

**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ASHTABULA
4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004**

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 1, 2016

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

Elder Christopher McCain of People's Baptist Church, West Avenue, offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mr. John S. Roskovics	(Ward 1 Councilor)
	Mr. August A. Pugliese	(Ward 2 Councilor)
	Mrs. Josephine Misener	(Ward 4 Councilor)
	Mrs. Alice T. Cook	(Ward 3 Councilor)
	Mr. Kris E. Hamrick	(Ward 5 Councilor)
	Mr. J. P. Ducro IV	(President)
	Mr. Christopher J. McClure	(Vice President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

OFFICER(S) PRESENT:	Mr. James M. Timonere	(City Manager)
	Mr. Michael Franklin	(City Solicitor)
	Mrs. Dana D. Pinkert	(Finance Director)
	Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC	(Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: None

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): None

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

PRESENTATION(S): The Council President presented the following resolution to Mr. Joe Timonere, accompanied by Ms. JoAnn Larko, et al:

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-21

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
TO
JOE TIMONERE INSURANCE**

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio that special recognition is in order; and,

WHEREAS, Joe Timonere did, some sixty plus (60+) years ago, open an insurance agency in Downtown Ashtabula at 4644 Main Avenue; and,

***WHEREAS**, Joe Timonere was a precinct committeeman for many years and active in Ashtabula City politics for over 50 years; his wife Catherine Timonere was active in organizing and operating Main Street Merchants Association in the 1970s on through the 1980s; and,*

***WHEREAS**, JoAnn Larko continued the business, is currently the sole proprietor, and operates her company under the well known name of Joe Timonere Insurance; and,*

***WHEREAS**, Joe Timonere Insurance is located at 4613 Main Avenue, and sells property and casualty insurance;*

***NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, do hereby express our sincere appreciation to Joe Timonere Insurance for its more than 60 year commitment to serving Ashtabula as a member of the Ashtabula Downtown business community.*

THANK YOU for Believing In Ashtabula!

Ms. Larko commented that she worked with Mr. Timonere for 35 years. She thanked him for giving her the opportunity to take over the business upon his retirement.

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to adopt the resolution; motion CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is a means whereby Council is able to efficiently conduct business by grouping routine items, and disposing of or enacting them by one motion, a second, and one vote.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Clerk of Council presented the January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting minutes for disposal. 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

WAIVE COUNCIL RULE 21 - Preparation of Legislation

- None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Consent Agenda Legislation Only)

- None

LEGISLATION READING

ORDINANCE

2016-13 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ROTO ROOTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE WORK AT 787 EAST 14th STREET.
(City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2016-14 AN ORDINANCE WAIVING A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT UPON REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, OWNED BY THE ASHTABULA COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION. (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE

2016-15 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO FILE AN APPLICATION AND EXECUTE DOCUMENTS THROUGH THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR THE GREAT LAKES SHORELINE CITIES GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175,000 FOR VARIOUS "GREEN" INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT WALNUT BEACH. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2016-16 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY (AMHA) FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMERCIAL TRASH REMOVAL AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR \$23,940.00 FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR TO COMMENCE RETROACTIVELY ON JANUARY 1, 2016, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2016-17 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, FOR ADMINISTRATION OF A HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN FUND. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2016-18 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE WAIVER OF TAP-IN FEES OTHERWISE PAYABLE BY THE ASHTABULA COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY ON WEST 44th STREET IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2016-22 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP TO PROVIDE DESIGN ENGINEERING FOR THE WALNUT BEACH REVITALIZATION PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$38,697. (City Manager)

Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Misener, Mrs. Cook, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Mr. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Misener, Mrs. Cook, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

RESOLUTION READING

The President read, in their entirety, the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-19

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
TO
COLLEEN'S STUDIO OF DANSE**

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio that special recognition is in order; and,

WHEREAS, Colleen's Studio of Danse, did, twenty-one (21) years ago, open in Downtown Ashtabula; and,

WHEREAS, Colleen Czup is the owner and operator of, and primary instructor at Colleen's Studio of Danse located at 4525 Main Avenue; and,

WHEREAS, Colleen's Studio of Danse offers dance instruction and specializes in professional ballet and tap instruction for young children; and,

WHEREAS, Colleen's Studio of Danse hosts yearly community concerts, and is a regular participant in the Downtown Christmas Parade;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, do hereby express our sincere appreciation to Colleen's Studio of Danse owner, Colleen Czup, for her 21 year commitment to Downtown Ashtabula as a member of its business community.

THANK YOU for Believing In Ashtabula!

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-20

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
TO THE
ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF REALTORS**

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio that special recognition is in order; and,

WHEREAS, the Ashtabula County Board of Realtors, under the present ownership of 125 Ashtabula County Realtors and 12 Affiliates, has existed for many years; and,

WHEREAS, the Ashtabula County Board of Realtors, has, since 1970, operated at 4310 Park Avenue, under the leadership of a 12 member Board of Directors and 2 affiliates, who take care of policy, education and outreach; and,

WHEREAS, the Ashtabula County Board of Realtors' purpose is to offer support to their realtor population; provide state licensure education and consumer education and advocacy; support the general welfare of the community, and be civically minded and concerned for the general public's ability to own homes and land; and,

WHEREAS, the Ashtabula County Board of Realtors have been active participants in the Hospice of the Western Reserve Cake Auction fundraiser, raising over \$15,000 annually, for the past 20 years; and the Christmas time collection for survivors of domestic violence and their children who seek physical safety, emotional support and basic provisions at Homesafe of Ashtabula County;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, do hereby express our sincere appreciation to the Ashtabula County Board of Realtors for their 46 year commitment as a member of the Downtown Ashtabula business community.

THANK YOU for Believing In Ashtabula!

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to adopt the resolutions; motion CARRIED.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

MEETING MINUTES READING & DISPOSAL

- None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) ATB SR 11 Resurfacing

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into a consent agreement with ODOT District 4 of 2088 South Arlington Rd., Akron, OH 44306 for the purpose of providing resurfacing to Route 11 for portions located within the City of Ashtabula. Funding will be paid 100% by the State. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Consumers Life – Employee Life Insurance Policy Renewal

The City Manager requested an ordinance to authorize the renewal of the City of Ashtabula's employee life insurance policy with Consumer's Life Insurance Company of 17800 Royalton Road, Strongsville, OH 44136 through Giangola Insurance Company in the amount not to exceed \$0.21 per \$1,000 for basic life and \$0.04 per \$1,000 for AD&D in accordance with the current benefit

plan. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED. The cost is the same as the 2015 policy.

GPD Group – Sanitary Sewer Overflow Elimination Phase 1 – Design and Construction Engineering
The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD Group of 100 Federal Plaza East, Suite 200, Youngstown, OH 44503 for the purpose of providing engineering services for design and construction administration for the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Elimination Phase 1 in the amount not to exceed \$64,350.00. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from Fund 504, WPC Capital Improvements. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request. Discussion: The Manager explained that this project addresses places where overflow currently exist. The number of phases will depend on the study that will be conducted and the cost to eliminate overflows. This is through the \$300,000 OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) grant/loan we were awarded. The motion CARRIED.

Truck Purchase – Public Works

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Nassief of Jefferson: 1059 State Route 46 N, Jefferson, OH 44047 for the purchase of a 2016 Ford F250 Truck with a snow plow package in the amount not to exceed \$27,000.00 in accordance with State Purchasing pricing. Funds for this expenditure will be taken from Permanent Improvement Fund 412. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request. Discussion: At the request of the Ward 5 Councilor the Manager explained the truck being replaced is a 1995 Dodge that has several issues and was used by Lands and Buildings. The new truck will go to Public Works and the Public Works truck will go to Lands and Buildings for parking lot snow plowing. The funds will be taken from the City of Ashtabula's Huntington Bank line of credit (LOC). The LOC payment will come from the PI Fund. The first payment on the new truck is due December 2016. The motion CARRIED.

Rosemary Timonere: The City Manager wished his mom a very, very HAPPY BIRTHDAY today, as she turns 70.

Questions / Comments for the City Manager

- **Bunker Hill/Jefferson Road Pothole:** The Vice President said this pothole was discussed in this evening's Pre-Council meeting; and that the Manager said it will be reviewed and addressed accordingly.
- **Bridge Street Manholes:** The City Manager reported Windstream has not responded to the City's request to address their manholes, so City personnel filled them today.
- **Pothole Hotline:** The Vice President asked if the hotline is still operating; the Manager responded yes and that the number is 992-7100.
- **Garbage Pickup:** At the request of the President, the City Manager reported garbage pickup the week of February 14 (President's Day week) will remain the same.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **No Report**

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **No Report**

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS
(Chair/Vice Chair)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PARKS & RECREATION (CD/ED/P&R)
(Mrs. Misener/Mr. Roskovics) – The Chair reported:

- **Meeting:** The committee will meet on Tuesday, February 9, at 4:00 p.m. Ashtabula County Board of Realtors representatives will be present.
- **Parks & Recreation Board:** The City's Parks & Recreation Board will meet on Tuesday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m., in the Municipal Building Pre-Council Chambers.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL (F&P) - (Mr. Ducro IV/Mr. Pugliese) - The Chair reported the committee will meet on Friday, February 12, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2nd Floor conference room.

PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC UTILITIES/CABLE/SCHOOLS (PW/PU/C/S) - (Mr. Pugliese/Mr. McClure)
The Chair announced the committee will meet on Friday, February 5, at 8:00 a.m. The City Manager will present suggested amendments to the City's Sidewalk Repair and Replacement Program and to Sewer Lateral Maintenance.

SAFETY FORCES (SF) - (Mr. Hamrick/Mrs. Misener)

The Chair was absent from the committee's Monday, January 25 meeting, and asked the Vice Chair to make the report. The Vice Chair reported:

- **Monthly Committee Meeting:** The committee voted to change their monthly meeting time from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.
- **Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA):** Director James Noyse attended to discuss the chair's concerns regarding activities at AMHA's Woodman Avenue complex. We inquired if AMHA would be interested or could put on some extra protection for the people in that area, in the way of maybe an off-duty officer. The response was negative; that there had been budgetary cuts and that service was deleted from their funds a long time ago. About five years ago, Mr. Noyse told us that he had approached HUD to see about getting the complex demolished, and his request was denied. HUD said the complex was not that old; and to wait five years. So, that time has elapsed. He informed us that the maintenance

of that area was just so great and therefore is too costly to maintain. And, so he is now going to prepare an application for demolition of that complex. But, the process is long and arduous, and it's really not a given that the request will be granted. The complex has 55 units. And, if and when it would be demolished AMHA would give the displaced residents vouchers that would be good anywhere in the city, county, state, and nation. So, they could stay here or would have that ability to move if they wanted to. He made it clear to the committee that he was not willing to spend one dime of taxpayer money for police, gates, cameras, or any other kind of security measures in that complex. But, since the City has added five officers to its ranks, we will have added protection citywide and hopefully they would be able to respond when and if needed to that area. But, let us also note that taxpayer dollars subsidize our safety forces too; it just comes out of our coiffeurs and not his (AMHA) coiffeurs. So, it's taxpayer dollars either way. Mr. Noyse indicated he would be glad to come back. So, I'm thinking this summer I'd like to really bring him back to the Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee.

- **New Police Officers:** The City Manager told the committee the new officer will be on their own after their training is completed in mid-March.
- **Body Cameras:** Police Chief Robert Stell and the City Manager are shopping to see what is available and what would best fit the City's needs.
- **Fire Department:** Fire Chief Shawn Gruber told the committee their 1987 pumper needs to be replaced, at a cost of \$500,000. They are looking for available grant funding assistance.
- **Propane Tanks:** The City Manager would like to enact a propane tank permitting process for safety measures. The tanks are usually located in front of retail establishments.
- **Donation Bins:** The new application process to have a donation bin located in the City began January 1. In response to the committee's inquiry if anyone has applied, the Manager said the bins around town have been located. A letter was sent to Goodwill Industries, the only local agency with bins, so they may reserve their application for two bin locations. It is unknown if the application has been returned, but the Manager will inquire. He told the committee that the other companies are being notified, by letter, of the new ordinance.

The Chair thanked the Vice Chair for presiding over the meeting while he was detained in a Virginia snow storm.

- **Meeting:** The Chair announced the committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, at 8:00 a.m., reiterating that this is a change to the time only.

WORK SESSION

- The President announced City Council will meet in a Work Session on Monday, February 29, at 5:00 p.m., to begin discussing possible Charter and Council Rule changes.

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS

- None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Legislation Only)

- None

LEGISLATION READING

- None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

Wine & Walleye Festival: Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded for a resolution in support of the Wine & Walleye Festival remaining on Bridge Street. Discussion: The Clerk reported Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce representatives are scheduled to meet with the Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee in March. She reported that in this evening's Pre-Council meeting it was suggested that City officials meet with the Chamber prior to the Chamber solidifying Festival plans at Lakeshore Park, and asked if a meeting should be scheduled prior to March. The Vice President said the legislative body's task is represented by the resolution request. He said it would behoove the legislative body to request that the City Manager and Council President meet with the Chamber while moving forward with the resolution's preparation. The City Manager agreed to initiate the conversation. The Ward 2 Councilor agreed with the Vice President, and said his concern is for Bridge Street merchants. He said the City needs to do what it can to keep the Festival on Bridge Street, and that the resolution could serve to resolve the matter. The President asked the City Manager to let him when the meeting is scheduled because he would be happy to help in any way he is able. The Vice President asked if a resolution, ordinance, or proclamation would be the most appropriate document. The Solicitor said a resolution or ordinance would be appropriate, but that proclamations usually come from the Manager. He then suggested that the most technically correct document would be a resolution as an expression of the wishes and will of Council, as opposed to passing an ordinance threatening some consequence if the Festival is not held on Bridge Street. The Vice President said, "It's not our festival to begin with and a resolution would be the most appropriate". The Solicitor said, "I would respectfully disagree with that. I believe it very much is a City festival and was created as one". The Vice President said, "I would agree with that; however it's sponsored by the Chamber so I think the resolution's an appropriate measure". The Clerk of Council explained that resolution the Solicitor speaks of is formatted like an ordinance not resolutions that are given to a business or citizen. The motion CARRIED.

Board Appointment: The President recommended the appointment of Ms. Shelley Huff, Geneva City Tax Administrator, for a (2) year membership term on the City Local Board of Tax Review, retroactive to January 19, 2016, and terminating on January 19, 2018. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded; motion CARRIED.

Liquor Permit: The President presented the request for a NEW liquor permit for Geetanjali Ashtabula Gas, Inc., dba Uni Mart 04768, at 4000 Park Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004. The permit designation is C2 for wine and certain prepackaged mixed drinks in sealed containers for carry out only until 1:00 a.m. He said the establishment, which is located in Ward 4, currently has a permit, but is requesting it be expanded. Neither the Ward 4 Councilor nor the remaining members of Council objected; therefore a hearing on the request is not required.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- None

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mrs. Pat Blum, 1540 West 17th Street

- **No Parking:** asked for clarification on the West 17th Street parking prohibition Council recently enacted. The City Manager explained it is from the end of the street to the entire length of the first residential property. He said there is one existing sign, the new signs have not been erected, but that they will be. Mrs. Blum reported motorists are showing no respect for the snow and ice we recently experienced because they still parked “there – in the same place”. She said she called the Police Department and believes no one answered her complaint.
- **Garbage Cans:** Mrs. Blum asked that garbage cans not be left out for days after cans have been emptied.
- **Street Lighting:** Mrs. Blum asked for a street light to be placed at the end of her road. She said she does not know how someone entered her locked vehicle. She said her tires have been deflated and that she found the bear that were in her vehicle on the ground. She asked that her yard not be used as short cut path. The City Manager reported West 17th Street is a dead end road; there is a pole at the very end; there is no street light for quite a ways up the road, that there is a considerable amount of traffic on the road going to the City’s Equalization Basin property; and that the back corner of the road is very dark. He said he asked The Cleveland Electric Illuminating company to look at it but has not heard back from them.

Trash and Recycling Containers: The President asked for an update on the new trash and recycling containers that the City will give Wards 1 and 2 residents as part of the new recycling program. The City Manager responded, “At this point we are waiting on the county to do the upgrades at the recycling center, and we are also waiting for them to let a contract for picking up the recyclables, as was agreed upon in the grant. I do not have a status when that will be completed.”

Trash Pick and Pothole Hotline: The City Manager announced trash pickup for the week of President's Day will remain as regularly scheduled, and gave the Pothole Hotline phone number.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None

CLOSING REMARKS

- The Council President announced the next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, (not Monday), due to President's Day Holiday, at 7:00 p.m.; Pre-Council is at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

- Hearing no further business to come before the Council, the President extended a reminder to "Remember to Keep Believing in Ashtabula", and at 7:52 p.m., announced the meeting adjourned.

DATE APPROVED: February 16, 2016

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

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