

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.

Members Present: Mrs. Ann I. Stranman (Ward 3)
Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2)
Mrs. Julie A. Lattimer (Ward 4)
Mr. Richard F. Balog (Ward 1)
Mr. James M. Trisket (Ward 5)
Mr. J.P. Ducro IV (President)

Member(s) Absent: Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)

Officer(s) Present: City Solicitor Michael Franklin, Acting City Auditor Karen S. Jury
Clerk of Council LaVette E. Hennigan

Officer(s) Absent: City Manager James M. Timonere

Excused Absence: Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to excuse the Vice President from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

PRESENTATIONS

The Ward 4 Councilor presented **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-27 A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND COMMENDATION TO REVEREND MICHAEL W. LEGG** for pastoring in the Ashtabula community for 27 years. The Councilor commended Pastor Legg and his congregation for their meal and ministry work at Bonniewood and on Woodman Avenue; and said it is amazing. The Pastor said it has been a very special privilege and interest to serve his congregation and the community at large; and a special privilege to be present this evening. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to adopt the resolution; motion CARRIED. The President thanked the Pastor for all he does for the community.

Late Start Apology: The President apologized for the late start of the regular meeting due to the pre-council meeting going longer than expected.

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the December 19 Regular Meeting were presented. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded that the reading of the minutes be waived; motion CARRIED. There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

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CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: The President announced that the Manager apologizes for his absence; and provided the following report from the Manager:

Boards & Commission Appointments:

Port Authority

With Council approval, the Manager requested the reappointment of Mr. Brian Wells to the Ashtabula City Port Authority, effective immediately, with a term to expire January 18, 2016. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to approve the Manager's recommendation; motion CARRIED.

With Council approval, the Manager requested the appointment of Mr. Joseph Varckette to the Ashtabula City Port Authority, effective immediately, with a term to expire January 18, 2016. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to approve the Manager's recommendation; motion CARRIED.

Housing Appeals Board

With Council approval, the Manager requested the reappointment of Ms. Debra Blair to the Housing Appeals Board, effective immediately, with a term to expire April 1, 2012. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to approve the Manager's recommendation; motion CARRIED.

Ordinance Request

GT Environmental

The Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with GT Environmental of 635 Park Meadow Road, Suite 112, Westerville, OH 43081, for implementation of the Clean Ohio Assistance, Phase II Assessment funding for Tannery Hill, in the amount not to exceed \$263,191.00. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from Account Number 290-161-5410. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to approve the Manager's recommendation; motion CARRIED.

Garbage Pickup (Week of February 20)

Garbage pickup will remain on schedule this week despite yesterday's holiday.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR THE MANAGER - None

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT – No Report

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR THE CITY SOLICITOR – None

ACTING CITY AUDITOR'S (ACA) REPORT

The Acting Auditor reported all department heads met with the City Manager this morning, and reviewed January figures. Most departments are in line with projection; those that were not were due to mass purchases. She reported that, in the Pre-Council meeting, she provided Council with a survey of expenditures of municipalities of like size.

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

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Community / Economic Development / Parks & Recreation (Mrs. Stranman/Mr. McClure):
The Chair reported the following:

ADDA Activities

Annual Meeting: The Chair reported she, the President, and the Clerk of Council attended the ADDA Annual Meeting on February 8. She found it interesting that ADDA surveyed 75 downtown area businesses (75 businesses was the first surprise, and that does not include banks), 14 survey responses were received so far, which represents \$40 million in revenues the past two years. She said this shows a business person in the City of Ashtabula is able to be successful.

Kent State Student Survey: These students conducted a more involved survey, the results from which will be released soon.

Projects: ADDA identified some of their priority projects, (e.g., sidewalks, new light poles, etc). They are always looking for new members and volunteers, and this Committee's Chair encouraged the public to visit ADDA's website at www.downtownashtabula.com or "like" their facebook page.

School Board Meeting

The Chair reported she, the City Manager, the Ward 2 Councilor, and the Clerk of Council attended the school board meeting on February 15. All but the Clerk presented the Safe Routes to School Poster Contest awards.

Community Meeting

The Chair reported that on Saturday she and the Council President attended the community meeting held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. She was pleased with the presence of Ashtabula Municipal Court Judge Albert Campese, Chief Probation Officer Marie Ranier, and Sally Bradley, who heads up a program for troubled children/teens.

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She said the discussion and connections were great. The church wants to get involved in the community, beginning with their Fresh Start Program. It is a program for low income mothers with children up to 2 years old. They are provided with clothes, diapers and other needs. The Chair told them of the Beatitude House Program. They accept donations. They also could use help administering the program the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from Noon to 7:00 p.m., and may be reached at 964-9483.

Downtown Laughs

ADDA is hosting Downtown Laughs on March 16 and 17, at Casa Capelli, 922-3700. Tickets are \$25.00, and include dinner. Municipal Court Judge Albert Camplese is one of the comedians. All proceeds will go towards ADDA projects.

Reader's Digest (RD) Contest

RD "We Hear You America" contest ends March 1.

Next Meeting: The Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 7, at 6:00 p.m.

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

The President reported on the Committee's Friday, February 10, meeting as follows:

Financials

Income tax is down a bit from this time last year, but is catching up.

Legislation Requests

Mr. Ducro moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded to approve the Acting City Auditor's request for an ordinance to appropriate from unappropriated CDBG Fund 290, the sum of \$1,705.99, into Account No. 290-160-5420 titled Brownfield, in connection with Tannery Hill; motion CARRIED.

Mr Ducro moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded to remove from this evening's agenda, at the Acting City Auditor's request, due to the suggestion by the City Solicitor, **ORDINANCE NO. 2012-34 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND 101, THE SUM OF \$1,500, TO BE PLACED INTO ACCOUNT NO. 101-221-5480 TITLED TAXES**; motion CARRIED.

Aqua America Water Company (purchased Ohio American Water Company – OAWC)

The final transaction will not happen before April. Aqua bills monthly therefore the City's related sewer billing will have to change, the details of which are being worked out. Announcements will be made once all the details are determined.

Sewer/Trash Billing

The Acting Auditor told the Committee that the February 15 billing will be the regular billing; the large accounts are being billed, and that billing will go out on time.

Street Lighting Assessments

The Committee continues to work on the language regarding potential amendments to the commercial/industrial user's street lighting assessments. The Chair gave Mrs. Patricia Blum, 1540 West 17th Street, the opportunity to speak regarding her concerns/request to be allowed to be granted a reduction for her 9 small parcels that are connected to her primary residence, even though she missed the August 15, 2011, deadline due to her not knowing of such. After Mrs. Blum spoke, the Chair announced that Council is in discussion regarding how to permit all citizens who were first made aware of the assessments when they received their tax bill. He asked that property owners be patient until a decision is agreed upon, and encouraged that property owners make their scheduled property tax payments to avoid penalties.

Meeting: The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 9, at 8:00 a.m.

Public Works / Utilities / Schools – (Mr. August Pugliese/Mrs. Lattimer): The Chair reported on the Committee's Tuesday, February 14, as follows:

Remove ALL No Parking Signs on West 47th and 48th Streets: The Committee awaits the Police Department's recommendation; therefore this item was placed on hold and the Clerk of Council was asked to follow up with Police Chief Robert Stell on status.

Remove Traffic Light – West 9th Street & Ohio Avenue: The Committee asked that the Clerk of Council ask the Police Department to make a recommendation on a citizen request to remove the traffic light at West 9th Street & Ohio Avenue.

Traffic Signalization Grant: The project is moving along.

2012 Paving Program & Patching Requests: Seven streets have been suggested. The Main Avenue island removal project is unable to be performed this year. The suggested streets will have to be prioritized because more cuts to the list are needed. It was further reported that:

- * The 2012 Budget was set at \$409,200;
- * \$23,000 is encumbered for this year's project;
- * The paving balance is \$385,000; and
- * Engineering Technician Dave Close presented the following roads to pave this year:

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Ward I:

Brown Drive (Treelane to Saybula):	\$47,000
Meadow Lane (Brown to Saybula):	\$25,000

Ward II

East 14th Street (Lake to Ohio):	\$53,200
Great Lakes Avenue (Lake to ARU Drive):	\$37,400

Ward III

West 29 th Street (Griswold to Ohio):	\$96,444
Griswold Road (West to end of curb):	\$31,160

Ward IV

Remove Islands on Main Avenue:	\$65,000
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Ward V

Nathan Avenue (railroad tracks to West 58 th)	\$62,460
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TOTAL:	\$418,164
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Great Lakes Avenue Paving: The Committee will continue to look into having the road paved as requested by Mr. Ron Phelps, but there are no guarantees the road will be able to be taken care of this year. The Chair reported Szuch Fishery, a commercial fishing business owned by Mike Szuch & Harry Wise, bought property from Mr. Phelps on Great Lakes Avenue, and will use the property for their net fishing operation.

Ferry Drive Paving: In 1960, a lot of money was put into the concrete road/curb/gutter project. The road is in need of paving and the City is looking into what can be done to repair the road. A lot of money was put into paving this road. The City Manager will speak with The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Norfolk/Southern Railroad to see if they are willing to financially contribute to the paving. A quote will be secured thereafter.

East 24th Street Drain Installation: On January 10, the Chair reported the East 24th Street drain, east of the bridge and west of Community Care Ambulance Network's driveway, needs to be repaired. Engineering Technician Close was asked to provide the Committee with repair suggestions. He has to wait for Ohio American Water Company to provide the location of their water line; after which he will be able to provide the Chair with an estimate for the drain installation.

Child at Play Sign for Deerfield Drive: The Clerk of Council was asked to, again, provide the Public Works Department with a copy of the August 2011 legislation authorizing the sign to be erected; after which they will do so.

Excessive Traffic Lights (West Avenue/Lake Avenue/West 19th Street Intersection)

It was asked if excessive lights will be placed at intersections that will receive new traffic lights as part of the Traffic Signalization Grant (TSG) activity; such as is the case with the new lights the State erected at the newly constructed Iron Bridge intersection (West Avenue/Lake Avenue/West 19th Street intersection). It was reported the TSG traffic light count went from 8 to 17. It was reported that City officials is not able make any changes to the intersection until the State turns the project over to the City. The Manager will look into what should/may be done once the project belongs to the City and not the State.

Reusing School Flashing Lights: Public Services Superintendent Domini Iarocci will check to see if any of the flashing school lights taken down in the area of the neighborhood schools no longer in operation, may be used at the new elementary school campus on Wade Avenue.

Road Salt: PSS Iarocci reported much of the \$50,000 salt appropriation has been used, even though it has been a light winter. He reported \$28,000 of the appropriation is still encumbered and two shipments have been purchased.

Legislation Requests

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Stranman seconded to repeal Ordinance NO. 2010-160, TITLED AN ORDINANCE RENAMING “WALNUT BEACH FUND 233” TO “WALNUT BEACH/PARKS AND RECREATION FUND 233”, for the purpose of allowing said funds to be used for recreational opportunities; motion CARRIED.

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded to enact AN ORDINANCE RENAMING “WALNUT BEACH FUND 233” TO “WALNUT BEACH/PARKS AND RECREATION FUND 233”, thereby adding the language “and provide funding for recreational opportunities” after “City of Ashtabula” in Section 2; motion CARRIED. The President announced the purpose of this legislation is to allow the Parks & Recreation Board to expend funds for purposes on items other than those pertaining to maintenance and improvement of the city’s parks, (e.g. recreation opportunities).

Meeting: The Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, at 8:00 a.m.

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

The Chair reported on the Committee’s Friday, February 17, meeting as follows:

Radios: The Police Department is moving forward with the new radio program; and U.S. and Canadian licenses are being secured.

Broken Windows Program: The program is zero tolerance for vicious dogs, high grass, broken windows, and illegal activities. The Program addresses the small items but gets the attention of those causing the big problems. Target areas are South Park, the Chestnut Avenue neighborhood, Center and Elm Streets. Police Chief Robert Stell or Police Officer William Felt can provide more program details.

L.A. Café’ Liquor Permit Renewal Hearing: The postponed hearing has not been rescheduled.

Semi Truck Illegally Parked: The Police Department is keeping a watchful eye on a semi truck residents have said has been parking in their neighborhood. Code Enforcement Officer John Artuso has been to the resident but has not found the vehicle operator home. The truck’s operator will be told of the prohibition of parking semi trucks in residential areas.

West 47th and 48th Street No Parking Signs: Police Chief Robert Stell said he has a few more items to check out before providing a recommendation regarding the Ward 2 Councilor/Public Works Committee Chair’s suggestion to possibly remove all no parking signs located on these roads.

Remove light at the intersection of West 9th Avenue and Ohio Avenue: The Police Chief recommended this request be denied for safety purposes.

Fire Department

EMS: The Department has taken on more of an EMS role; they get the second call; Community Care Ambulance Network (CCAN) gets the first call and provides “excellent” service to the City. The Fire Department’s EMS activity is on its “volume” target. Fire Chief Ron Pristera will not know the financial benefit of providing EMS until fees are collected, a process which takes 60 to 90 days.

Fire Code Update: Updates to the code are forthcoming, and will require legislation.

Staffing: The Committee Chair reported both the Fire and Police Departments are understaffed, and doing the best they can with what they have.

CCAN Open House/Tour: The President announced a representative from CCAN who was at the meeting invited elected officials and the administration to an open house/tour, at a date to be scheduled, to learn about the role CCAN plays in community safety.

Work Session– (Mr. Ducro IV, Chair): announced Council will meet in a work session on Monday, February 27, at 5:00 p.m., to resolve the Street Lighting Assessment as it relates to commercial and industrial customers and extending the reduction period.

PUBLIC (LEGISLATION) PORTION

The President explained that Ordinance Nos. 7 and 8 are needed in order to zero out the City Auditor salary line item until a permanent Auditor is hired.

LEGISLATION READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-19 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLACING A CHILDREN AT PLAY SIGN ON BURROUGHS PLACE APPROXIMATELY 20 FEET WEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF BURROUGHS PLACE WITH MAIN AVENUE, 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. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-20 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP FOR THE PURPOSE OF REMOVING THE NO PARKING SIGN IN FRONT OF 4916 STRONG AVENUE, 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. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-28 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF A HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN FUND, 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. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-29 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH FIRST ASHTABULA MINING COMPANY AND THE ASHTABULA CITY PORT AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAX ABATEMENT AT 50% FOR 7 YEARS FOR THE RENOVATION AND REMODELING OF THE BUILDING KNOWN AS THE ASHTABULA HOTEL, AND ADJOINING PROPERTY, 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. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-30 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NO. 2010-160 TITLED AN ORDINANCE RENAMING “WALNUT BEACH FUND 233” TO “WALNUT BEACH/PARKS AND RECREATION FUND 233”, FOR THE PURPOSE OF BROADENING THE SCOPE OF THE ALLOWABLE USAGE OF SAID FUNDS, 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. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-31 AN ORDINANCE RENAMING “WALNUT BEACH FUND 233” TO “WALNUT BEACH/PARKS AND RECREATION FUND 233”, 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. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-32 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2011-177 FOR THE PURPOSE AMENDING THE LINE ITEM FOR THE POSITION OF CITY AUDITOR, 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. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

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On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-33 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: Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-34 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FROM UNAPPROPRIATED GENERAL FUND 101, THE SUM OF \$1,500, TO PAY STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENTS ON CITY OWNED PROPERTIES. (Acting City Auditor), was removed from the agenda during this evening's Acting Auditor's Report. The City Solicitor advised that the City does not have to pay itself for street lighting.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-35 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FROM UNAPPROPRIATED CDBG FUND 290, THE SUM OF \$1,705.99, FOR BROWNFIELD EXPENSES, 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. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Stranman, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Broken Windows Program: The President announced he attended the meeting at which the Program was announced. Police Chief Robert Stell announced the anonymous tip line phone number is 922-7126. The Solicitor asked that citizens be aware of their neighborhood surroundings. He told how that last weekend, a report of a burglary at a vacant house led to the finding of a meth lab in that vacant house. Two police officers breathed the fumes and had to be treated at Ashtabula County Medical Center. The Solicitor said it looks as if meth production is on the increase and moving into the City of Ashtabula. He said this is not smart on the cookers part, "if only because we're a fairly tightly packed area, and your chances of being caught are much higher than they would be in the rural areas".

The Solicitor asked that citizens be especially aware of vacant/abandon homes which seem to have unusual activity (e.g., people in and out, vehicles coming and going, coupled with chemical smells, and cat urine like smell. Call the tip line number above if these things are noticed. The Solicitor said there are excellent online materials about clandestine labs, the accumulations of propane tanks, brake fluid cans, etc.

Amnesty Program: The Solicitor reported the Ashtabula City Municipal Court's Amnesty Program will be held on Saturday, March 10, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. It is an opportunity outstanding warrants and fines to be taken care of without fear of jail. No felonies will be heard. The program will be offered again in April and May.

NEW BUSINESS

Quorum: The President reported on why council committees were set up in the manner in which they exist. He said it has been difficult to get a required 3 member quorum. It was suggested that the required number to make a quorum be set at two, but that members of the public were against 2 members of council making committee decisions, which always had to be presented to the full council for a majority vote. The President announced Council would meet in a special meeting on Monday, February 27, to discuss this issue and recommend how to proceed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

G. O. Ministries' Ribbon Cutting: The Ward 3 Councilor announced the ribbon cutting is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at the former Thurgood Marshall Elementary School located on Station Avenue, which is the new home of G.O.

PUBLIC'S GENERAL PORTION - None

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: **June 28, 2012**

ATTESTED BY: _____

J.P. Ducro IV
President of Council

ATTESTED BY: _____

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
Clerk of Council