

**Ashtabula City Municipal Building)  
City of Ashtabula, Ohio)**

**Monday, December 16, 2013**

**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)**

Pastor Doug Wright of First Baptist Church offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

<b>Members Present:</b>	Mr. August A. Pugliese	Ward 2 Councilor
	Mrs. Alice T. Cook	Ward 3 Councilor
	Mrs. Josephine Misener	Ward 4 Councilor
	Mr. Kris E. Hamrick	Ward 5 Councilor
	Mr. Richard F. Balog	Ward 1 Councilor
	Mr. Christopher J. McClure	Vice President
	Mr. J. P. Ducro IV	President

**Member(s) Absent:** None

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

**Officer(s) Absent:** None

**Excused Absence:** None

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

**Presentations:**

Police Chief Robert Stell presented Officer Hildebrand with a plaque recognizing former K9 Officer Kero's service; which K9 Officer passed away earlier this year from a rare form of bone cancer. Officer Hildebrand's new K9 Officer Jax was introduced.

Mr. Tony Rose of Farrell Insulation of Ohio, Inc., provided information and handouts on Dominion East Ohio Gas' "Home Performance with Energy Start Program". GoodCents performs the energy audit; Farrell Insulation performs the work the energy audit reveals is needed to make a home more energy efficient. To schedule a home audit, or for more information, please call 1.877.287.3416. Mr. Rose asked that he be called after an audit is scheduled. He may be reached a 440.536.4961 (office) or 440.228.1668 (cellular).

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**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.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

The Clerk of Council presented the following meeting minutes for disposal:

- \* December 2, 2013 Public Hearing
- \* December 2, 2013 Organizational Meeting
- \* December 2, 2013 Regular Meeting

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

**FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS** – None

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Consent Agenda Legislation Only)** – None

### **LEGISLATION READING**

#### **RESOLUTION**

2013-189     A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO ACT AS THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL FOR PURPOSES OF REQUIRED PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING.

(City Council)

Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the Consent Agenda Legislation; motion CARRIED. Mr. Hamrick 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, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the Consent Agenda Legislation: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED.

## REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

### READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

#### **Formal Legislation Requests**

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-186 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO THREE (3) CONTRACTS WITH USA WASTE GENEVA LANDFILL, INC., FOR RECEIPT AND TREATMENT OF LEACHATE, DISPOSAL OF SLUDGE AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE.

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-187 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH PIGEON'S LANDING, LLC, FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 75% FOR 10 YEARS FOR THE RENOVATION OF PREMISES KNOWN AS 1023 BRIDGE STREET IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA. The Manager reported this will be a new business called Fitzgerald Wine Bar, located west of the LA Café. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to grant the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-188 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR A COMMUNITY RECYCLING GRANT. The Manager provided a brief overview of the grant; noting that if received, curbside recycling will first be enacted in Wards 1 and 2 only, due to cost. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-191 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES FOR ONE (1) YEAR. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-190 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR MOWING SERVICES. The Manager provided a brief overview of the contract; said ODOT contracted out the services this year, and that in June and July the company got behind in all their work for the State, which could be seen all along Route 11. The City is not required to provide services in return for this contract. The Vice President said he believes when the City snow plowed Route 11 it looked better than the job ODOT recently performed.

The Manager reported receiving no negative feedback regarding this. He reported on City snowplowing efforts during a three day snow storm. He reported there are nine employees able to provide snow removal, and four trucks. The Manager reported there are 95 lane miles in the City. The issue the City has removing snow, compared to other communities, we are responsible to remove snow on state routes (e.g., Route 20, Route 84, and Lake Road). ODOT takes care of those routes in other areas. There are county roads in other areas which the county takes care of, and townships and villages are responsible for their neighborhood roads. The City does not have brine which ODOT uses, nor the calcium salt which is used when the temperature reaches below nineteen degrees. He suggested crews might have remained on the main roads too long during the three day snow storm, and should have hit the side streets when the snow reached one foot. He said it is important to hit the main roads, bridges, intersections, and hills first; then finish off the mains roads, move to the secondary mains, and then into the neighborhoods. The President asked residents to remove vehicles from side streets when there are 2 or more inches of snow so snow may be removed from curb-to-curb more effectively. The City snow parking ban requires all vehicles to be removed from the road when snow reaches 3 inches. The Solicitor outlined the methods the City is able to address violations. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to grant the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

**West Harbor Sewer Improvements Phase 1 - Insight Pipe Contracting , L.P. - Change Order #1**  
The City Manager requested an ordinance to execute Change Order No. 1 with Insight Pipe Contracting, L.P., of 232 East Lancaster Road, Harmony, Ohio 16037, for the purpose of additional sewer work for the West Harbor Sewer Improvements Phase 1 project in the amount not to exceed \$60,681.41, for a total contract price of \$372,160.91. Funding for this expenditure will be taken in part from Account Number 503-150-5500, entitled Capital Improvements, and Ohio Public Works Commission funding. The Manager reported the project is still under budget, and that the savings may allow more work to be performed. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

**Christmas Eve Closing:** The Manager announced the Municipal Building will be closed at Noon on Christmas Eve.

#### **CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

**Snow Removal and Disposal:** The Solicitor issued a reminder that there is a law in place addressing snow removal and disposal. Snow plowed out of driveways and walks have to be placed on said property. Codified Ordinance Chapter 521 is where this law may be found. It is a minor misdemeanor which is a fine up to \$150.00. The snow removed may not be placed in the roadway or on an adjacent property not belonging to the same owner. The Solicitor also asked that fire hydrants remain cleared of snow.

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## **CITY AUDITOR/ACTING CITY TREASURER'S (A/ACT) REPORT**

### Formal Legislation Request

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-185 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO FROM JANUARY 1, 2014, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. McClure seconded to grant the Auditor/Acting Treasurer's request; motion CARRIED.

**Finances:** The year-to-date overall cash balance through November 30 is \$4.4 million, \$585,000 is in the General Fund, and the General Fund will end the year with about \$200,000. The 2012 General Fund yearend balance was just over \$200,000.

## **CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Community/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation (Mrs. Misener/Mr. McClure)**

The Chair reported on the Committee's Monday, December 9 meeting, noting much of the meeting was a recap of what the Committee had been working on. She thanked the City Manager for bringing her and Councilor Cook up to date, as new councilors. A synopsis of the recap is as follows:

**Ashtabula County Medical Center (ACMC):** The Manager is in constant contact with the hospital regarding their imminent move. While they could locate property outside the City, the Manager has and will continue to be diligent in encouraging them to remain inside the City and expand.

**Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (A.D.D.A.):** They are very active. They are finalizing the McKnight & Associates streetscape plans, and the project is progressing quite well. The Manager discussed various Main Avenue buildings:

**Senior Center:** the Center's upcoming move to the north end of Main Avenue will free up Shea's Theatre. The Chair believes it is necessary to renovate the theatre so it will be a draw to our city. Work is being done to make this a reality.

**Former Municipal Building (4400 Main Avenue) & Former Carlisle's Building:** The future does not look too bright for either building. Serious structural problems initiated discussions with the owner of the Carlisle's Building in hopes of getting it razed.

**Bridge Street Area:** Discussed what is happening in this area and the grant they will use over the next two years in their on-going revitalization efforts.

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The Lift Bridge Community Association (LBCA) is very active, and the City should be very proud of what these business owners are doing for each other and the City.

**City Parks:** The Chair is pleased the City has an active, functional, and staffed Parks & Recreation (P&R) Board. She has always been a proponent of parks. If the City is going to be a vacation destination, we have to make our parks beautiful. Today, the P&R Chair provide the Chair with a list of City parks, what they are used for, and their rankings. It will be reviewed closely in light of the City Manager informing the Committee that the City is unable to take care of all its parks.

**My Neighborhood:** This organization has put together an aggressive 2014 plan for Clifford Kadon Presidential Park. Hopefully their successes are implemented in other City parks. The Chair asked the Clerk of Council to schedule this group to attend an upcoming Committee meeting.

**East 48<sup>th</sup> Street Park:** Last year Mr. Brandon Nelson approached the City and its P&R Board with the hopes of developing this park. The inactive railroad property lease in which the park sits on was discussed. There is a question as to whether this park will ever become a viable park because of its size. Interest to maintain the park has to be established in order for the park to remain one that is owed by the City. The Solicitor commented that the lease issue was broached last year. He does not know if it has been formally or finally resolved. The lease calls for an annual payment, however as far as he can determine there is no record of annual lease payments being made in recent times. The railroad is not exercising any sort of control over the park. The residents continue to use the park. It would appear there is no objection by the railroad to the parks continued use. If the City is going to go forward, and if Council decides to invest resources in the park, it would be wise to firm up the arrangement with the railroad before moving forward. The Ward 5 Councilor asked if fencing has to be maintained along the railroad tracks in accordance with the railroad's requests. The Solicitor responded, "The railroad is protective of their right-of-ways; they try and keep people away from their trains as much as possible; away from their tracks as much as possible; so I would assume if we resume discussions, or we update that lease, that that will be part of the discussion". The President commented that in doing some weed whacking at the park last year, his assessment is that the fencing is in good shape around the park, and is not in need of any serious attention.

**Ashtabula Gulf:** Because the Gulf runs through the City it is prudent for the City to have a good relationship with Ashtabula Township Park Commission, who maintains it. The Manager has had conversations with said Commission. The Gulf was also mentioned by McKnight & Associates (Main Avenue Streetscape) about incorporating the steps leading to the section of the Gulf located off Main Avenue immediately south of West 50<sup>th</sup> Street, on the east side of the road. The Chair believes the possibilities are endless and should be explored.

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She asked the Clerk of Council to schedule Mr. Wayman, Commission Chair, to attend one of her upcoming Committee meetings.

**Route 11 Industrial Park:** The Park has never had a tenant and remains unoccupied. One of the reasons is because the grant funding used to establish the Park requires acreage to be sold for \$25,000 each. The City Manager's discussions with the State regarding the acreage price has resulted in the State agreeing to possibly waiving the required per acreage price if a viable tenant is presented. The Chair said while there are and will be obstacles, she believes they can be overcome.

**JEDDS:** The Chair had been following this activity while not on Council. She is pleased with the progress because it is an economic tool which will garner some revenue.

**Sidewalks:** The Clerk of Council was asked to obtain a copy of Columbus, Ohio's sidewalk right-of-way legislation in order to see how they address the placement of items on sidewalk right-of-ways. The Clerk reported that information was obtained and emailed to the Chair.

**Multi-Unit Dwelling Square Footage:** The former Ward 5 Councilor, James Trisket, had ideas on how to possibly change the square footage of multi-unit dwellings. The concern is that property owners are converting spaces into rental units which are quite small, thus creating a liability due to the inability of emergency services to effectively do their job if called on site. Suggestions on how to address this concern will be forthcoming from the Manager.

#### **Finance and Personnel - (Mr. Ducro IV/Mr. Balog)**

The Chair reported on the committee's Friday, December 13, meeting, as follows:

##### Formal Legislation Requests

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-192 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NO. 2013-17, PASSED ON JANUARY 22, 2013, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE AND NON-UNION PERSONNEL. (City Auditor). The President reported this legislation is needed in order to modify non-union personnel's agreements so that the starting rate of pay is not reduce by 10% of what the pay is now, as is the case for union personnel. The Manager reported the bulk of the changes had to do with when non-union, part-time employees were permitted to take vacation and sick time, and how vacation and sick benefits are paid out upon leave from the City's employ. Housekeeping issues were addressed, and the agreement will more closely mirror union contract language. Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Balog seconded to grant the Committee's request; motion CARRIED.

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ORDINANCE NO. 2013-193 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING PAY RATES AND OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE AND NON-UNION PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE CITY OF ASHTABULA. (City Auditor). Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Balog seconded to grant the Committee's request; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-194 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NO. 2013-170, PASSED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2013, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELIMINATING THE POSITIONS OF CIVIL SERVICE SECRETARY, EEO OFFICER & DATA PROCESSOR ACCOUNTANT; INCREASING THE COMPENSATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON; REINSTATING COMPENSATION FOR SALARIED PERSONNEL THAT HAD BEEN REDUCED DURING FY 2013; CREATING THE POSITION OF COURT ADMINISTRATOR AND CHANGING RATES OF COMPENSATION OF COURT PERSONNEL. (City Auditor). Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Balog seconded to grant the Committee's request; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-195 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO. Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Balog seconded to grant the Committee's request; motion CARRIED.

The Clerk of Council reported that the City Auditor's report to the Finance & Personnel Committee included a detailed list of items to address in the repeal payroll ordinance, and that some of those items are not address in the title of repeal legislation above. In particular, change the Division of Auditor to Division of Finance, City Auditor to Director of Finance, and removed the positions of Deputy City Auditor and City Treasurer from the listing of Administration positions. The President noted these particular changes do not affect compensation; they are merely changes in titles and divisions. The Solicitor responded, "Most of those changes, all except the Deputy Auditor's position, were brought about by the Charter change. It's great to conform the payroll ordinance to the change in the Charter, but it's not necessary to state that as the subject of the ordinance. The title of the ordinance is to state the subject of the ordinance." The Clerk of Council stated the purpose for bringing this forward is so, for the record, Council knows those items are addressed in the ordinance they will vote on this evening.

**Public Works/Utilities/Schools – (Mr. McClure/Mr. Pugliese)**

The Chair announced the Committee did not meet this month. They are scheduled to meet on Friday, January 3, at 8:00 a.m. The Clerk of Council was asked to invite Mr. Tony Mancari, Area Manager of Aqua Ohio, Lake Shore Division, to field questions regarding his firm's proposed water rate increase.

**Safety Forces – (Mr. Balog/Mrs. Misener)**

The Chair announced the first meeting with the new Committee members is scheduled for Friday, December 20, at 8:00 a.m.



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The Committee will address the conflict between our Housing Code and Fire Code as it relates to smoke alarms. The Clerk of Council noted the Chair has asked the Fire and Police Chiefs to provide updates on their departments. The Chair asked the Solicitor to be present.

**Work Session** – No Report

**FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS - None**

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Regular Agenda Legislation Only)**

The President reported Council determined in this evening's Pre-Council meeting to dispose of the following Legislation Reading in the Consent Agenda format, for efficiency; and gave a brief explanation of the items.

**LEGISLATION READING**

The Clerk of Council presented the following Legislation:

**ORDINANCE**

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**ORDINANCE**

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ORDINANCE

2013-193 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING PAY RATES AND OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE AND NON-UNION PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE CITY OF ASHTABULA.

ORDINANCE

2013-194 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NO. 2013-170, PASSED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2013, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELIMINATING THE POSITIONS OF CIVIL SERVICE SECRETARY, EEO OFFICER & DATA PROCESSOR ACCOUNTANT; INCREASING THE COMPENSATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON; REINSTATING COMPENSATION FOR SALARIED PERSONNEL AND ELECTED OFFICIALS THAT HAD BEEN REDUCED DURING FY 2013; AND CREATING THE POSITION OF COURT ADMINISTRATOR AND CHANGING RATES OF COMPENSATION OF COURT PERSONNEL. (This ordinance also changed the Division of Auditor to Division of Finance, City Auditor to Director of Finance, and removed the positions of Deputy City Auditor and City Treasurer from the listing of Administration positions.)

ORDINANCE

2013-195 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO.

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Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Balog seconded to waive the reading of the Consent Agenda Legislation; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Balog seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the Consent Agenda Legislation: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro voted yea; motion CARRIED. The Clerk of Council asked the Solicitor if he certified the above legislation as to form and correctness. The Solicitor replied, "Yes".

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**Street Light Outages:** The President reported he recently went to the City's website, accessed the direct link for reporting street light outages, and reported the estimated eighteen street lights that are out in one area of our City. He encouraged citizens to report outages, and commented on the various ways to report the location of the outage. The President said the bill has to be paid whether or not the light is operating, that having them operating makes our neighborhoods safer and look better. The Ward 2 Councilor asked that lights that are continuously on should also be reported.

**West Avenue Bridge:** The Ward 1 Councilor asked if lights are going to be installed on this newly renovated bridge. The Manager replied yes.

**West Avenue Railroad Overpass:** In response to Council's continued request for this overpass to be illuminated, the Manager said he is talking with 'their engineering service'. He said Mr. Dave Dillon, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating (C.E.I.) company's representative remembers the first cost estimate being 'very big'. All new power has to be run to the bridge before lights may be installed. While not having a dollar amount to provide, the Manager gave the example of the cost for traffic signalization at Benefit Avenue and Route 20; the first quote of which was \$70,000. The Ward 5 Councilor asked if the request is going to be entertained. The Manager said he will provide the information to Council for their consideration. He said lighting should have been included in the project, and in his opinion was a design oversight. The Ward 2 Councilor asked if there is a type of solar light that could be installed. The Manager said great question; that many of the LED lights "go to solar now", and that he will explore the possibility. The Vice President said there is also a light powered by a wind turbine that has a solar cell on it, and is completely off the grid.

**GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

**Mr. Tom Clutter, East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street:** reported the elderly, nurses, and teachers who reside near him were unable to get out of their road because snow has not been removed from the side streets after having three days of snowfall. He asked how plow drivers are tracked. The Manager reported the trucks do not have GPS systems; and that crews inform oncoming crews of what has and has not been accomplished. Mr. Clutter reported some streets were plowed but streets right next to them were not, which made no sense to him. He also expressed frustration with the way in which Sanitation handles garbage cans. He said the township's roads are perfectly plowed. He said he is a 10 year resident, pays over \$2,000 a year in taxes, and is ready to move.

The Ward 2 Councilor reported there is a certain pattern plowers follow. In previous years there were up to 30 employees in the Public Works Department, now there are 6 to 8 people available for three shifts. The goal is to get main roads and hills open first. He said he too believes crews spent too much time on the main roads, as the Manager earlier reported, and asked everyone to be patient – crews will be on their road. He said his road wasn't plowed either. He said it is possible for the shortage to be compounded by vacation and sick time usage.

Mr. Clutter asked if private contractors may be hired to assist. The Manager said it all comes down to money, coupled with union contractual agreements. The Manager reported \$45,000 in salt (1250 tons of salt) was spent on the four last snow falls. He said his road has not been plowed and he is on one of the very last legs of Ward 1. The Manager reiterated the assistant townships and villages receive from the State, which the City does not. He said the State is also able to pretreat roads with brine prior to the snowfall. Brine is too expensive for the City to purchase. He said State plows are also larger and heavier, and have salt that melts in negative temperatures.

The Vice President said the City has not lost roads (actually it has gained a few through annexation), but has fewer employees clearing them. He suggested the City could perhaps solicit the snow plowing assistance of the townships. For instance, since townships do not have as many roads to plow due to the State's assistance, if they are plowing in an area which abuts City property, perhaps their blade may remain down when they reach the City limits. He likened this agreement to the one the City has with ODOT in exchange for plowing and mowing Route 11 inside the City limits. He said the reality is the City is unable to efficiently and effectively clear all 95 miles of its roads; therefore should seek to look enter into mutual aid agreements.

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Mr. Clutter suggested allowing citizens to post on the City's website if their road is unplowed; and that the City show their daily progress. The Manager said when individuals (Council members included) call Public Works (PW) to ask that a certain area be plowed, PW feels obligated to comply, which also slows their plowing progress. The Manager asked that all inquiries be directed to him to filter to the appropriate personal.

The President assured Mr. Clutter his concerns were heard, and that he appreciated him sitting through a long council meeting in order to be heard. He said, "it does not go unnoticed".

The Clerk of Council reported seeing several people stuck at the intersection of her home (East 45<sup>th</sup> Street and State Road) because there was so much build up. She suggested perhaps plowers move the snow to the curb rather than into the intersection.

**Mr. Jim Giannell, East 44<sup>th</sup> Street:** commented on displeasure with the lack of snow plowing of side streets during the recent three day snow storm. He said the roads were not salted; they were icy; and that a Federal Express truck got stuck on his road, blocking all traffic onto the road. He asked if the City has a definitive plowing plan, and if so suggested it be revisited. He reported Birchwood was plowed but East 44<sup>th</sup> and East 42<sup>nd</sup> Streets were not, both of which abut Birchwood. He called the Police Department about the truck but no officer ever arrived at the scene. So motorist did not know they were unable to traverse the length of the road, therefore had to turn around, but had a hard time doing so because of the lack of snow removal. Mr. Giannell said an emergency vehicle would have had a difficult time getting on and down the road. He suggested City officials are providing 'politically correct' responses to citizen frustration.

**Ms. Janice Blum, East 18<sup>th</sup> Street (off Harbor Avenue):** said as a rule her road is never plowed; East 6<sup>th</sup> Street off Columbus Avenue will have salt, but her road is not touched. Everyone on her road works. She is a school bus driver. Both she and her neighbor were leaving today at 4:45 a.m., but were unable to because they were stuck; consequently neither of them made it to work. She drives for Community Care Ambulance also, therefore has to drive to pay her taxes, but the lack of plowing on her road makes it challenging, to say the least.

The Vice President said it is evident that the lack of plowing happened citywide; therefore no one could claim discrimination.

**Mrs. Karen Flack, 182 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street:** reported pedestrians are walking in the street with dark clothing and could be fatally injured.

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**Mr. Nik Tressler, 202 West 58<sup>th</sup> Street:** reported drugs are in every state. The Star Beacon reported drugs are the reason people are not getting hired. He knows people who moved to other Ohio cities, other states, and other countries because they could not get a job here. He said the conversation regarding people being unable to find jobs here because they are on drugs, has to change. Not all resident are on drugs. He said we have to find the 'disconnect'.

The Manager responded that the employment agency renting space in the basement of this building cannot fill the job openings he has. So much so that he is no longer taking on new openings. The agency had a job fair with 44 positions available at a local factory. Six people showed up; 4 failed the drug test.

Mr. Tressler said most of the jobs that employment agency has requires certification. He said there is no tradition in America, especially in Ashtabula, of offering post- secondary education for unskilled labor; which is part of the disconnect. He said he hopes to never again hear Council members and the business community say, "There's just druggies and nobody can pass the drug test."

The Manager responded that Job Source, on Lake Avenue, the State and the County put a considerable amount of money into training, and that folks are able to choose what occupancies they want to train for. In some cases the City has sent people to Columbus for training in order to perform the tasks asked of them. "I think the disconnect comes between the fact that the person is allowed to pick and choose what they want to be trained on – not necessarily for the jobs available in the area." A-tech is another source whereby a certification may be obtained at no cost to the person seeking the training.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**RECONVENE OPEN MEETING:** N/A

**ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:** N/A

**CLOSING REMARKS**

The Ward 2 Councilor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year.

The President thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting, said City officials appreciate getting input, and that he wants to ensure citizens feel encouraged to bring their concerns forward. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.

The President reminded everyone to "Remember to Keep Believing in Ashtabula"

Ashtabula City Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, December 16, 2013

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McClure moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: January 21, 2014

ATTESTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**J. P. Ducro IV**  
**President of Council**

ATTESTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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