

Council met in a **SPECIAL MEETING**. The President of Council called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., the Ward 4 Councilor offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

Member(s) Present: **Mr. August A. Pugliese** (Ward 2)
 Mrs. Julie A. Lattimer (Ward 4)
 Mrs. Ann I. Stranman (Ward 3)
 Mr. Richard F. Balog (Ward 1)
 Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)
 Mr. J.P. Ducro IV (President)

Member(s) Absent: **Mr. James M. Trisket** (Ward 5)

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

Officer(s) Absent: **City Solicitor Michael Franklin** (attendance not required)

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

PURPOSE: The President announced the purpose of this Special Meeting was to permit Council to consider legislation pertinent to the operations of the City, and vote on the 2013 budget for the City of Ashtabula.

WELCOME: No visitors present at the start of the meeting. Star Beacon reporter, Warren Dillaway, arrived later in the meeting.

DISCUSSION

- The budget remains the same as it was at the December 3 Public Hearing and December 17 Regular Council meeting where it was presented and placed on its first reading; still waiting to hear back from Public Employees Retirement System in order to determine if can offer early retirement buyout to some who are within two years of retirement; would have to take out a loan to do so which Auditor and Treasurer Lori Mackey are working on;
- Auditor reported will be receiving extra inheritance tax revenue, but the amount is not set in stone; it will be added to the budget;
- No layoff notices have gone out; Manager has been in contact with 1197 union president Joe Bento;
- No workforce changes have been made;
- Police & Fire Pension service years cannot be purchased; their buyout has to be in the form of a cash payout to the employee; Council will have to decide if early buyout would be extended to these employees;
- The buyout focus is on 1197 union personnel, specifically the Public Works Department; three employees are on board if the City is able to make the offer;
- Layoff numbers are the same (9 from Public Works); bumping rights are sure to be enacted;
- If 1197 union is firm on having Manager send part-time employees (which have no health benefits) home first, then 11 from Public Works will be laid off;
- If part-time employees in Auditor's Department are laid off various cuts to services will have to be made, (e.g., close the sewer/trash window);

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- The challenges the City faces with not being able to maintain current staffing levels were acknowledged;
- All Alternatives will be discussed with 1197 union;
- If the Administration and Council are forced to strictly abide by the 1197 union contract and layoff according to the order found therein, the consequences will be that sewer billing will get behind, and if that happens revenue cannot be collected that is not billed, and it will create the same unpleasant and unproductive scenario it did in the recent past;
- It was noted that “the budget is the budget”, changes in staffing will have to be made in order to meet the budget; and
- It is common knowledge that the Local Government Fund revenue has been drastically cut and more cuts might come.

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUEST

Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to formally request ORDINANCE NO. 2012-208 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF ELEVEN POLICE CARS. The Manager reported the price is good for 2013, they will be 6-cylinder Dodge Chargers, old vehicles will be traded in, Crown Victoria's are no longer produced, vehicles cost \$10,000 less than if purchased through State Purchasing, major police equipment will be transferred from used vehicles to new ones, K9 equipment transfer is extra, Manager will get quote to install K9 equipment, 2.49% lease interest, first payment due twelve months after vehicles received, vehicles will belong to City's at the end of lease for the cost of \$1.00, and the vehicles could be purchased outright but why do so at such a good interest rate. The motion CARRIED.

Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to formally request ORDINANCE NO. 2012-209 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK TO FINANCE THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF ELEVEN POLICE CARS. City will pay \$12,000 in interest. The motion CARRIED.

Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to formally request ORDINANCE NO. 2012-210 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2012-195, PASSED ON DECEMBER 3, 2012, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING, BY 2%, THE 2013 SALARIES OF ALL NON-UNION EXEMPT AND NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING THE POSITIONS OF DEPUTY CITY AUDITOR) AND GENERAL FORMAN PUBLIC WORKS), AND REDUCING THE ANNUAL SALARY OF THE SITTING CLERK OF COURTS UPON HER RETIREMENT AND RETURN TO SAID POSITION. It was reported that the Clerk of Courts salary was believed to be reduced by 10%, amounting to about a \$3,500 reduction. The motion CARRIED.

Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to formally request ORDINANCE NO. 2012-211 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO. When asked why the Manager's salary remains the same in this payroll ordinance he responded that his voluntary \$10,000 is documented by a letter to the Auditor, which Council was copied on, and will be taken through a payroll deduction. He then announced that the Solicitor also took a voluntary \$3,500 pay decrease.

He, too, did so by a letter to the Auditor which Council was not copied on, and his salary reduction will also be taken through a payroll deduction. When asked why not just reduce the payroll ordinance amount, it was reported that payroll deduction was the method of choice and that it is how it was done by the previous city manager. The Clerk of Council reported, for the record, that the reduction was made to the payroll ordinance after the letter from the former city manager and the City Solicitor was received announcing their voluntary pay decreases. Councilor Pugliese reported that when he was city manager and took a voluntary pay decrease he, too, submitted a letter. The motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-207 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO FROM JANUARY 1, 2013 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013, was presented for its second reading. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to adopt the ordinance. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Pugliese (nay), Mrs. Lattimer, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea. The motion CARRIED by a 5 to 1 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-208 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF ELEVEN POLICE CARS, was presented. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-209 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK TO FINANCE THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF ELEVEN POLICE CARS, was presented. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-210 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2012-195, PASSED ON DECEMBER 3, 2012, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING, BY 2%, THE 2013 SALARIES OF ALL NON-UNION EXEMPT AND NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEES, EXCLUDING THE POSITIONS OF DEPUTY CITY AUDITOR AND GENERAL FORMAN PUBLIC WORKS, AND REDUCING THE ANNUAL SALARY OF THE SITTING CLERK OF COURTS UPON HER RETIREMENT AND RETURN TO SAID POSITION, was presented.

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Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. The President asked if the Deputy City Auditor's rehire wages would be the same. The Auditor responded yes and commented on the Public Employees Retirement System's rehire rules. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-211 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, was presented. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Adjourn

Mr. Pugliese moved, Ms. Balog seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: **February 4, 2013**

ATTESTED BY: _____

J.P. Ducro IV
President of Council

ATTESTED BY: _____

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
Clerk of Council