

Council met in a **PUBLIC HEARING**. The President of Council called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Member(s) Present:** Mr. Richard F. Balog (Ward 1)  
Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2)  
Mrs. Alice T. Cook (\*Ward 3 - elect)  
Mrs. Josephine Misener (\*Ward 4 - elect)  
Mr. Kris E. Hamrick (\*Ward 5 - elect)  
Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)  
Mr. J. P. Ducro IV (Council President)

\*Swearing-In scheduled for 6:50 p.m. this evening.

**Member(s) Absent:** None

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

**Officer(s) Absent:** None

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

**PURPOSE:** The Council President announced the purpose of this Public Hearing was to present the 2014 Ashtabula City Budget.

**WELCOME:** The President welcomed visitors.

**DISCUSSION**

The Budget "Estimate" and "Appropriations" were presented. The City Auditor/Acting City Treasurer focused on the "Estimated Budget", and reported that:

- \* It is the documented history from which a budget is created;
- \* Our City Charter requires it be presented to Council;
- \* It is based on year-end projections, which projections are based on the Tax Budget we annual submit to the County in July;
- \* Some revenues will come in a little higher, but the "Estimated Budget" has to be balanced to the Tax Budget and Estimated Resources on hand. She said while the expected increases will not make a significant difference, she wanted everyone to be made aware of the expected increase before they happen;

- \* At the conclusion of the year, the actual year-end cash balances are submitted to the County, at which time the County issues the City a new Estimated Resources;
- \* If the Estimated Resources have increased, more funds may be appropriated; and
- \* All department heads were great to work with; they submitted what was requested of them; and worked hard with the City Manager, who in the end made the hard decisions.

### **COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATION QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS**

**Estimated Resources:** The Clerk suggested the definition of the term “Estimated Resources” be provided for the sake of the three new Councilors. The Auditor/Acting Treasurer commented that our appropriations are limited to the total of our carry-over cash balance and estimated revenues. We submit both totals to the County Budget Commission, who certifies the amounts by the issuance of a Certificate of Estimated Resources.

The Clerk asked the Auditor/Acting Treasurer to confirm that the “Estimate Budget” is the history of how the budget was formed, and that the “Appropriations Budget” is the result of the Estimated Budget, and is what will be attached to the ordinance the Council will vote to enact at their December 16, Regular Meeting. The statement was confirmed as true.

**Working Document:** The President reported the “Appropriations Budget” is a working document because periodic amendments to it will have to be made throughout the year.

**Permanent Improvement Fund (412):** The Auditor/Acting Treasurer reported this fund has a large carryover because only the large projects we know about are represented. As more projects commence throughout next year, this expense line will increase.

**Ending General Fund Cash Balance:** The Auditor/Acting Treasurer said she will frequently refer to the ending cash balance. This year that balance is estimated at \$123,000. She would like to see the balance closer to \$300,000; and is her goal number. If appropriations have to be increased the cash balance will reduce, unless additional revenue estimates have been secured.

**Conservative/Prudent Cash Value Balances:** The President reported that over the past two years we have discussed how much or what percentage of the overall General Fund budget we should have at the end of the year. Our current end of the year projection of \$123,000 is well below that desired amount/percentage. He said we have been on a tight string for some time, and that \$123,000 is not much to operate a public entity on for any length of time.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS** - None

Ashtabula City Council Public Hearing  
Monday, December 2, 2013

**CLOSING REMARKS:** The President complimented and commended the City Manager, City Auditor/Acting City Treasurer, and all department heads for working hard on the process. He said it was an easier and timelier process this year.

The President announced that no formal action may be taken at a public hearing; that the budget may be viewed on the City's website, and will be on display in the Auditor's Department until the enacting vote is taken on Monday, December 16, at the Regular Council meeting.

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Misener seconded to adjourn the Public Hearing at 5:40 p.m.; motion CARRIED.

**DATE APPROVED:** December 16, 2013

**ATTESTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
J. P. Ducro IV  
President of Council

**ATTESTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC  
Clerk of Council