

Call to Order

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

Opening Ceremony (Prayer/Pledge/Moment of Silence)

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of Mr. Jake Sposito; Mr. Tony Martino, Mr. Gus Powell, and the father of the Clerk of Council Mr. Thomas Barnes, Sr. The Clerk of Council offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

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

Member(s) Absent: Mrs. Julie A. Lattimer, (Ward 4)
Mr. JP Ducro IV, (President)

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

Officer(s) Absent: None

Excused Absence: Mr. Trisket moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to excuse the Ward 4 Councilor and Council President from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

Presentations: The Vice President said the Ashtabula Arts Center is near and dear to his heart and that he is thankful for their presence in the City. He presented to Ms. Elizabeth (Beth) Koski, Director, Ms. Judy Robson, Board President, and Judy Mudd, Board Trustee the following acknowledgment:

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-138

**A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE
ASHTABULA ARTS CENTER ON ITS
60TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, it is with much pleasure this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, issue this recognition acknowledging the 60TH year anniversary of the Ashtabula Arts Center; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 1953, the Ashtabula Arts Center, a not-for-profit organization, opened its doors to provide quality theatre arts classes, programs, and performances on West 13th Street; and

WHEREAS, the Ashtabula Arts Center is a multi-arts facility, under the unwavering 28 year direction of Ms. Elizabeth (Beth) Koski, that continues to annually reach over 15,000 individuals with programming and various offerings such as, dance, drama, music, and the visual arts; exhibits by local, regional, and national artists; "Brown Bag Concerts" held throughout the summer months at LCpl Kevin M. Cornelius Park in downtown Ashtabula, and at a Jefferson area park; Ashtabula Area City Schools "After School Discovery" and Rock Creek's "OASSIS" after school program pieces, as well as numerous other offerings for schools, service clubs, nursing homes, and area events; and

WHEREAS, the Ashtabula Arts Center received the Growth Partnership 1996 "Best of the County" award, has been a recipient of funding support from the Civic Development Corporation since 1970, and has had many of its students and performers go on to do wonderful things around the world.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, that it is our HONOR to CONGRATULATE the Ashtabula Arts Center on its 60th year anniversary. We APPLAUD your commitment to the arts in Ashtabula County, wholeheartedly support your efforts, and are so proud that our STAGE is known and respected the world over.

The Vice President said he served on the Ashtabula Arts Center Board with Judy and Beth. He said, "You want to attach yourself to things that are going in to right direction. For 60 years the Arts Center has gone in the right direction. We know there's going to be 60 more and more after that, I'm sure".

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Ms. Koski thanked the Council and the citizens. She said it is an honor to be recognized and to be a part of the Arts Center for so many years. She said the Center is near and dear to her heart and everyone else here. She said it is really a special place. We are truly blessed that our city fathers supported, and city leaders and our county regional area continues to support the Arts Center, and thus keeps it alive and going today. She said she is blessed that there is an “absolutely fabulous staff at the Arts Center, who are incomparable anywhere around. They do a wonderful, wonderful job. As well as a very committed group of volunteers, and board members, just anybody who’s involved”.

The Vice President said people come from all over to see the Nutcracker performance each year; and that many who come are former students of the Center, as well.

Mr. Trisket moved, Mr. Stranman seconded to adopt the resolution; motion.

Executive Session: None

Reconvene Open Meeting: N/A

Action resulting from Executive Session: N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MEETING MINUTES DISPOSAL - None

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Consent Agenda Legislation Only) - None

LEGISLATION READING

RESOLUTION

2013-128 A RESOLUTION REDEDICATING AND RENAMING THE PUBLIC PARK KNOWN AS WEST 58TH STREET AS “CLIFFORD KADON PRESIDENTIAL PARK”.
(Parks & Recreation Board)

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ORDINANCE

2013-129 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1361.02(a) ENTITLED COMPLIANCE REQUIRED. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2013-130 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1361.02(a) ENTITLED COMPLIANCE REQUIRED. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2013-131 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO CONTRACT WITH KOSKI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES ON THE 2013 STREET PAVING PROJECT. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2013-132 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HUNTINGTON INSURANCE, INC., AND TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY TO PROVIDE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2013-133 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FROM UNAPPROPRIATED PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND 412 THE SUM OF \$110,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING A PAYMENT ON THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION. (City Auditor)

ORDINANCE

2013-134 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FROM UNAPPROPRIATED PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND 412 THE SUM OF \$46,785 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A DIGITAL TRUCK SCALE FOR THE SANITATION DIVISION. (City Auditor)

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

(End of Consent Agenda)

REGULAR AGENDA

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) – Recreational Harbor Evaluation Grant Agreement

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with ODNR for the purpose of providing additional dredging in the Ashtabula River north of the 24th Street Bridge. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to grant the Manager's request.

The Manager announced that today the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) controlling board met and approved the City for this project. Total project funding is \$140,000, and is a 50/50 grant. \$70,000 of the funding will be provided by a public/private partnership, with the following entities participating: City of Ashtabula, Brockway Marina (Mr. Grant Brockway), Civic Development Corporation (CDC), ARU Marina (Mr. Tom Nelson), and the Ashtabula City and County Port Authorities. The Manager thanked the City's Project Administrator, Mary Church, for her lead and for putting the grant together. He thanked State Representative John Patterson for navigating the grant application through Columbus in order to get it done quickly. He reported there is a dredge currently sitting in the Ashtabula River, and that it costs a lot to mobilize dredging crews. Bids have been let to four or five companies, but he is hoping the cost incurred will be minimal. The hope is to dredge from north of the 24th Street bridge. This will truly help the economics of our area, especially at ARU and Brockway Marinas. It will provide some safety nets for the Ashtabula Township Park Commission ice damage alleviation project taking place south of the bridge, which would help protect the bridge when there is ice buildup. The motion CARRIED.

Grants: The Manager announced the City received a Downtown Revitalization (DR) and Critical Infrastructure (CI) Grants to be used in the Bridge Street/Harbor area. We will receive close to \$700,000. There were 10 DR grants submitted to the State of Ohio; we were one of three that were funded. There were 39 CI grants submitted; we were one of 14 funded. He gave recognition to Project Administrator Church for taking the lead on this grant also. This is a public/private partnership which includes the participation of all Bridge Street merchants in one way or another. The funds associated with Bridge Street investments were leveraged to show there is commitment in a deserving area in which the funds will be well spent. As part of the CI grant, Hulbert Hill located on the north side of Bridge Street will be rebricked and hopefully look like Goodwill Drive upon completion. A public parking lot in the Harbor Area is being worked on, which is sorely needed. He said the businesses or property owners must "match" what they receive from the grant (e.g., on a \$20,000.00 project the City could grant them a maximum of \$10,000 and then they would have to provide the other \$10,000).

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Former West Avenue Elementary School Fire: The Manager thanked Geneva, Saybrook Township, Ashtabula Township, and our Fire Department for their work in putting out the fire. Public Works crews erected a snow fence around the property for safety purposes. He thanked Mr. Roy Elliott of Resinet Products, and Mr. Glen Thomas of Thomas Fence, for providing materials. He said it is encouraging to know there are business partners whom the City may rely on in the time of need. Most of today was spent discussing what the City would have to do if it has to remediate the fire damaged structure. He said there is a property owner whom we believe does not have insurance, nor is going to be able to do what needs to be done to remediate the burned site. The City has contacted “end users”, folks who might be interested in the property when it is cleaned up, to ensure something will replace the structure that is going to help the City. He urged everyone to stay away from the property for safety reasons.

Questions/Comments for the Manager – None

CITY SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Trash Diving on Personal Property: The Solicitor reported he was alerted via emails about persons picking through and taking personal rubbish placed on treelawns on trash pickup days, for purposes that are unknown. Old furniture, cookware, and the like, that is placed on treelawns separate from the rubbish scheduled for pickup is not the issue. Most citizens place such items on treelawns in hopes of someone taking it. “When a resident of the City of Ashtabula puts rubbish into a bag and/or into a container and closes it and places it on the treelawn the night before a scheduled pick up, they’re doing that because we have an ordinance that requires them to do it. They are charged for it; they pay for the service. But they are required to do that by law. They’re doing that so that the City Sanitation Division, and only the City Sanitation Division, can pick up their refuse and dispose of it as we are mandated to do in accordance with law. It’s a little different when you see an old lawn chair or something of that nature that has been placed on the treelawn beside the trash can. I believe it’s a reasonable inference that the owner does not want that item, and has put it out there either for us to pick up or for whoever can make use of it. And I don’t think there’s any great objection to people picking up those sorts of items, and certainly not the guys on our garbage trucks. But, I object, and I think every citizen in the City objects, to the practice of going through closed garbage containers. And, it is against the law. It’s at least a violation of a number of our sanitation codes concerning who can pick up rubbish, for what reasons, how they transport it, and what they do with it. It is also potentially serious, depending upon the intent of the person involved, it can involve some other criminal charges. So, just to clarify that once more... If it’s in the rubbish container, if it’s in a closed bag, leave it along. It’s not out there for you; it’s for the City to pick up.”

Questions/Comments for the Solicitor – None

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CITY AUDITOR/ACTING TREASURER'S REPORT

Finances: The July books are closed. The budget is still on track and we will continue to watch. The 2014 budget process began this week.

Questions/Comments for the Auditor/Acting Treasurer

Appropriation Request for Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP): In response to the Vice President's request for explanations, the Auditor/Acting Treasurer reported the full amount the City borrowed to fund the ERIP was not appropriated because we did not know what this year's expenditures would be. Because we now know who will be retiring, we know what we need; therefore an appropriation is required to make retirement payouts.

Payroll Ordinance: A new payroll ordinance is needed to establish the new positions in the new Finance Department, which department will formerly be enacted on January 1, 2014. Some of the positions are being renamed, but the wages will remain the same at this time. The new position will be an Assistant Finance Director. The renamed positions will be Human Resources/Payroll Administrator and Income Tax Specialist. The positions will not become effective until January 1, 2014, but the allowance needs to appear in the payroll ordinance in order to advertise for at least two of the positions. There is also a change for the Executive Secretary to the Solicitor.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

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

The Chair reported:

My Neighborhood Group (MNG): She attended their meeting. They will be working with the City Manager to do some work at the West 58th Street Park (renamed this evening to Clifford Kadon Presidential Park), which work was discussed in this evening's Pre-Council meeting.

Parks & Recreation (P&R) Board Meeting: She attended this meeting. There were about 20 people present, including members of the P&R Board, Smith Field Dog Park, My Neighborhood Group, Saving the History of Ashtabula, and Shelley Mullen with the Lift Bridge Community Association. Mr. Brandon Nelson is trying to get work performed at East 48th Street Park. The P&R Board appointed two of its members to serve on a committee to work on plans they have for Walnut Beach. Minutes were submitted to Council and the Manager, and may be sent to others upon request.

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P&R Board Request: The Board would like to place bike racks at Walnut Beach, Smith Field, and Clifford Kadon Presidential Park. They proposed the purchase of three (3) contemporary loop bike racks with in-ground mounts, to be placed in the parks, at a cost of \$371 each, plus shipping and handling. Funding would be taken from the Walnut Beach/Parks & Recreation Fund. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to grant the P&R Board's request. The Chair reported the Board will work with the Manager to secure the required purchase order number. The Ward 5 Councilor asked the Clerk of Council if a firm number is required. The Clerk responded that if an exact number is not known, a "not to exceed amount" is sufficient. The Ward 1 Councilor suggested \$2,000 and the unused portion placed back into the account. Mrs. Stranman amended the motion, Mr. Trisket seconded for the amount not to exceed \$2,000, and the motion CARRIED.

Meeting: The Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 4, at 6:00 p.m. There should be a couple items from the Planning & Community Development Department to address.

Questions/Comments for the CD/ED/P&R Committee - None

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

The Vice President reported:

Legislation Requests: Mr. McClure moved; Mr. Pugliese seconded, and the motion CARRIED for the following requests:

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-135 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2013-74, PASSED ON MAY 9, 2013, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RATE OF PAY AND TO ADD THE FULL-TIME FINANCE CLERK, ASSISTANCE FINANCE DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES/PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR, ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT AND INCOME TAX SPECIALIST POSITIONS TO THE DIVISION OF THE AUDITOR. The Vice President reported the purpose of this ordinance was explained during this evening's Auditor/Acting Treasurer's Report.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-136 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-137 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013.

Police Overtime: Continues to be watched.

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Financial Management Best Practices & Guide for Internal Controls: The Auditor/Acting Treasurer told the Committee this policy is being created. She would like Council to adopt it by December 1. The policy, once adopted, will be used to update the City's procedures, which procedures do not require Council's adoption.

Conforming Boundaries: This discussion will be tabled until September in order to get more understanding on the affect it would have on Township Park revenues. The Solicitor said when boundaries are conformed the City starts collecting the inside millage that the township used to collect in the area that is now fully "part of the city". However, the township has the right to have the City reimburse it a portion of that, in declining amounts, over the next 12 years. Years 1 thru 3 (80% reimbursed to Township); then reduces from there. There is a bit of a difference in the way retail and residential verses commercial and industrial properties are treated. In the last year (year 12) we would have to pay 42.5% of the inside millage collected on commercial and industrial property back to the township, and 27.5% of the inside millage collected on residential and retail property in the area that used to be part of the Township that is now fully part of the City, back to the township. "A second concern that was raised at the Committee meeting (which is easy to answer in relation to Ashtabula Township because there is a clearly defined Ashtabula Township Park District) which would not be part of this equation at all. But there are some concerns that Saybrook handles its park district a little bit differently and may not be a true Township Park District, but rather a Township Park System. And whether or not the revenues that are currently collected in the City that benefit the Saybrook Township Parks would be treated differently is a matter of some concern to the Committee members and I am researching that issue."

Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) Update: The Manager provided the Committee with an update, and announced the Saybrook Township JEDD Board had been formed. This evening the Manager reported that since the Committee meeting the Ashtabula Township (AT) Board was formed and that they met. He reported there are two properties, pending approval, to be added to the existing AT JEDD. Details on these properties are on display outside the Office of the Clerk of Council. A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, September 16, at 5:30 p.m., to present the amendment. The legislation allowing the amendment to take place will be scheduled for a vote at the September 16 Regular Council meeting in order to expedite progress of the two businesses, along with some sewer line work. The Manager reported the first Saybrook Township JEDD Board meeting is scheduled for this week.

Proposed Bed Tax: The Manager reported local bed taxes are a common charge when rooming at hotel, motels, bed and breakfasts, etc., including county facilities. The City of Ashtabula currently does not have one. He encouraged Council to consider enacting this tax. The Manager will provide the Committee with information he received from the Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau on the subject. The Vice President reported hotel folios will have various taxes, such as bed taxes, which guests expect to be charged. The Manager reported there is one motel and several bed and breakfasts in the City.

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The Vice President asked if bed taxes can be associated with JEDDs. The Manager said [we] believe bed taxes may be enacted in future JEDD agreements or additions to the current JEDDS. He said there is a great need for lodging in our area. Enacting a bed tax now is proactive, instead of waiting until a facility is built and then trying to put the tax in place. He recommends the tax rate be minimal to encourage visits to our area, and to encourage the opening of such facilities in the City. The Ward 2 Councilor thought such a tax was passed by Council years ago, but nothing to substantiate this has been found. The Manager said he will work with the Solicitor to determine if this is so. The Vice President said given the number of county events more lodging is needed, and a bed tax, as viable revenue, makes sense.

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

The Chair reported:

Meeting: The Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 10, at 8:00 a.m. Aqua OH water company will be present.

School Beginning: School begins August 27, and asked that motorists watch for elementary students walking in the areas of Ohio Avenue, Wade Avenue, and West Avenue.

West Avenue Overpass: The Manager reported the traffic pattern will be switched on September 9, with a projected completion date in early November.

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

The Chair reported the Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, September 20, at 8:00 a.m. The last meeting was cancelled due to lack of readied information.

Work Session - No Report

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT (Regular Agenda Legislation Only) - None

LEGISLATION READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-135 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2013-74, PASSED ON MAY 9, 2013, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RATE OF PAY AND TO ADD THE FULL-TIME FINANCE CLERK, ASSISTANCE FINANCE DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES/PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR, ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT AND INCOME TAX SPECIALIST POSITIONS TO THE DIVISION OF THE AUDITOR, was presented. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-136 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, was presented. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-137 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013, was presented. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Balog, Mr. Trisket, Mrs. Stranman, Mr. McClure, voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-139 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A RECREATION HARBOR EVALUATION GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT, was presented. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mrs. Stranman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. The Vice President thanked the Manager and his staff for securing grants, which are not easy to get.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Street Paving/Street Cuts: The Ward 2 Councilor reported there are several bad roads. He asked how they are going to get paved with limited financial resources. He said years ago property owners were assessed but that the method ended in the early 70's. He does not want to go back to such a method. He said five (5) to ten (10) year planned paving program is now needed. He also noted the poor conditions of so many of our sidewalks. The Manager said there is no doubt in his mind that we will get accomplished what needs to be done by paving the way we always have. He is working with the City's engineering consultant, GPD, to put together a massive two (2) year, \$5 million paving program. Inquiry into loans has been made to the State Infrastructure Bank. By year end he hopes to bring to Council a plan for street resurfacing and the funding sources available. His present goal is to have enough streets paved so paving will not be needed for at least eight (8) years. By doing so the yearly paving funds that are set aside will be used to pay off the loan, and maintaining the roads for a minimum of ten (10) years. This has been worked on for a couple of months. Inventory and grading of the streets is currently being conducted and will be provided to the bank as part of the eligibility requirement. The Ward 2 Councilor was happy to hear this report. The Vice President suggested a comprehensive review of where proposed utility road cuts are scheduled to take place so freshly paved roads are not immediately cut into. The Manager said notice has been given to the water and gas companies that we are working on this project, and they have been asked to do what they are able to do now. He said the purchase of our own sewer camera will allow us to conduct our own investigations to do the best we can to alleviate issues that might arise after paving. If the paving program is enacted the Manager said he will bring to Council an ordinance to increase street cut fees due to the lack of quality of present street cuts, which the City has had to repair on its own. The Ward 2 Councilor reported Aqua OH made several cuts, some of which are on Lake Avenue, and they are "terrible". The Manager said he has spoken with them. They are filling their own cuts. They requested bids in order to get the temporary cuts permanently repaired. The City's specifications for permanent repairs were included in their bid package, and several local firms bid. The work should be awarded this week.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Thank you: The Vice President thanked everyone who attended and made possible the TABS Arts Festival on Bridge Street, the Multi-Cultural Festival in LCpl Kevin M. Cornelius Memorial Park, and Bands-on-the-Beach at Walnut Beach last weekend.

Wine & Walleye Festival: The Vice President announced the Festival is scheduled to begin on Friday with a car show, and continue through Sunday. The Manager asked everyone to help Ashtabula break the Guinness World Book of Records for the most fish sold in an eight (8) hour period, on Saturday, between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The title is currently held by a small Australian City whose population is between 12 and 14, 000.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Ms. Pat Blum, 1540 West 17th Street: thanked the Manager for cutting the grass at the end of her street, and reported the hill was not done.

Ms. Blum said for a couple of years there has been a no parking sign that is holding up a tree located on the south side of her road. S

Ms. Blum reported when the Iron Bridge located at the intersection of West Avenue/Carpenter Road/Lake Avenue, was being renovated, two foot of her driveway apron was removed. She said the construction vehicles would come down her road and turn around.

Ms. Blum asked why the old telephone poles remain after new ones are erected. The Manager said Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI) did a massive pole replacement project. Through conversations with the utilities he was told that the last company to remove their equipment from an old pole to a new one, it responsible for taking the old one away. The phone and cable companies have not been able to keep up with what they have to do at the poles because CEI's project was performed so quickly. The old poles will be removed once all equipment has been transferred to the new ones.

Ms. Alice Cook, 1742 West 14th Street: announced that Jake Sposito, the owner of Harbor Perk, passed away last night. The Vice President noted a moment of silence was observed at the beginning of the meeting, and said a great, young business owner was lost.

Mr. Pete Bean, 624 West 57th Street: said he is a member of My Neighborhood Group (MNG); thanked City leaders for their support of MNG's efforts regarding the newly named Clifford Kadon Presidential Park.

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They have volunteer labor and materials for the new building, the basketball courts have new nets, the courts are regularly used by area residents, the community garden was planted twice but got flooded out both times, therefore has not been very productive; and they hope to continue to advance the progress to restore the park. The Vice President expressed his pleasure with this report because he grew up in the neighborhood, remembered many events taking place at the Park, and frequented it, and said it will be nice to have it being used again.

626 West 57th Street: The Ward 5 Councilor told the Manager that Mr. Bean and his wife sent him an email which was forwarded to him.

The Vice President said there are many good and not so good things happening in the presidential area of the City, and that it is people like Mr. Bean and the MHG that will keep it things from falling into disrepair.

Ms. Karen Flack, 1827 West 6th Street: reported the Ohio Avenue leaf bag concerns she voiced at the July 15 Regular Council meeting were actually vacant properties. She asked what happens to the bags placed on treelawns at vacant properties. The Solicitor said from what he can tell when passing by, the bags remain because they do not have the required twenty-five cents sticker. The Manager said leaf bag pickup is scheduled for the Harbor this week, and crews have been instructed to pick up the bags located at vacant properties. Ms. Flack said they did all except for at 704 Ohio Avenue. She also called in bags left on a corner property at Walnut Boulevard and Ohio Avenue.

Ms. Flack reported her neighbor across the street from her cut down branches and limbs and the City removed them. The Manager said he believes the property was given a quote for debris removal.

Ms. Flack said she bags and yard debris left on treelawns make the City look bad.

In response to the Ward 2 Councilor's earlier comments about the poor condition of so many of our sidewalks, Ms. Flack said it is not the City's responsibility to repair sidewalks; and that she took advantage of the City's Sidewalk Repair/Replacement Program. The Manager confirmed that there is such a program and that the property owner is responsible for sidewalk maintenance. He said he agrees with the Ward 2 Councilor, and believes the program needs to be reevaluated or more funds allocated in order to encourage property owners to participate. He will continue to seek grants to repair main sidewalks.

Ms. Flack said furniture that is deposited at donation boxes located on private property then becomes the owner's responsibility to remove. She asked if the donation boxes should be done away with, and said there is no ordinance regulating how many donation boxes may be placed in the City.

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The Manager said the arrangements are between the donation box organization and the property owner. There are certain regulations that can be enacted on personal property. He does not believe donation box regulations are on our books, and does not know if they are able to be regulated. The Solicitor said he is not familiar with anything that would apply to such a situation, until the site becomes a rubbish disposal, at which time the property owner may expect to be contacted by the City to make arrangements to clean it up. Ms. Flack said Mr. Kister is good at making sure the one on his property is maintained. The Ward 2 Councilor said there was a box located on Lake Avenue that was a problem for two years. He called them; they removed the debris, and he believes they removed the box also.

CLOSING REMARKS

The Vice President asked that we, “Remember to Keep Believing in Ashtabula”

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Trisket seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.; motion CARRIED.

DATE APPROVED: **September 16, 2013**

ATTESTED BY: _____

**JP Ducro IV
President of Council**

ATTESTED BY: _____

**LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
Clerk of Council**