

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO

4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 16, 2015

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, Park Avenue, offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Richard F. Balog	(Ward 1 Councilor)
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. J. P. Ducro IV	(President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)

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): Mrs. Misener moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to excuse the Vice President from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

PRESENTATION(S)

Thank yous: The President thanked Pastor Wright and Mr. Earl Tucker (Camera operator) and expressed his appreciation to them for their volunteer services at Regular council meetings.

New K9 Officer: The Police Chief introduced Patrolmen/K9 Handler Spencer Gale, a two year veteran on the force, and the newest Police K9 Officer Arko, who officially became a member of the force when the State of Ohio certified him about one week ago. He is half Dutch Sheppard and half German Sheppard, and is two years old. He was breed specifically for police work. He has been on the road for one week and has two successful drug searches. The Chief reported Arko was paid for entirely by donations to the City of Ashtabula K9 Fund. At the request of the Ward 4 Councilor, the Chief reported there is a lot of money (\$10,000 total per K9) and training (3 months) that goes into a K9 Officer, and that we have 3.

He said K9s are breed specifically for the work, and are chosen because of their drive and level of intelligence that will not be witnessed in a typical house K9. He said our K9 program has been quite successful. President Ducro thanked Officer Gale for coming, asked him to stay safe, and wished him well.

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 efficiently conduct business by grouping routine items and disposing of or enacting them by one motion, a second, and a vote.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

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

- February 17, 2015 Regular Meeting
- March 2, 2015 Public Hearing

Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Hamrick 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

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation for City Council's consideration:

ORDINANCE

2015-34 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WESTERN RESERVE HARLEY-DAVIDSON FOR THE PURCHASE OF A MOTORCYCLE PREVIOUSLY LEASED BY THE POLICE DIVISION. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-35 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-150, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ROTO-ROOTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING REPAIRS TO AND REPLACEMENT OF VARIOUS CATCH BASINS/STORM DRAINS WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-36 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED EQUIPMENT, ITEMS AND/OR MATERIALS. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-38 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SEVERINO CONSTRUCTION, INC., D/B/A IGR, LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$192,055.20 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A PARKING LOT ON BRIDGE STREET AND AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DELETION OF MATERIALS AND WORK. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-39 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,683 WITH SEVERINO CONSTRUCTION, INC., D/B/A IGR, LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING ALTERNATE NO. 1 TO THE BID SPECIFICATIONS ON THE BRIDGE STREET PARKING FACILITY PROJECT, CONTINGENT UPON OBTAINING A WAIVER FROM THE ODSA FOR USE OF \$35,000 OF RLF FUNDS IN SAID PROJECT. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-40 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR WAIVER TO THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY IN ORDER TO USE \$35,000 FROM THE REVOLVING LOAN FUND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE STREET PARKING FACILITY. (City Manager)

RESOLUTION

2015-41 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO, THE QUESTION OF A RENEWAL OF A TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE-TENTHS (0.3) MILLS FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS, FOR EACH DOLLAR OF TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COST OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS BY APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE ASHTABULA COUNCIL ON AGING, INC., A NON-PROFIT OHIO CORPORATION WITH TAX-EXEMPT STATUS UNDER SECTION 501(c)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 5705.19, 5705.191 AND 5705.25 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE; SAID LEVY TO APPEAR UPON THE TAX DUPLICATE OF SAID CITY OF ASHTABULA, ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO, FOR THE TAX YEARS 2016 TO 2020 INCLUSIVE. (Senior Citizens Service Center – Ashtabula, Ohio)

ORDINANCE

2015-43 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF A HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN FUND.
(City Manager)

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

(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

REGULAR AGENDA

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES – None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Tax Incentive Review Council Recommendation

The City Manager requested an ordinance authorizing the continuation of seven existing community reinvestment area tax incentive agreement upon conditions as indicated, in accordance with the recommendation of the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC). Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's recommendation. The Manager explained that the City's current tax abatements assist businesses with improvements or new construction. Each year we are required to review the abatements to ensure the companies are doing what they said they would do in their tax abatement application. The TIRC is the reviewing body and may make recommendations for the abatements to continue as is, to be modified, or to cease. The President reported the following abatements are active:

- 4314 Main Avenue LLC (Burn's Kid's College)
- Lake City Plating Company, Inc.
- Water Street Warehouse, LLC. (415-419 Morton Drive)
- MK2 Properties, LLC. (4220 Main Avenue, formerly Medicine Shoppe/currently Port Conneaut)
- First Ashtabula Mining Company & Ashtabula City Port Authority (Signature Health/former Hotel Ashtabula renovated)
- Pigeon's Landing, LLC. (not yet started)
- Ashtabula CBOC, LLC. (Veteran's Administration (VA) Hospital – Carpenter Road)

The President said some people do not believe there are options by which local businesses are able to save money in order to assist their operations. He said this is a significant incentive to someone that might want to open a business or expand their employment opportunities.

The Manager said while the requirements for the number of jobs created or increased is as little as one to two, the major factor of tax abatement is the property tax will be discounted based on the percentage of the value of the property at the time the abatement is granted vs. the value after the improvements are done. The Ohio Revised Code permits us to offer up to 50% without the approval of the Ashtabula Area City School Board. Thereafter the action of the Board is required before the abatement is granted. The motion CARRIED.

Road Salt

The City Manager requested authorization to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the purchase of road salt for ice & snow removal on city streets. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to approve the Manager's request. At the request of the Ward 5 Councilor, the City Manager reported we purchased 2500 tons at the beginning of the year at \$39 per ton. The last 400 tons purchased were at a cost of \$104 per ton. On hand, we have between 100 and 200 tons remaining, which is enough for a couple more storms. Crews used upwards of 3200 tons this winter. The motion CARRIED.

Ashtabula County Animal Protective League Agreement (APL)

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Ashtabula County APL of 5970 Green Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004 for the purpose of providing animal intake for the City of Ashtabula in the amount as noted in the agreement. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from the General Fund Account, 101. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to approve the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

2015 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP)

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into a partnership agreement with Ashtabula County for the purpose partnering with the County to apply for 2015 CHIP funds. Ashtabula County will be the lead agency for this funding through the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA). Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to approve the Manager's request. The President announced citizens may apply to the County to be considered for receipt of these funds. The program is based on income. The motion CARRIED.

Water Pollution Control (WPC) Diesel Pump

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Xylem, of 300 Temple Street, Painesville, OH 44077 as an emergency measure for the purpose of purchasing a Godwin Dri-Prime CD150M Diesel Pump to maintain operation of the WPC plant in the amount not to exceed \$33,681.60. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from the 504 Fund account. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to approve the Manager's request.

The President reported that during this evening's Pre-Council meeting, the City Manager told Council this purchase will replace a failing pump and will allow us to no longer have to rent a pump for \$750 per day. The motion CARRIED.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) – Nature Works Grant

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with ODNR for the purpose of providing an outdoor recreation improvement project for Walnut Beach playground equipment through a Nature Works Grant in the amount of \$38,000. The local match for this project will be 25% to be funded from the City's Permanent Improvement Fund 412. The Manager said once the agreement is signed the bid specifications will be created, the bid will be let, contractors will submit bids, equipment as noted in the bids will be evaluated, Council approval will be required, and the installation will hopefully be sometime this summer. The motion CARRIED.

2014-2015 Paving Program Update

The City Manager reported he will bring the paving project legislation to the April 6 Regular council meeting. The numbers are still being worked, the streets roster is being updated, some of the work City crews should do (catch basins & manhole repairs) to put more dollars into asphalt work is being evaluated. We met with GPD today in order to get the project finalized and to Council. It is his hope that by the time it comes before Council for approval all other aspects of the project will be in place and ready to go once approval is received.

Response to Comments Regarding Historical Preservation

The City Manager read the following statement:

I have been sent some of the posts that are now on Facebook by those I have worked with to preserve these structures I am now accused of just wanting to demolish. Yes, I said preserve these structures. Needless to say, they were discouraged by what has been posted knowing full well all we have been doing to preserve these buildings. The information I have seen so far is completely false. Not surprisingly, this is an election year and why not encourage people to display misleading information. Let me address some of the things I have worked on not only as City Manager in the last three years, but as Chamber of Commerce President for six years prior.

I sit on both the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA) and Lift Bridge Community Association (LBCA) Board of Directors. As you may know, Bridge St. is on the National Historic Preservation List. We, the City, secured almost \$700,000 for Bridge St. to re-brick Hulbert Hill, install a public parking lot and give building owners up to \$10,000 in matching funds for renovations to their buildings; all keeping with the Historic Theme of the Harbor. We intend to apply for the same grant for Main Avenue next year and focus on the Streetscape Plan the City recently paid for on behalf of the ADDA under my administration.

During this time, I have worked with the ADDA to fund studies to restore the Shea Theater. Let me be clear, this was the work of the ADDA. Through this work, a Trust was formed to accept the Shea property and begin to work on its restoration. I believe the property has transferred to this entity by now. I personally paid for, out of my own pocket, their filing fees with the State of Ohio for this Trust to become an established and legal organization.

Again the work of a handful of dedicated people, specifically Roberta Madar Pruett. Because of this, I am confident this building will see new life and not be demolished.

In addition, before anyone asked what would happen to the Clock in front of Anderson's Jewelers when Mr. Anderson decided to retire, I had already begun the discussions with him to make sure it stayed in the Main Avenue area and insisted on language in the donation to make sure the City could not sell or fall short on its responsibilities to maintain this clock. It is now the property of the City and will remain in Downtown. It is important to note, Mr. Anderson was receiving offers in the 10's of thousands of dollars to buy the clock and take it elsewhere.

I sought out and found an investor willing to take over the Train Depot and form a Public/Private Partnership to rehab this facility and put it into commercial use; allowing the public access to the building and a new business to come to town. We worked extensively with CSX to make this happen. Unfortunately, the building is required to sit approximately 75 feet from the tracks in order for it to become a public place or business. Parts of the building are only 17 feet from the tracks and CSX denied our request to utilize the structure due to this regulation. They could only hand it over if the structure was to be moved. The cost to do so was not in the cards and we lost the deal. It is my understanding CSX now intends to demolish the structure.

Which then brings us to the old City Municipal Building. Through my time at the Chamber and now as City Manager, I have sought out and brought several organizations and restoration companies through our connections with Heritage Ohio and the Main Street Program to visit the building and talk about re-uses for the structure. We invited Coon Restoration, a company that has restored many historic buildings all over the state, to visit on a few occasions. Unfortunately, they did not have interest in the project nor could come up with a viable solution to renovate the building. Mr. Hamilton, despite what has been posted on social media, has never come up with a plan for the building, nor has he been to this Council with a plan other than he wants to see it become a museum and he will hold Bingo games to pay for the renovations. I am sure you can tell, this is not a viable option for this building. This building has been on the market for quite some time and not one person with a plan has ever stepped forward to take it. Believe me, we want it restored and want to be out from the burden of the building.

Another group was recently formed and also wanted the structure for \$1. From what I have been told, this group is no longer in existence. Again, no plan and obviously no way to raise funds to preserve and renovate the structure.

I have said many times and will say it again, if someone comes with a viable and sustainable plan for this building, I will be their biggest champion and encourage Council to make the transaction. Despite what has been posted on social media, although I am in control of lands and buildings for the City, the ultimate disposition of any of our facilities lies in the hands of Council. They have the ultimate authority on the future of these structures. We are seeking grants to raze the building and I have made it clear once funds are found and a project is not identified for the structure, it is my intent to recommend to Council it is torn down. I hope you can see it is not from a lack of trying to repurpose the building.

We have seen what can happen when these historic buildings get in the hands of the wrong owners. A few examples would be the old West Elementary School which recently burned and had to be demolished at a cost of over \$600,000. Park Haven Home is now in deplorable condition and St. John High School is heading in the same direction. All of these properties fell into the hands of good intended owners who had no plan and/or the means to renovate and repair these structures. In the case of West Elementary, the City had to step in and become responsible for the project. Thankfully I was able to work with the US EPA and Ohio EPA to have it demolished at no cost to the City. I am sure you can guess at some point the fingers will again be pointed at the City to do something with these structures. These are just a few examples of why I am hesitant to offer buildings up for sale to organizations or individuals with no plan, no financing nor the capability of leading such projects.

I hope what I have said makes sense and you understand what my intentions truly are. Does this sound like I want to demolish everything in town? As the saying goes, you can't believe everything you read on the internet and as we have all seen, the amount of misinformation posted by a select group of people on social media is disappointing to say the least.

Questions and Comments for the City Manager

Historic Preservation: The Ward 4 Councilor noted the City of Ashtabula has no control over who buys a property which leaves us at a disadvantage (e.g., Park Haven, St John School). The Manager added that while we have no control over the purchases the fingers will point at the City to do something with them, and probably in a very short time.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Vacant Building: The Ward 4 Councilor asked if the owners of the former Park Haven and St. John School buildings have been reached. The Solicitor reported that "prior to the former Fire Prevention Officer's retirement, the officer forward a report to him concerning the condition of the building and potential code violations. However, most of those violations related to a non-functioning fire-suppression system. Due to our extreme winter, busted pipes and unheated buildings, the water to the building was shut-off. (If it had not been before, it definitely was at this point). When the water no longer serves the building there is no longer a need for a fire suppression system. So that particular avenue of prosecution or enforcement ceased. What we are left with is a number of potential violations relating to failure to secure. We also have some empty structure ordinances the Planning and Community Development Director Luciana Ratermann plans to bring to the attention of the owner this spring. Once again we are dealing with an owner that is not local, that is not easily within our grasp, who is not likely to respond to local political or public pressure, and I'm not hopeful there will be a good result."

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Formal Legislation Request: The Finance Director requested AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT, WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (WPC), AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL CAPITAL (WPCC) FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Balog seconded to grant the Finance Director's request; motion CARRIED.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

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

The Chair reported the following:

New Committee Meeting Day: The committee will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 4:00 p.m., in the Municipal Building 2nd Floor Conference Room.

This new meeting day more appropriately coincides with the Parks & Recreation Board's monthly meetings which are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., in Pre-Council Chambers.

Next Meeting Day: The committee will meet on Tuesday, April 14.

Parks & Recreation Board: The Board met on Tuesday, March 10. They are busy with spring coming. They have several plans for Clifford Kadon Presidential Park and Walnut Beach. It will be an exciting year with so many people coming forward to help get our parks in shape.

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

The Chair announced the committee will meet on Friday, April 10, at 8:00 a.m.

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

The President announced the committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, April 3, at 8:00 a.m.

Time Warner Cable (TWC) Service: The President asked the Ward 2 Councilor if he would like to have a TWC representative attend a meeting. The Councilor said representatives have attended committee meetings in the past. However, if new representatives would come from Comcast, the company that is purchasing TWC, it might be good to extend an invitation. The Councilor reported he told Council and the Manager that several residents are dissatisfied with the way in which TWC is operating, (e.g. double billed in February because a bill was not received in January, and unexplained fee increases). He suggested seeking help from State Representative John Patterson and Congressman David Joyce; realizing they might not be able to do anything. He said TWC's rates are extremely high. He reported competition is coming and the hope is they will be able to provide residents with a choice. The Ward 4 Councilor suggested Comcast be invited to a meeting to find out what their intentions are. The Ward 2 Councilor said while TWC representatives were "reasonable", but that it is time to meet with someone else. He said if the Comcast representatives are different, an invitation can be extended, but reiterated he did not believe there was much that could be done to change the situation.

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

The Chair announced the committee has not meet for several months, but will meet on Monday, March 23, at 4:00 p.m. The agenda will be firmed up with the Clerk of Council soon.

Questions and Comments for Safety Forces Committee

Update - Hiring Police Officers: The President asked how the hiring of police officers (with Police Levy funding) is coming along.

The Manager said:

- * Two are in the Police Academy. When they complete the Academy they will have to take the state test.
- * A recommendation will be made to the Civil Service Commission to repeal the current list because we have gone through the whole list and couldn't hire some of the applicants that are on it due to the outcome of polygraph and psychological tests.
- * We most likely will be doing another test here shortly to get the other two officers hired.
- * We are still waiting for a decision from one of those officers who is filling out paper work to leave a federal job, and who is very interested in becoming an officer for us. We'd love to have him but we can't just extend this list in order for that to happen. So if he would like to remain on our list he will have to take the Civil Service test again.
- * As soon as we have a Civil Service meeting we'll put the steps in motion to schedule another test.

Work Session

The President reported Council meet in a work session on Monday, March 9, essentially to discuss plans for addressing our Waste Water Treatment Plant capital improvements. He said it was a good meeting with an exchange of good information. The Finance Director is working on proposals for Council's review. The President said he believes Council will look at a flat user fee versus a rate adjustment in order to finance the capital improvement expenses. By doing so residential customer fees will be slightly reduced in comparison to the fee they presently pay for the Equalization (EQ) Basin on their sewer/trash bills. And, it would result in a "modest" increase, "possibly" for commercial users.

Also discussed were a permissive auto license tax increase proposal, and the collection procedures for unpaid City sewer, trash and income taxes.

The minutes will provide more content and will be posted on the city's website at www.cityofashtabula.com.

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Regular Agenda Legislation Only) - None

CONSENT AGENDA DISPOSAL

The President entertained a motion to dispose of the Regular Legislation Agenda in Consent agenda format. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded; motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation for consent agenda format disposal:

ORDINANCE

2015-37 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROAD SALT FOR ICE & SNOW REMOVAL ON CITY STREETS.
(City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-42 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE.
(City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-44 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT, WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (WPC), AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL CAPITAL (WPCC) FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015. (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE

2015-45 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF SEVEN EXISTING COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT UPON CONDITIONS AS INDICATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL (TIRC)

Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the above Regular Agenda Legislation; motion CARRIED. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the Charter Requirement of two readings of the above Regular Agenda Legislation. On the roll call to waive the Charter Requirement of two readings: Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the above Consent Agenda Legislation: Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

MISCELLANEOUS

Downtown Laughs (ADDA fundraiser): The President issued a reminder that Downtown Laughs, the local annual comedy fundraiser for the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28, at Casa Capelli. Tickets are \$30 for dinner and the show.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Darrell Hamilton, 5911 Runkle Road, Ashtabula: asked Council to give him the opportunity to complete what he began over 10 years ago; that being an attempt to have the former City Hall/Municipal Building at 4400 Main Avenue, placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR of HP). He asked why everyone is against him. He believes the City Manager and members of Council are closed to preserving historic structures. He said the Manager has no veto power (*Transcriber's note: The City Charter gives the City Manager veto power which may be overrode by a 2/3rds vote of City Council*) and is not permitted to request legislation (*Transcriber's note: The City Manager is permitted to request legislation*); therefore wanted to know why Council will not simple give him permission to proceed to complete the work he began. He said he has never received any help from the City, including when he spent \$15,000 of his personal funds to purchase and plant flowers in North Park (now Lance Cpl Kevin Cornelius Memorial Park), for the City's Bicentennial celebration. The President told Mr. Hamilton he genuinely appreciates his passion and what is has done for the City of Ashtabula, that he does not believe he has been acknowledged for his efforts, and that he very much appreciates Mr. Hamilton's passion. The President said he would rather the former City Hall/Municipal Building not be razed, so he would like someone to come forward with a plan. But, without one, it will have to come down. The Ward 4 Councilor reported that Mr. Hamilton's statement that he has never been given a chance to see what he can do to restore the structure is not true. She said she was on Council during Mr. Hamilton's NR of HP attempt, and that she called the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) weekly to keep tabs on the progress. She told Mr. Hamilton she did not believe he wanted to hear what the OHS told her. The City Manager told Mr. Hamilton that he is open to giving consideration to any viable idea for the structure and would not proceed with seeking funds to have it razed were such an idea presented to him. He reiterated some of the points he made in the statement he earlier read in this meeting about attempts that have been made regarding the structure, noting they have all been to no avail. Mr. Hamilton reported he has a plan, the means to open a museum in the structure, and the wherewithal to maintain it. He said he even has investors, donated materials lined up, and would be applying for grants. The City Manager told Mr. Hamilton that in order to apply for grants he would have to have a business plan and the ability to show capital up front. He then asked Mr. Hamilton to present his plan, a list of the investors and their contact information, and a list of the donated materials and the providers of said materials, for his review and consideration. Mr. Hamilton quietly said he would have them to the Manager within a few days, began again to ask why everyone is against him, became angry to the point of having to be reminded to be respectfully when commenting, and left the meeting prior to its conclusion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING: N/A

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

CLOSING REMARKS

Meetings

The President announced the next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m.; Pre-Council at 6:00 p.m.

The President reported Council will meet in a Public Hearing on Monday, April 6, at 5:30 p.m., to hear comments regarding Mr. Bill Hamilton's request to vacate Easy Street (a paper street off Benefit Avenue). This is a rescheduled public hearing that was initially scheduled to take place in March.

Encouragement: The President asked everyone to "Remember to Keep Believing in Ashtabula".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Balog seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: April 6, 2015

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