

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 Ward 4 Councilor offered the opening prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance was cited, and a moment of silence was observed for the passing of Mr. Ken Sweet, a retired Ashtabula City Firefighter, who served for 29 years.

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

Member(s) Absent: Mrs. Ann I. Stranman, (Ward 3)
Mr. Christopher J. McClure, (Vice President)

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: Mr. Trisket moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded to excuse the Ward 3 Councilor and Vice President from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

Presentations: None

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Executive Session: None

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is a means whereby Council is able to more efficiently conduct business.

MEETING MINUTES DISPOSAL

April 15, 2013 Regular Meeting
April 29, 2013 Special Meeting

Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. There being no corrections the minutes were approved as presented.

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Consent Agenda Legislation Only) – None

LEGISLATION READING

- 2013-67 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY Y.M.C.A. FOR LIFEGUARDS.
(City Manager)
- 2013-68 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NO. 2012-118, ENACTED JULY 16, 2012, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING CHANGES IN MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OHIO POLICE & FIRE PENSION FUND FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA POLICE DIVISION.
(City Council/Finance & Personnel/City Auditor)
- 2013-69 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE AMOUNT THAT THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO WILL PICK UP OF THE STATUTORILY REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION TO THE OHIO POLICE AND FIRE PENSION FUND FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, POLICE DIVISION PURSUANT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 414(h)(2). (City Council/Finance & Personnel/City Auditor)

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- 2013-70 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NO. 2012-119, ENACTED JULY 16, 2012, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING CHANGES IN MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OHIO POLICE & FIRE PENSION FUND, FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FIRE DIVISION.
(City Council/Finance & Personnel/City Auditor)
- 2013-71 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE AMOUNT THAT THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO WILL PICK UP OF THE STATUTORILY REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION TO THE OHIO POLICE AND FIRE PENSION FUND FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, FIRE DIVISION PURSUANT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 414(h)(2). (City Council/Finance & Personnel/City Auditor)
- 2013-72 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING CHAPTER 919 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, ENTITLED STREET VACATION PROCEDURE.
(City Council/Public Works/Utilities/Schools Committee/Planning & Community Dev Dept)
- 2013-75 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL FILE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACING A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF PARK AVENUE AND WEST 44TH STREET WITH TWO STOP SIGNS ON WEST 44TH STREET. (Flashers will accompany the stop signs for one to two months to caution motorists of the change.) (City Council/Public Works/Utilities/Schools Committee)
(Note: City Council elected to forego the standard two readings and placed the ordinance on one reading)
- 2013-76 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL FILE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REMOVING ALL PARKING SIGNS ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES OF WEST 13TH STREET BETWEEN UNION AVENUE AND NORWOOD DRIVE, EXCEPT FOR THE SIGN(S) DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF 2630 WEST 13TH STREET, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THOMAS JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
(City Council/Public Works/Utilities/Schools Committee)
(Note: City Council elected to forego the standard two readings and placed the ordinance on one reading)
- 2013-77 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL FILE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING A FIRE LANE ON THE PORTION OF THE EAST SIDE OF MAIN AVENUE IN FRONT OF 4726 MAIN AVENUE, HISTORICALLY KNOWN AS THE ASHTABULA HOTEL. (City Council/Public Works/Utilities/Schools Committee)
(Note: City Council elected to forego the standard two readings and placed the ordinance on one reading)

The President provided a brief overview of the purpose of the consent agenda and the legislation presented this evening.

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Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the Consent Agenda Legislation; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings of the Consent Agenda Legislation. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the Consent Agenda Legislation: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

(End of Consent Agenda)

REGULAR AGENDA

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Waste Water Treatment Receiving Station

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Ashtabula County Roto-Rooter of 708 West 30th St, P.O. Box 524, Ashtabula, OH 44004 as the low and most responsible bid for the Waste Water Treatment Receiving Station, in the amount not to exceed \$14,875.00. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from Account Number 503-150-5500, Water Pollution Control, Capital Improvements. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to grant the Manager's request. The Ward 4 Councilor said she likes to see Ashtabula companies being awarded City work. The motion CARRIED.

Electric Rate Provider

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with First Energy Solutions of 341 White Pond, Akron, OH 44320 as the low and most responsible proposal for electric rate provider for City Buildings in the amount as listed on the attachment (to the Manager's). Mr. Trisket moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded to grant the Manager's request. The Manager reported the City is currently in a contract, scheduled to expire in July. The City is being proactive to make sure everything is in place prior to the contract expiration. The President asked if the rates are lower or higher. The Manager responded they are higher. In 2015 the City will see a large capacity charge increase from electric providers in Ohio. This 33 month contract helps to mitigate the large increase we will see in the future by paying a little more now and less when the large increase is assessed. The motion CARRIED.

Early Retirement Incentive Plans

The City Manager requested AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO WAIVE CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON PAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO PERSONS WHO ENTER THE EARLY INCENTIVE RETIREMENT PLANS OF THE CITY AND RETIRE ON OR BEFORE JULY 31, 2013, AND RETIRE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31, 2013. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to grand the Manager's request. The President sought clarification and asked if the plan gives employees who are eligible to retire the incentive to do so in order to reduce the City's financial obligations to them for the last quarter (plus), of the year. The Manager replied, yes. The motion CARRIED.

Submerged Land Agreement

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Grant Brockway to lease submerged land in the Ashtabula River for the purpose of a grant application. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to grant the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Applications of Grant Funding through Ohio Development Services Agency

The City Manager requested an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to file applications for grant funding for the following available grants; Community Development Program's Downtown Revitalization, the Critical Infrastructure Grant, and the Community Development Allocations Grant. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to grant the Manager's request. The Manager reported the Harbor will be the target area because of the significant amount of private investment happening in the area in the next year or two. The private funds may be used as match funds towards the City's grant match. The grants have become much more competitive. Extra scoring points are obtained where public and private funds are being expended. The specific projects have not been chosen. There will be public hearings prior to submitting applications. The President asked if the activity will be coordinated with the Poggemeyer Design Group's plan and the Lift Bridge Community Association's (LBCA) Big 3 Plan, as it relates to sharing resources. The Manager responded that Char from Poggemeyer will assist in the grant application process. The motion CARRIED.

Walnut Beach Concession Restroom Improvement Project Change Order No. 1

The City Manager requested an ordinance to execute Change Order No. 1 with Feghali Brothers Construction and Engineering, of 4636 Beech Court, Canfield, Ohio 44406 to include Alternate item No. 2 of the bid in the amount not to exceed \$15,500.00. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from Account Number 290-180-5425, entitled Revolving Loan Funds. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to grant the Manager's request. The Manager announced the project will begin Wednesday. The change order addresses Alternate 2 in the plans to allow the "sea green" concession stand color to be painted anew. The President asked what the total project cost will be. The Manager responded the contract was let for \$122,500, and added to it was the added \$15,500 for the painting. The motion CARRIED.

Modification of a Community Reinvestment Area Tax Incentive Agreement

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into a Modification of a Community Reinvestment Area Tax Incentive Agreement with First Ashtabula Mining Company and the Ashtabula Port Authority in an effort to extend the construction completion date. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to grant the Manager's request. The President asked for the extension date. The Manager responded March 1, 2014. The project is the Ashtabula Hotel project which will become Signature Health's new location. The motion CARRIED.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR THE CITY MANAGER

Walnut Beach Concession Restroom Improvement Project Change Order No. 1

The President asked about the funding. The Manager said the entire project is being funded by the City's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The State requires that the City spend the money in order not to get into the situation the City did a while ago. He reported Planning & Community Development Department Project Administrator Mary Church, he and the department discussed what projects could be done, identified Walnut Beach, and asked the State's permission to use RLF, which they approved. The President commented that RLFs may not be used for various projects, purchases, general operations, and payroll like income tax revenue may be used for. A project that would greatly benefit for the community was identified, and will improve a much used facility. The Ward 4 Councilor asked the Manager to detail the project. The Manager responded:

- * A complete renovation of the restrooms;
- * Restrooms will be made accessible when the concession stand is closed, and secured at an appointed time by automatic timed locks; and
- * The concession stand area will be painting.

City Manager's Report (cont'd)

West Avenue Overpass Resurfacing (Over West 30th Street and the Railroad)

The Manager announced construction will begin on Monday, May 13, with a projected completion date of Wednesday, October 16. Traffic will be able to use the overpass, but with fewer lanes. He does not believe traffic travelling under the overpass, at West 30th Street, will be affected.

Leaf Bag Pickup

The City Manager reported leaf bags will be picked up free for one more week in all wards but the Harbor. Because the pickup season began April 15, the Harbor had two free pickups; wards had one. Next week pickup will be in the Harbor, and stickers will be required.

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Transfer Station Open on Saturday, June 1

The Manager reported the Transfer Station will be open to City residents on Saturday, June 1, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., to dispose of items at the established rate; to get a new digital thermometer when a mercury thermometer is turned in to help keep mercury out of the City's water supply, and 10 standard car and truck tires will be allowed to be disposed of free; thereafter a per tire charge will be assessed.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR THE CITY MANAGER (cont'd)

East 48th Street Park: The Ward 4 Councilor reported a resident asked her who owns the park because the resident would like to raise funds to perform improvements. Mr. Earl Tucker, Ashtabula City Parks & Recreation Board Chair, has been given the resident's name and will take over from here.

Procedure for Disposal of Furniture: The President asked the Manager to outline the procedure because of all the furniture he sees on treelawns which he knows our Sanitation Department is not required to pick up with regular garbage collection. The Manager said this is a big problem, mostly at rental units. The ordinances say if the City picks it up without begin notified the minimum cost is \$75. If residents would make arrangements by calling the Sanitation Department Foreman or Public Services Superintendent the cost will be lowered and City departments will not get calls that the town looks like trash because of treelawn dumping. He asked landlords to stress this with their tenants. The President cited a violation of this type at Route 20 and Park Avenue.

Grass Clippings: The President asked the Manager to outline the procedure. The Manager asked that grass clippings not be mowed or placed in the street. He suggested grass and leaves are either mulched on the property or collected and bagged - realizing some may go into the street. Intentional placing of grass clippings in the street (which is common) clogs the storm drains and sewers. The law permits the City to issue citations, penalties, and fines to violators.

Street Sweeper: The Manager reported the sweeper is out; the main arteries have been targeted, and wards are next.

City Appearance: The President said this time of year flowers are blooming (noting that Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) has a beautiful display of tulips), but that litter and refuse totally takes away from the community's beauty. He asked citizens to pick up their litter, any they may see when passing by, and not to discard cigarette butts out vehicle windows. If we all work together it will be a minimal amount of work for each of us and will make a big impact on the overall appearance of the City.

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CITY AUDITOR'S REPORT

Financials: April's numbers will be available once the month is closed.

Income Tax: Preliminary reports show income tax revenue through the end of April is meeting budget projections, posting still continues, and these revenues will be watched.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR CITY AUDITOR - None

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT – None

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR THE CITY SOLICITOR - None

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

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

The President announced the Committee will not meet in May. Their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, at 6:00 p.m.

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

The Chair announced the Committee will meet on Thursday, May 16, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2nd floor conference room. The Ward 4 Councilor announced she will not be present.

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

The Chair announced a representative from TimeWarner Cable will be at the Committee's June 11, 8:00 a.m. meeting, to discuss some of the problems residents are having with their cable service. He encouraged resident's who have experienced problems to attend, and said the representative is very willing to answer questions. One of the problems he has spoke with her about is the inability to reach someone that speaks English when calling the help line.

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

The Chair announced the Committee hopes to meet on Friday, May 17, at 8:00 a.m., to discuss licensing of security alarm company vendors; possibly licensing non-emergency ambulance units, and a gun buyback program.

Work Session – No Report – No Report

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FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS: The President announced all requests were made during the Manager's Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Legislation Only) - None

Liquor Permit: The President announced a liquor permit request will be presented during the Legislation Reading portion.

LEGISLATION READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-65 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FIRSTENERGY SOLUTIONS CORP. FOR A PERIOD OF 33 MONTHS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES OF THE CITY, was presented. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-66 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ASHTABULA COUNTY ROTO-ROOTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING A SEPTAGE RECEIVING STATION AT 5520 WEST AVENUE, was presented. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-78 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO WAIVE CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON PAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO PERSONS WHO ENTER THE EARLY INCENTIVE RETIREMENT PLANS OF THE CITY AND RETIRE ON OR BEFORE JULY 31, 2013, AND RETIRE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31, 2013, was presented. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings.

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On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-79 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE, was presented. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. The Manager reported the funds will be taken from Account No. 101-140-5818 General Services, Dues & Fees, rather than Public Works. The Ward 4 Councilor said this pleased her. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-80 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MODIFICATION OF A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH 4726 MAIN AVENUE, LLC, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO ASHTABULA MINING CO., AND THE ASHTABULA CITY PORT AUTHORITY, IN ORDER TO EXTEND THE CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE TO MARCH 1, 2014, was presented. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. At the request of the President the Manager explained that this ordinance authorizes the construction to be extended so the tax abatement evaluation timeline may be modified to coordinate with the completion of construction. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

LIQUOR PERMIT REQUEST

NEW PERMIT: Dolgen Midwest LLC, dba Dollar General #2076, 1511 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004:

- C1 Beer only in original sealed containers for carry out only until 1:00 a.m.
- C2 Wine and certain prepackaged mixed drinks in sealed containers for carry out only until 1:00 a.m.

Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to not request a hearing. It was reported that liquor was sold at this location when it was a restaurant. The motion CARRIED.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

East 48th Street Park: The Ward 4 Councilor reported the City maintains this park, she believes the property belongs to the City but it is not on the City's list of parks, and asked the Manager to check into ownership to make sure who the owner is so residents may raise funds for upgrades to the park.

Park-to-Park Clean Up: The President announced a community clean up of South Park and LCpl Kevin M. Cornelius Park (formerly North Park) is scheduled for Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Public Hearing: The President announced Council will meet in a Public Hearing on Monday, May 20, at 5:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, to hear public comments regarding a request to rezone Thistlewood Apartments, on Carpenter Road, from R-3/Two Family Residence District to R-4/Multiple Dwelling District. The Ashtabula City Planning Commission has heard the request and voted 3 to 2 to approve it. The Ward 3 Councilor said she has never seen a Planning Commission split vote like this one.

Primary Election: The President announced tomorrow is Ashtabula County's Primary Election day; encouraged residents to vote; and encouraged a YES vote on the consolidation of the Treasurer and Auditor Departments into a Department of Finance to help streamline operations save funds, and operate more cost effectively. The City Auditor reported since her hire in 2012, improvements have been made with existing and new staff, some problems have been fixed, that she is working with Treasurer Mackey to move the department forward, and to be assured that the internal control concern will be taken care of. The President reported the Treasurer and Auditor support the consolidation and have written to the public showing their support.

The City's 1.8% City Income Tax is scheduled for its 3 year renewal. The revenue from this tax is more than 60% of the General Fund operating dollars. Without it the City most assuredly could not operate near the level it does at present. He asked that citizens vote YES to help fund police & fire departments, administrative offices, and partially fund the Departments of Health and Planning & Community Development.

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The President announced that the Ashtabula Area City Schools will have an emergency levy issue on the ballot.

The Ward 4 Councilor reported major cuts and plans for the future of the City have been made. She thanked the City Manager for all that he has done to successfully negotiate changes in bargaining agreements, (e.g., employees now pay a portion of their monthly health insurance premium), departments have been reorganized, and the enactment of an early retirement incentive (not all positions vacated by retirements will be replaced). The Councilor also thanked the City Auditor for her invaluable contributions to these changes.

The President noted that even if the income tax is renewed, local governments continue to face State cuts, therefore will operate with less, even still.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Ms. Shelia Young, 516 West 46th Street: Said she has lived at her current residence for 22 years, and had to go through three City Managers before the house next to her was condemned. She said the roof of the condemned property is falling into her driveway on her car; she has a paralyzed daughter; the debris falls with each storm/rain; and she mows the grass at the condemned property.

Ms. Young said the house next to the condemned property (514) was abandoned after the homeowners passed away. It is being broken into, windows are broken out, she mows this lawn too, and cleans all West 46th Street cutters, because she cares about her neighborhood. She would like the (512) structure razed.

The Manager said he believes the Planning & Community Development Department has a few houses on the demolition list in the West 46th Street area. He said the City awaits information from Ashtabula County, who is overseeing the bid process in connection with the "Moving Ohio Forward" funding. The City of Ashtabula was granted \$200,000, and hopes to raze 10 to 15 more homes.

Ms. Young reported Seeley Medical pulled into the driveway, had some of the roof fall on their vehicle, and they asked who they should sue.

The Manager said he will look into this.

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The President thanked Ms. Young for attending the Council meeting and addressing this issue. He said he is on West 46th Street frequently, knows there are wonderful families on the street that try and watch out for things, and knows there have been a lot of drug and crime problems on the street. He said he spoke with her daughter today, and wanted to clarify that her disability was not caused by the roof falling on her. Ms. Young assured him it was not.

The President said the City of Ashtabula's housing problems are plenty and that it is sometimes hard to tell which homes are worse than the next, but has confidence in the Planning & Community Development who is really trying to stay on top of things. He said if the City is unable to raze the structure Ms. Young speaks of, the City will at least try and make the property owner accountable to make sure it is safe so as not to cause damage or harm to anyone on her property.

Mr. John Mulholland, 218 West 55th Street: He thanked the City for razing the house on his street (which is the one the tree had fallen on). He said people were going in and out of the vacant structure and drugs were an issue. He said it really looks nice now; people are beginning to work on their houses again; cleaning their yards; and planting flowers. He said he is impressed; and that he attended a Council meeting 5 to 6 years ago and was not impressed. He said, "Seems like we have a good team of Council people that really work together. Just sitting here watching I'm quite impressed with my City Council. Very enthused and happy to be a part of Ashtabula and see how you work so well together".

The President said local officials are always looking to improve and "sure are trying". He thanked Mr. Mulholland for his time.

Ms. Melinda Pillsbury-Foster, 525 Bunkerhill Road: Explained the "Green Home" concept, a concept of McPherson Investing, the firm she is affiliated with. The construction materials that are used eliminate the need for heat or cooling devices. She hopes to work with the City (and possibly the county) to acquire some vacant properties. Most of the properties she is interested in are vacant because the City of Ashtabula, through use of Neighborhood Stabilization Project funds, razed the houses due to their blighted condition. McPherson Investing would also like to open a factory in the City for the production of the materials needed to construct the homes. Ms. Pillsbury-Foster commented on the wonderful assets Ashtabula County has but are not being utilized. She was asked to email the City Manager her specific needs to ensure everyone is on the same page, and so he can share the information with others for the purpose of getting her the information she needs in order to move forward.

The President thanked Ms. Pillsbury-Foster for attending the meeting.

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CLOSING REMARKS

Karen Flack: The President extended get well greetings to Karen, a regular attendee at this meeting, who is not feeling well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The President entertained a motion to convene an Executive Session to discuss Personnel/Employment. Mr. Trisket moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to convene the Executive Session for the stated purpose. On the roll call to convene the Executive Session: Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. Also present in the session was the City Solicitor and the Clerk of Council.

The President announced there will be no business to conduct after the Executive Session, but that Council would return to open session to adjourn the meeting.

Reconvene Public Meeting

At 9:04 p.m., the President announced Council returned to the public portion of the meeting; and that there was nothing to report out of the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: **June 3, 2013**

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

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