestling, and was recognized for his accomplishment at a recent council meeting. "Wish we had another year with him (Otis) at Lakeside.

REGULAR AGENDA

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Declaration of State of Emergency: The City Manager requested a resolution declaring a State of Emergency (SOE) due to flooding conditions on June 27 and 28, 2013, in the City of Ashtabula, Ohio. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to grant the Manager's request. The City Manager said he had been inundated with phone calls reporting flooded basements. Three inches of rain fell in a two to three hour period. The Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) registered about 23 million gallons at the time of the event. There is City infrastructure and personal property damage from the storm. By declaring SOE, the County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is placed on notice; reports are being compiled and calls continue to pour in. It will be the County EMA's decision whether the SOE request "goes up the ranks or not". The Manager said there are strict guidelines to follow to be considered for funding relief, and believes there is a slim chance we will be successful.

The Solicitor stated, "There does not appear to be any provision in our Administrative Code for declaring a state of disaster. We can declare a state of emergency. I think disaster is primarily a state and federal term that triggers the release of certain assets (FEMA, etc.). The Fire Chief and I were going over Chapter 107 of our Administrative Code today. It authorizes the City Manager to make the initial call and declare a SOE. But it makes it incumbent upon City Council to then meet as soon as possible and approve that SOE, so that the funding, or potential sources of funding and reimbursement that the Manager has referred to can be applied for".

The Manager reported the normal daily water processed at the WWTP is around five million gallons. Once the pipes were filled there was nowhere for the water to go; hence flooded basements, roads, yards, etc.

The motion CARRIED.

Sanitation: The Manager announced damaged belongings from the flood may be taken to the Transfer Station (TS) and disposed of, free of charge. He asked that the items be weighed for this information will be used for emergency funding reporting. He asked citizens to be patient with regularly scheduled garbage pickup; and that bulky items may not be placed at curbside for regular pickup, but should be delivered to the TS.

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The TS will be closed Thursday, and reopen on Saturday. He asked that storm damage (including address and phone number) be reported to his office at 992-7103.

Questions and/or Comments For The City Manager

West 9th Street Road Opening Repair: The President asked for an update. The Manager reported the hole was filled again on Saturday. The contractor will be on site as soon as possible to make the permanent repair.

Sofa in Road: The President reported a sofa had fallen into the road at 5036 Reed Avenue. It was pushed onto the treenlawn, and will be removed when schedules permit. The Manager confirmed this to be correct.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT - None

CITY AUDITOR'S REPORT

Sewer Assessment Certification: The Auditor reported her staff is working on certifying unpaid sewer and trash bills to the County. The deadline to bring sewer accounts current is August 2, at 12:15 p.m. Nuisance abatement (unpaid trash) notification will be published in the Star Beacon newspaper. She said the language that will appear in the newspaper is strong, but primarily means delinquent trash accounts. The Auditor suggested those who appear in the newspaper for nuisance abatement should also check to see if there are outstanding sewer payments, because sewer will not appear in the newspaper. She said a steady flow of payments are coming in, as is customary at certification time.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

Community / Economic Development / Parks & Recreation (Mrs. Stranman/Mr. Balog)

July Meeting: The Chair reported the Committee will not meet in July.

Parks & Recreation Board (Board) Funding: The Chair announced the Board drafted a fundraising policy and submitted it to this Committee for review and comment. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to grant the Board's request for an ordinance implementing a fundraising policy. The Clerk asked if the policy is only for this Board or the entire City government. The Solicitor said the draft he prepared was strictly for park improvement and beautification; not to say another policy could not be drafted using this one. The Chair suggested keeping the policy specific would allow Council to review individual requests. The motion CARRIED.

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Renaming West 58th Street Park: In keeping with the P&R Board's request, Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to rename West 58th Street Park to Presidential Park. This is appropriate streets in the immediate area are named after presidents. This matter was discussed in detail at this evening's Pre-Council meeting. The Vice President said he does not want it to appear that the Presidential Manor Apartments, located next to the park, own the park. The Chair suggested a sign we placed on West 58th Street pointing back to the park and announcing the name. The motion CARRIED.

Appropriation for Mulch: Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to appropriate, in an amount not to exceed \$8,000, out of the Parks & Recreation funding for playground mulch for Nappi Field. The President reported the Board obtained three other quotes but they did not include installation. The motion CARRIED.

Finance and Personnel - (Mr. Ducro IV/Mrs. Lattimer)

The Chair announced the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 12, at 8:00 a.m.

Public Works / Utilities / Schools – (Mr. August Pugliese/Mrs. Lattimer)

The Chair announced there to be no report, and that the Committee will not meet in July.

Safety Forces – (Mr. Balog/Mr. Trisket)

The Chair announced the Committee will meet on Friday, July 19, at 8:00 a.m. The agenda will consist of licensing of non-emergency ambulance services, and the possible placement of a police levy on the November 5, general election ballot.

Work Session - No Report

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT (Legislation Only) - None

LEGISLATION READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-104 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING IN ITS ENTIRETY CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 937.02, ENTITLED LEVY OF CHARGES, was presented for its first reading. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. The ordinance was placed on its first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-105 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 937.02, ENTITLED LEVY OF CHARGES, was presented for its first reading. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance. The Manager reported the analysis performed on his home over the three year sewer increase period resulted in his sewer bill increasing by \$3.52 bi-month. The motion CARRIED. The ordinance was placed on its first reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-107 A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO FLOODING CONDITIONS DURING JUNE 27TH AND 28TH, 2013, IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, was presented. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the resolution; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to adopt the resolution; motion CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing: The President announced Council will meet in a public hearing on Monday, July 15, at 5:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, for the presentation of the 2014 City of Ashtabula Tax Budget. The public is welcome.

Bands-on-the-Beach: The second installment is scheduled for Sunday, July 6, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

No Park Signs: The Manager reported Traffic Foreman, Kelly Prine, suggested the removal of the no parking signs on Murray, Edwards, and Hiram Avenues. They were erected when McKinsey Elementary School was in the area. Mr. Trisket moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to grant the request; motion CARRIED.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Fireworks Policy: The Vice President asked the Solicitor to speak to the City's fireworks policy. The Solicitor responded: There are a number of fireworks related offenses.

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You can be charged with a first degree misdemeanor (0 to 180 days in jail and/or \$0 to \$1000 fine per offense). Fireworks can seem to be fun; they are fun to watch; but there are only few fireworks experts permitted to ignite them. He urged citizens to steer away from private displays of fireworks, and from setting off fireworks as a private citizen, because by doing so you may put people and property in harm's way.

Community Picnic: My Neighborhood Group will sponsor a community picnic on Saturday, July 20, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at West 58th Street Park.

Community Events:	Beach Glass Festival (Bridge Street)	July 28
	Multi-Cultural Festival (Cornelius Park)	July 27 & 28
	TABS (The Arts on Bridge Street)	July 27

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

CLOSING REMARKS

"Remember to Keep Believing in Ashtabula"

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.; motion CARRIED.

DATE APPROVED: **September 3, 2013**

ATTESTED BY: _____

JP Ducro IV
President of Council

ATTESTED BY: _____

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
Clerk of Council