

Council met in a **REGULAR MEETING**. The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., the Ward 4 Councilor offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

Moment of Silence: A moment of silence was observed for the recent passing of Mrs. Palma Rose, a former City employee and lifetime resident.

Members Present: Mrs. Julie A. Lattimer (Ward 4)
Mr. Richard F. Balog (Ward 1)
Mr. James M. Trisket (Ward 5)
Mrs. Ann I. Stranman (Ward 3)
Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)
Mr. J.P. Ducro IV (President)

Member(s) Absent: Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2)

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: Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Balog seconded to excuse the Ward 2 Councilor from the meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Property & Liability Insurance

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc., of 2 Summit Park Drive, Suite 235 Independence, OH 44131 for submittal of the lowest and best proposal for the City of Ashtabula's Property Liability Insurance coverage. Funding for this expenditure in the amount not to exceed \$264,203.00, will be paid and taken from the following accounts:

One half of the premium of \$132,101.50 to be paid in 2012 from Account Number 101-221-5630 in the amount of \$82,101.50; Account Number 503-150-5630 in the amount of \$50,000.00.

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One half of the premium of \$132,101.50 to be paid in 2013 from Account Number 101-221-5630 in the amount of \$82,101.50; Account Number 503-150-5630 in the amount of \$50,000.00.

The City Manager reported the premiums high because insurance companies are being aggressive in collecting what is owed them; because insurance claim settlements from last year and this year are being finalized, and because we only bid out for one year contracts. He suggested the next bid be for a two or three year period. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to grant the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Application, Round 27 Funding

The City Manager requested an ordinance authorizing him to submit an application with the Ohio Public Works Commission, Round 27 for the West Harbor Sewer Improvements. The estimated project cost will be \$495,700.00 with a request of OPWC funding for \$247,850.00. This is a 50/50 split between the City of Ashtabula and OPWC. The project breakdown is as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Total Project Cost: | \$495,700 |
| City's Portion: | \$247,850 |
| OPWC Funding Request Amount: | \$247,850 (\$100,000 will be a 20 year, zero % loan; \$147,850 will be a grant to the City. |
| Funding Set Aside: | 2013 |
| Estimated Start Date: | July 2013 |
| Project Title: | West 9 th Street Tributary ("televise and clean sewers on W. 9 th Street, from the end of Walnut Boulevard [and Norwood is the junction there], all the way down W. 9 th Street. We would then come back to the end of Walnut Boulevard – the north side of W. 9 th Street and work those sewers until funding has been depleted." The funding will be taken from the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Permanent Improvement Fund. |

The City Manager reported that the WWTP improvements already scheduled are on track. The above project is significant to the overall improvements. We are hoping that the flooding problems experienced in the Arlington area (and other areas) will be "flushed out" with this project, said the Manager. The Vice President said this is one of the major projects needed to get away from the "band aid" fixes. The Manager said Saybrook's pump station comes into the West 9th Tributary, therefore this project will "effect both sides of the track", so to speak. The Manager said he originally wanted to do the entire north side of Walnut Boulevard, but the cost at two million dollars was prohibitive. Continued work in the same area will give the City more OPWC points towards future funding.

The Manager reported the City does not have a set plan for what OPWC funds we are going after. He said the CDBG Formula Grant application the City submitted is to purchase a sewer camera to televise mains and laterals, so the City itself can perform much of the investigative work. When this happens, things will be found that will have to be repaired and replaced. The Manager hopes the City's camera will be able to be worked into the West 9th Street Tributary project, thus allowing more funds to put towards other aspects of the project. He reiterated that, "the project will cover all of West 9th Street, come back to the end of Walnut Boulevard at the West 9th Street intersection, and work east and north until funds are depleted. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to grant the Manager's request. The President asked if paving will be included in this project. The Manager said if a major street cut has to be performed, the project will include paving, but the funds remaining at that point will determine how far east the paving will take place. The motion CARRIED.

Sanitation Truck

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Dalin Truck & Auto of 3041 South Ridge West, Ashtabula, OH 44004 in the amount not to exceed \$12,074.50 for the repair of a Sanitation Department truck. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from Account Number 412-200-5531. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to grant the Manager's request. The Auditor reported the funds will be taken from the Sanitation Permanent Improvement Fund. The Manager reported the repair began at a cost of eight or nine thousand dollars. More engine work was needed than anticipated which increased the repair to over \$12,000, at which time an ordinance is required in order to pay the invoice. The motion CARRIED.

Planning Commission Attendance Policy Change

The City Manager requested, on behalf of the Planning Commission, an ordinance to repeal Section 165.05 titled "MEETINGS, RULES, RECORDS, ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM" and an ordinance to replace section 165.05 with the following:

"The Planning Commission shall hold meetings regularly at least once in every month, and shall designate the time and place thereof. It shall adopt its own rules of procedure and shall keep a record of its proceedings. Five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn, from time to time. All proceedings of the Commission shall be public. In the event a member accumulates three (3) unexcused absences in a row or five (5) unexcused absences in a calendar year, the member will automatically be dismissed from the Commission immediately upon their third consecutive unexcused absence or fifth unexcused absence in a calendar year. The Chairperson shall notify the body who appointed the member of the dismissal.

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In the event the President of the Commission is the dismissed member, the next ranking Officer of the Commission shall notify the body who appointed the member of the dismissal. The dismissed member shall be notified by his/her appointing body. The body who appointed the individual will be responsible for appointing a new member. An individual who is removed from the Commission cannot be re-appointed for one (1) year from the date of his/her dismissal. Excused absences should be communicated to the Chairperson and/or City Representative to the Commission by telephone or email in advance of the meeting. An attendance list with excused or unexcused absences should be kept and reviewed at each meeting of the Commission."

The Manager reported the Commission adopted this verbiage in August 2011, when he was a member, but never presented the request to Council for consideration. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to grant the Manager's request. The Ward 4 Councilor said she favors this legislation and knows the need for it having been a member of the Commission at one time. The President concurs. He said this to be a very important volunteer body which needs to conduct business in a timely manner. The motion CARRIED.

Apology: The President apologized for the late start of this evening's meeting due to the Pre-Council agenda load; and thanked the audience for their patience.

Planning Commission Appointment

The City Manager announced the appointment of Mr. Nick Detore to the Planning Commission effective immediately with a term to expire on May 12, 2015. The Clerk advised that Council's approval is not required. The Clerk also reported she spoke with the Manager regarding the appointment procedure for Planning Commission as it relates to two appointments on the Administrative Board.

Discussion Procedure: The Clerk respectfully informed the body politic that discussion should not be a part of a request. But rather the proper order is to make the request, move and second the request, which puts it to the Council for discussion, and then a vote.

K-9 Program

The Manager requested an ordinance to enter into K-9 Handler agreements with three City police officers, and further authorizing payment of an amount not to exceed \$34,032.00 over a three year period and settlement of potential F.L.S.A. claim. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to grant the Manager's request. The Ward 4 Councilor thanked the Manager and Solicitor for their work in returning the K-9 units to active duty. The Vice President asked if the K-9s will return tomorrow with the passage of this legislation. The Solicitor they would like to reenact the program as soon as possible.

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Two K-9s have current certification; one will have to be recertified, which means 3 to 5 weeks before returning to service. The President also thanked the Manager and Solicitor. He also thanked the three handlers who allowed the City to work with them to restore the program, and do so in a way that was fair to them and manageable for the City. The Manager announced the three Officers are Lieutenant Rodney Blaney, Patrolman James Hildebrand, and Patrolman Chris DeFina. The motion CARRIED.

2013 Paving Program

Paving will begin the week of September 2, and should be finished within a week and a half.

2012-2013 School Year

School begins next week. Be careful of the students and buses when travelling around town. He wished the students, teacher, staff, and administration a good season. He encouraged the community to support the students athletically and academically.

Wine & Walleye Festival

The festival is scheduled for this weekend and attendance was encouraged.

Garbage Pick Up Schedule

Garbage pick-up will be one day behind schedule for the week of September 3, due to the Labor Day Holiday. Friday's pick up will be on Saturday. The Transfer Station and Sanitation Office will be closed on September 3, however, will be opened on Saturday, September 8, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tire Amnesty Grant

The City received a \$10,000 Tire Amnesty grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Therefore, on Saturday, September 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., residents will be allowed to dispose of up to 4 passenger tires at the Transfer Station free no charge. Anything in excess of 4 will be assessed normal tire disposal rates. Mary Church, Planning & Community Development Department Project Coordinator helped to secure the grant and will administer it.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR THE MANAGER

Tire Amnesty: The Ward 5 Councilor asked if proof of residency is requested to dispose of tires. The Manager replied yes, because the grant was secured for the City of Ashtabula, and should benefit its residents. He reported another amnesty tire day will be planned for later in the year if funds remain after the first day.

Street Cuts

The Ward 3 Councilor reported a Kain Avenue road cut, located a few houses up from West 47th Street, was patched, sunk, was patched again and is now sinking again. The Manager reported Aqua Ohio is going to get in touch with the paving contractor and ask that they perform "further repairs" on street cuts. Aqua Ohio has been busy tending to an elderly system, which they recently acquired from Ohio American Water Company.

The Ward 5 Councilor asked if Dominion East Ohio Gas provided a date they are planning to repair the street cut on West Avenue and West 51st Street. The Manager replied no, but that he would follow up.

Sanitation Department

The Manager announced a member of the Sanitation staff submitted his resignation effective September 14. The position has been posted and accepted internally. The Auditor's Department has been given a little time to determine how to proceed with the loss of their part-time staff member who was the successful bidder. Also, Friday was the application deadline for persons interested in temporarily working in the Sanitation Department to help the Department get caught up. There are good candidates, interviews are hopeful for this week, and the persons chosen will have to go through the employment screening process.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT - None

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR THE CITY SOLICITOR - None

CITY AUDITOR'S REPORT

Financials: The year-to-date report for major funds was included in this evening's packet. The public may contact the Auditor to secure a copy.

Sewer Billing: The Auditor reported she is working closely with Accountant Simons to learn the billing process. There is a problem with the procedure and time it takes to get through the process. She provided a timeline for when the upcoming sewer/trash statements will go out.

The Auditor reported she is working with Aqua Ohio regarding the possibility of their firm performing the City's sewer billing and a few other functions.

Staffing: The Auditor's Department is losing a part-time employee to full time service in Sanitation, and asked the public to exercise patience with billing.

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QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR THE ACTING CITY AUDITOR - None

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Mural: The Chair reported the Smith Field mural is in progress.

Meeting: The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5, at 6:00 p.m.

Finance and Personnel - (Mr. Ducro, IV/Mrs. Lattimer): the Committee met on August 10 and discussed Street Lighting Assessments, Nuisance Abatement, and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Monetary Donations: The City Treasurer or City Auditor shall send notice to all City boards, commissions, and departments outlining the procedure for receiving monetary donations in any form.

Income Tax: The Treasurer is watching the numbers very closely because a \$60,000 shortfall in an already tight budget is problematic.

Health Insurance: The Manager told the Committee that departments should be educated on what is being spent on premiums and payouts, in order for staff to have a true picture of one of the City's expenses, which they may directly affect.

Legislation Request: Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisquet seconded for an ordinance to enact an amended 2012 budget; motion CARRIED.

Public Works / Utilities / Schools – (Mr. August Pugliese/Mrs. Lattimer): The Ward 1 Councilor reported the Committee met on Tuesday, August 14, and discussed; the following:

1. Aqua Ohio

a. Waterline Replacement Requirements

Messrs. Mancari and Fusco reported:

- * 1 inch cooper pipes are required in most instances;
- * Ohio American Water required ¾ inch IP plastic pipes;
- * The use of cooper piping has been Aqua’s standard for over 36 years;
- * Aqua’s engineer has reviewed the requirements;
- * The durability of cooper vs plastic has been reviewed;
- * There are some approved plastic service lines (2 inch HDPE (High Dense Polyethylene); this is reduced to 1 inch coming into the home; and requires a meter vault at the road;
- * The meter vault purchase, installation, and maintenance is the homeowner’s responsibility; Aqua would replace the meters “and do those types of things”;
- * If a plastic line is used the home has to be set back at least 200 foot off the road;
- * Added cost is associated with the use of cooper including the addition of \$500 for a meter vault;
- * Cooper is more durable;
- * Cooper is easy to locate;
- * Cooper is not subject to harmful materials that would erode it easily;
- * Water flow is easier to stop when a cooper pipe is hit;
- * Less than 20% of lines in Ashtabula are plastic;
- * Newly installed service lines are required to be inspected;
- * Cooper lines protect the customer;
- * 20% of the water meter reads are performed by driving by the location; at some point this will be the standard procedure;
- * Water purveyors may take a look at non cooper piping if cooper material rates increase to the point of making the product cost prohibitive; and
- * Aqua representatives will provide this Committee Chair with documentation outlining other water purveyor’s waterline requirements.

Water Line Insurance: Aqua representatives said Home Serve, while not an Aqua company, has been authorized by Aqua to mail a waterline insurance offer to Aqua’s 3 million customers. Aqua may at some point look at an insurance division to handle this type activity in-house.

Road Openings: The Chair asked Aqua representatives to make sure they contact the Planning & Community Development Department prior to opening a road for a residential project. He said recently a sewer lateral was cut in the area of West 9th Street, and would like to see the area to be cut, marked, as a standard procedure. Aqua representatives said they use OPS and will be sure to notify the Planning & Community Development Department two to three days prior to opening a road.

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Credit for Filling Swimming Pool: The Chair reported years ago the City would require residents to submit an application if they wanted credit for filling their pool at the beginning of the season. The City would obtain the meter read and credit their sewer rent one time a year; no topping off credits would be issued. The City Manager told the Committee that Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, Michael Mearini, said the City is able to purchase flow meters for \$75 to \$150, which then could be rented to out to residents. Aqua does not issue credit for pool fills. No plan of action was discussed.

Request to Remove Walnut Boulevard Stop Signs (at Union Avenue): The Manager told the Committee a resident asked that the stop signs on Walnut Boulevard at Union Avenue be removed. The Committee Chair reported the same request was discussed one and a half years ago. It was determined that while the stop signs were installed due to the number of accidents at the corner of Walnut Boulevard and Lake Avenue where Harbor High School formerly was located, it is still needed for the same reason.

Tire Day: Public Services Superintendent Dominic Iarocci told the Committee that Tire Amnesty Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Four (4) tires will be permitted to be disposed of for free; thereafter the cost will be \$2.00 per tire without rims, and \$3.00 per tire with rims. No roll-offs will be permitted. The special day will be advertised in the newspaper. The Manager reported this day is possible due to the \$10,000 Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant the City received.

Other Topics Discussed: Emergency Traffic Control Response Equipment; Cornelius Park Gazebo Reservations, damage to Walnut Beach lifeguard stands; G.O. Ministries upcoming baseball camp, the Manager giving Public Works authority to chain off the alley behind Shea's Theatre for safety purposes; paving grindings; a lease on two trucks Council authorized; Sanitation Department revenues and expenses, Mary Street Hill catch basins will be installed soon, and that crews are helping Bridge Street to ready for the Wine & Walleye Festival.

Safety Forces – (Mr. Balog/Mr. Trisket): The Chair announced there was no report; but that the Committee would meet on Friday, September 21, at 8:00 a.m.

Work Session: The President announced there will be a work session once the Manager makes contact with Painesville regarding their Crime Free Multi-Housing Program, which program the Manager and Council are interested in seeing being here.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATION) PORTION - None

LEGISLATION READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-126 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 505.14 ENTITLED PIT BULL TERRIERS OR OTHER VICIOUS DOGS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERMITTING PIT BULL TERRIERS IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, 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: Mrs. Lattimer (nay); Mr. Balog (yea), Mr. Trisket (yea), Mrs. Stranman (yea), Mr. McClure (yea), Mr. Ducro (yea). The motion CARRIED by a 5-1 vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-127 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 505.14 ENTITLED VICIOUS DOGS; PIT BULL TERRIERS, was presented for its second reading. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance. The Ward 4 Councilor said, "I just feel that the legislation doesn't have any allowance for anything other than the APL, and I feel it's a little restrictive." The motion CARRIED. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to adopt the ordinance. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Lattimer (nay); Mr. Balog (yea), Mr. Trisket (yea), Mrs. Stranman (yea), Mr. McClure (yea), Mr. Ducro (yea). The motion CARRIED by a 5-1 vote. The President said, "Just from my personal perspective, I don't like that we restrict what type of a pet a person can or cannot own in our City. However, I am in favor of this legislation because it's a least more lenient than the previous legislation that we had in place. So, I think this will continue to be revisited in the future. But, for the time being, I think that it at least gives the opportunity for our APL that has pit bull animals that couldn't find homes in the City, an opportunity to find homes for them. Thank you."

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-135 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF "HOME TOWN OF URBAN MEYER" SIGNS ON MAJOR STREETS AND ROADS WHERE THEY ENTER 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. The Vice President said this ordinance means a lot to the Ward 2 Councilor for he knows Mr. Meyers. The Ward 3 Councilor said while the request for the ordinance was unexpected, the timing is right since Mr. Meyer is now the head football coach for Ohio State University. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mrs. Lattimer; Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro vote yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Lattimer; Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro vote yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-136 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AMENDED REVENUE PROJECTIONS AND AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, FROM JANUARY 1, 2012 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012, 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: Mrs. Lattimer; Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro vote yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Lattimer; Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro vote yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-137 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., TO PROVIDE INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR, 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: Mrs. Lattimer; Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro vote yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Lattimer; Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro vote yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-138 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO K-9 HANDLER AGREEMENTS WITH THREE (3) POLICE OFFICERS, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$34,032.00 OVER A THREE (3) YEAR PERIOD IN SETTLEMENT OF POTENTIAL F.L.S.A. CLAIMS, 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: Mrs. Lattimer; Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro vote yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Lattimer; Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro vote yea; motion CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Speed Signs: The Vice President asked for the status of Wade Avenue speed signs. The Manager said the contract signing caused a delay in their delivery, that they are in, but there are no flashers. He reported a temporary caution sign was placed on a West 32nd Street pole.

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NEW BUSINESS – None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

New Elementary Schools: The President announced he attended the open house, and that it was “a wonderful affair”, and we are fortunate to have them in our community.

G.O. Ministries: The President reported he caught the end of the baseball clinic. He said in our little community were former Cleveland Indians Baseball players Joe Charbonneau, Kevin Rhomberg (utility man, but infielder), and James Timothy “Mudcat” Grant, conducted a youth baseball clinic behind G.O. Ministries. The baseball field was totally redone by entities of the community; Andover Bank provided labor, a meal, and a donation; Thomas Fence and a local lawn care company did a beauty job on the grounds; Sports & Sports donated the bases; up to 50 youth participated; and unfortunately it coincided with the opening day of Midget Football, which meant youth that perhaps would have participated could not. The President reported Cleveland Indians Charities presented a grant check for \$5,000 to continue refurbishing of the ball field.

Mr. Jones: The President announced Mr. Mitchell Jones, Branch Manager at FirstMerit Bank, Park Avenue, was installed as the pastor of Miracle Temple Church of God in Christ on East 15th Street. CONGRATULATIONS!

Foodies: The President announced the Ashtabula County Foodies Cash Mob has gained momentum through the internet and facebook areas. They have over 500 members that targets local eateries on a night that might be slow for business. They have had anywhere from 20 to 60 people at an event. The President reported he has attended several of the scheduled mobs, the latest being HilMak’s. He said it is a great help to small business owners, and encouraged purchasing locally.

Wine and Walleye Festival: The Ward 4 Councilor encouraged attendance at the Festival Friday through Sunday.

New Main Avenue Business: The President announced Red Horse Café and Bake Shop opened on Main Avenue

Ward Redistricting: The President announced the City Solicitor’s office perform a lot of work on this project, for the purpose of balancing out ward populations, and this in light of the 2010 U.S. Census outcome. The City Solicitor suggested making the redistricting effective at the end of this year, so the Board of Elections may plan for it in the early part of next year. He said the Board of Elections is going to propose shrinking the number of precincts in some of the wards due to very low voter participation. The proposed shrinking will not disenfranchise anyone, nor make it any more difficult to vote, but there will be a reduction of ward precincts. It was stated that voting locations have already been reduced; and that with the proposed shrinking will come a reduced number of booths within those locations. The Ward 5 Councilor reported the following redistricting changes: **Ward 5** (the east side of Washington Avenue, all of West 57th Street, the north side of West 58th Street (east of Washington Avenue), and half of Runkle Road, will be relocated to **Ward 4**; and **Ward 3** (A section of **Ward 3** (one to two block area) will become **Ward 4** but he could not identify the streets using the map he had access to.

PUBLIC’S GENERAL PORTION

Dennis Degennaro, 1716 West 5th Street, voiced concern with the condition of the West 32nd Street railroad overpass, which he considers very dangerous. He asked that the City ask the railroad to inspect it again. The Manager said a few years ago the railroad did have their overpass inspected and the report said there was no danger. The Vice President asked if the City can have it inspected. The Manager said there is no City staff member with bridge inspection expertise; that the overpass is inspected by the railroad and the county. Mr. Degennaro believed the bridge may collapse. The President thanked Mr. Degennaro (tape), and bringing the problem with persons harming seagulls at Walnut Beach to the City’s attention.

Adjournment: Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: **October 15, 2012**

ATTESTED BY: _____
J.P. Ducro IV
President of Council

ATTESTED BY: _____
LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
Clerk of Council