

**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Monday, April 21, 2014**

**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)**

The Ward 1 Councilor offered the opening prayer. Mr. Nelson Morrison led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the passing, on April 8, of Mrs. Karen Flack, a 30+ year resident, regular attendant at council meetings, and a community advocate.

**Members Present:** Mrs. Josephine Misener (Ward 4 Councilor)  
Mr. Kris E. Hamrick (Ward 5 Councilor)  
Mr. Richard F. Balog (Ward 1 Councilor)  
Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2 Councilor)  
Mrs. Alice T. Cook (Ward 3 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:** Mrs. Cook 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.

**Presentations:** None

**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 by grouping like items together and disposing of and/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:

- March 17, 2014 Regular Meeting
- April 7, 2014 Regular Meeting

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

### **FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS**

#### **ORDINANCE**

**2014-48 AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING OF BOTH SIDES OF LAKE AVENUE BETWEEN WALNUT BOULEVARD AND WEST 19<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO C-1/GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND MAKING SPECIAL PROVISION FOR PROPERTIES IN THE H-1/HISTORIC DISTRICT AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE. (City Manager)**

#### **ORDINANCE**

**2014-49 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN THEIR ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTIONS 937.05 "DELINQUENT PAYMENTS: CERTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENTS" AND 937.06 "SEWER AND RENTAL FUND USES" FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING INTO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER ABOLISHING THE POSITIONS OF CITY AUDITOR AND CITY TREASURER AND CREATING THE POSITION OF CITY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE. (Finance Director & Clerk of Council)**

#### **ORDINANCE**

**2014-50 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTIONS 937.05 "DELINQUENT PAYMENTS: CERTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENTS" AND 937.06 "SEWER AND RENTAL FUND USES" FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING INTO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER ABOLISHING THE POSITIONS OF CITY AUDITOR AND CITY TREASURER AND CREATING THE POSITION OF CITY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE. (Finance Director & Clerk of Council)**

#### **ORDINANCE**

**2014-51 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 173.01 "REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM" FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING INTO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER ABOLISHING THE POSITIONS OF CITY AUDITOR AND CITY TREASURER AND CREATING THE POSITION OF CITY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE. (Finance Director & Clerk of Council)**

**ORDINANCE**

**2014-52** AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 173.01 "REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM" FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING INTO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER ABOLISHING THE POSITIONS OF CITY AUDITOR AND CITY TREASURER AND CREATING THE POSITION OF CITY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.  
(Finance Director & Clerk of Council)

**ORDINANCE**

**2014-53** AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 917.06 "FAILURE TO PAY COST: CERTIFICATION TO COUNTY AUDITOR" FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING INTO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER ABOLISHING THE POSITIONS OF CITY AUDITOR AND CITY TREASURER AND CREATING THE POSITION OF CITY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE. (Finance Director & Clerk of Council)

**ORDINANCE**

**2014-54** AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 917.06 "FAILURE TO PAY COST: CERTIFICATION TO COUNTY AUDITOR" FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING INTO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER ABOLISHING THE POSITIONS OF CITY AUDITOR AND CITY TREASURER AND CREATING THE POSITION OF CITY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE. (Finance Director & Clerk of Council)

**ORDINANCE**

**2014-55** AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 169 "RECORDS COMMISSION" FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING INTO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER ABOLISHING THE POSITIONS OF CITY AUDITOR AND CITY TREASURER AND CREATING THE POSITION OF CITY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.  
(Finance Director & Clerk of Council)

**ORDINANCE**

**2014-56** AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 169 "RECORDS COMMISSION" FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING INTO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER ABOLISHING THE POSITIONS OF CITY AUDITOR AND CITY TREASURER AND CREATING THE POSITION OF CITY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.  
(Finance Director & Clerk of Council)

**ORDINANCE**

**2014-58** AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST, SANITATION, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT, WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND FIRE ESCROW FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014.  
(Finance Director)

**ORDINANCE**

**2014-59** AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2014-15 PASSED ON JANUARY 6, 2014, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION TO SATISFY CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH ASFCME, FOP, AND IAFF LOCAL UNIONS, THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE'S JOURNAL ENTRY FOR COURT PERSONNEL, AND FOR THE NEWLY CREATED POSITION OF ANIMAL CONTROL / CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. (Finance Director)

**ORDINANCE**

2014-60 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO. (Finance Director)

**ORDINANCE**

2014-61 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH UNION INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMERGENCY WORK TO REPAIR MATTSON DRIVE. (City Manager)

**ORDINANCE**

2014-62 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MEDICO SYSTEMS, INC., FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AND DEMOLITION SERVICES TO ABATE A VACANT AND BLIGHTED STRUCTURE. (Planning & Community Development Director)

**ORDINANCE**

2014-63 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE OPERATION OF THE WALNUT BEACH CONCESSION STAND FOR THE 2014-2016 SUMMER SEASONS. (City Manager)

**ORDINANCE**

2014-64 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH MC3 HOLDINGS, LTD., FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 50% FOR 5 YEARS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND/OR RENOVATION OF PREMISES LOCATED AT 1233 BRIDGE STREET IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA. (Planning & Community Development Director)

**ORDINANCE**

2014-65 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO MODIFY A CONTRACT WITH POGGEMEYER DESIGN GROUP FOR GRANT ADMINISTRATION. (Planning & Community Development Director)

Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to approve the above formal legislation requests; motion CARRIED.

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

**LEGISLATION READING**

**ORDINANCE**

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ORDINANCE

2014-57 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PHASE II OF THE WEST HARBOR SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT. (City Manager)

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

(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

## REGULAR AGENDA

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

#### **YMCA Walnut Beach Lifeguard Services Contract**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Ashtabula County YMCA of 263 West Prospect Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004, for the purpose of providing lifeguard services in 2014 for the amount not to exceed \$21,600. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from Account Number 233-158-5320, titled Professional Services. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request. This agreement is at the 2013 rate. The motion CARRIED.

### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR CITY MANAGER

#### **West Avenue School Update (Fire Damage)**

The President asked the Manager to provide an update. The City Manager reported the City has been working with the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to determine the next steps to raze the fire damaged structure, which belongs to a local citizen who is unable to take care of the damage. A fence was erected around the property last week, to address the safety of pedestrians. He thanked Thomas Fence for their assistance. We await information from the USEPA. There is a chance the City might try to acquire the property through a tax foreclosure process and be held harmless for the cleanup and the sight's contamination. The USEPA and OEPA have been very willing to work with the City to help get it cleaned up; and it looks like funding will be available to do so. We are following their lead. Our City Solicitor has been working diligently with their attorneys to get the property cleaned up.

**Razed Structures/Vacant Land**

The Ward 2 Councilor asked the City Manager for information regarding the grating and seeding of land from which structures were razed. The City Manager said the properties will be tilled, grated, and seeded once the ground has thawed and dried.

The President asked the City Manager if contractors will be asked to repair sidewalks that were damaged during structure razing activity. The Manager reported notification has been issued.

**Street Cut**

The President reported that in this evening's Pre-Council Meeting the City Manager was told about the need for Aqua Ohio's street cut at Coyne Avenue & West 8<sup>th</sup> Street to be addressed, including a pipe which is protruding out of the road.

**Collapsed Drain**

The President reported that in this evening's Pre-Council Meeting the City Manager was told of collapsed drains on West 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Road Delamination**

The President reported that in this evening's Pre-Council Meeting the City Manager was told about the condition of Gladding Avenue. The Manager reported the term for the road's condition is 'delamination'.

**Council Chambers Camera & Sound**

The Ward 2 Councilor asked if the camera and sound was functioning properly this evening. No problems with either were reported. The Manager announced that on May 2 the new sound system would be installed. He continues to await Time Warner Cable's (TWC) response regarding their signal which transmits this meeting to their customers. Camera operator, Mr. Earl Tucker, reported TWC did not know about the equipment in the Council Chambers closet. The Manager said he will address the equipment concerns with TWC.

**Cable Tiling**

The Ward 2 Councilor reported that for the last month he continues to experience tiling on several TWC cable channels. The Manager will call TWC tomorrow, and believes the problem was repaired in our Harbor area.

**CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT** - No Report

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - No Report



**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

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

The Chair reported the committee did not need to meet in April. They will meet on Wednesday, May 7, at 4:00 p.m., which is a change from the regularly scheduled monthly meetings. The Chair will provide the agenda to the Clerk.

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

The Chair presented the committee's Friday, April 11, meeting report, as follows:

**The Finance Director presented:**

- The City's year-to-date financials;
- An ordinance request for supplemental appropriations;
- An update on Ohio House Bill (HB) 5 – Municipal Income Tax – reporting her two concerns were the Net Operating Loss Carry Forward & 12 Day Occasional Entrant Rule;
- The State of Ohio is no longer discussing the possibility of Centralized Income Tax Collections, at this time; and
- Senate Bill (SB) 282 which would prohibit municipal corporations from levying an income tax on anybody but residents.

**ACTION: Mr. Ducro moved, Mr. Balog seconded a resolution opposing House Bill 5 and Senate Bill 282; motion CARRIED.**

- An ordinance request for a new payroll ordinance to satisfy police, fire, and ASFCME union contract increases, with an effective date of April 28 which coincides with the beginning of the pay period closest to May 1 (the contractual effective date of the increases); and
- Options pertaining to the Early Retirement Incentive Plan Note (matures on May 20)

**ACTION: Mr. Ducro moved, Mr. Balog seconded the Finance Director's recommendation to the committee that \$700,000 of the \$725,000 note be rolled over (because principal is being paid down this year), at an interest rate of between 1.25% and 1.5%, for one year, but make a commitment to budget \$170,000 towards the note payment into the 2015 City budget; motion CARRIED.**

**The City Manager reported to the committee the following employment issues:**

- Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Superintendent job posting is out;
- State of Ohio Changes re: WWT Classifications;
- Public Works Light Equipment Operator position has been filled;
- Laborer position was awarded to the Animal Control Officer (ACO), but the Manager will not have the current ACO begin his new Laborer duties until he determines what to do with the ACO position.

- He has been speaking with the ASFCME 1197 Union about creating an ACO/Code Enforcer position. This would allow the ACO to perform code enforcement during slow periods.

**Meeting Announcement:** The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 9, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

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

The Vice Chair announced the committee's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 2, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

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

The Chair announced a meeting of the committee was not required in April. Their next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 16, 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

**Police Levy**

The Chair asked citizens to support the 2.5 mil, 5 year, Police Levy which will appear as Issue 4 on the May 6 Primary ballot.

**Work Session** – No Session/No Report

**FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (Regular Agenda Legislation Only) - None

**LEGISLATION READING**- None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Update on (2) New Trucks:** The Ward 2 Councilor asked the Manager to provide an update. The Manager responded that because of the extensive delay in delivering the two new snow plow trucks to the City, the company has extended the warranty from 1 year to 3 years, and is giving us a deeper discount. The City's Mechanic visited the location to see if the trucks were actually being worked on, and they are. The Manager will search for another supplier when snow plow trucks are needed again.

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### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Tire Amnesty Day (TAD):** The Manager announced the last TAD for the year is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., at Sanitation.

**Walnut Beach Cleanup:** The Manager announced Walnut Beach cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

**Westside Cleanup:** The President announced the A100 Group has scheduled a cleanup of the Westside on Saturday, April 26, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The area of concentration will be from West 38<sup>th</sup> Street to Route 20 (north and south sides of the road), and from Ann Avenue to West Avenue (east and west sides of the road).

**Clifford Kadon Presidential Park (CKPP), Chestnut Area and other immediate area Cleanups:** The President announced in March My Neighborhood group sponsored a cleanup of CKPP, the Chestnut area (West 58<sup>th</sup> Street to West 52<sup>nd</sup> Street), and West Avenue to Washington Avenue. The group's upcoming cleanup will concentrate on the West Avenue District.

**Park-to-Park Cleanup:** The President announced the Saving the History in Ashtabula (STHIA) group has scheduled a cleanup of South Park and LCpl Kevin M. Cornelius Memorial Park on Saturday, May 24, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**Yard Debris Pickup Schedule:** The Manager reported last week pick up was in the Harbor area; this week crews are in the Wards. Through April no stickers are required, but may be purchased at the Finance Department, Public Works, or Sanitation. Because of the break in the weather there are several bags to remove. Crews got a little behind due to vacations, but bags will be picked up.

**Earth Day:** The President announced tomorrow is Earth Day. He encouraged the community to take just 15 minutes to walk around your property, and remove the trash - what a difference it would make.

**Street Sweeper:** The Manager reported the street sweeper is out every day weather permitting. The pile of debris removed from roads is amazing, and will be taken to the landfill.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**New Traffic Signal (Benefit Avenue & Route 20):** The Manager announced the pouring of footers has begun. The signal installation should be completed in early May.

**Traffic Warning Signs (Lake Avenue just north of Lake Avenue/West Avenue/West 19<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection):** The Manager announced Lake City Plating (LCP) and the City have partnered to install warning signs for the safety of LCP's employees crossing Lake Avenue when going back and forth to their plants located on the west and east side of the road. The Manager said the speed limit is 25 miles per hour, and new signs making the speed limit more visible will be posted. He asked motorists to slow down in this area.

**Road Stripes:** The Manager reported nice, warm weather at 60 to 70 degrees is needed to stripe. The Ward 4 Councilor reported the Lake City Plating area really needs road stripes.

The Manager reported road restriping is required each year ever since the EPA did away with lead in paint.

The Ward 2 Councilor asked when the newly renovated West Avenue overpass, located over West 30<sup>th</sup> Street, is going to be striped. The Manager said today he was told once the temperature is right for painting.

**Sidewalk Recycling Bins:** The Ward 4 Councilor asked the Manager for an update on the C/ED/P&R Committee's request to have said bins moved. The Manager reported the contract was located, which contract is 'pretty defined'. He has not been in touch with the company, but would like them removed. The Councilor asked if permission to do so could be requested. The Manager will have the Solicitor review the contract. He said payment is being received, at Sanitation, from the company, for our cut of the recyclables revenues.

**(The Clerk of Council was excused from the meeting)**

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

**Mr. Nelson Morrison, 325 West 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Apartment No. 915:** commented on numerous amounts of potholes throughout the City, urged bike and motorcycle riders to wear a helmet, and encouraged citizens to vote YES for the Police Levy and for Albert Campese Juvenile Probate Court Judge, on May 6.

**Ms. Kari Rennick, 724 Myrtle Avenue:** reported her neighbor's property is full of garbage, four wheelers, boats, etc., and a Beagle dog which barks 24 hours a day. She said she has repeatedly reported these concerns to the Police Department and Animal Control Officer. The Manager asked if the property is on Thayer Avenue; Ms. Rennick responded yes.

The City Solicitor reported the City has an excessive barking ordinance, and the owner may be fined. A report from the Police Division or Animal Control Officer (ACO) stating a police officer or the ACO witnessed or heard the excessive barking is needed before he is able to file charges. He said it is hard sometimes to determine what is excessive barking.

Four to five minutes is annoying; forty-five minutes and above could be determined excessive and the dividing line is somewhere in between. Ms. Rennick said while the barking is constant, it mostly occurs at night. The animal is kept in a cage outside. Neighbors have not witnessed the dog being fed or out of the cage. The Solicitor told her that Council, not too long ago, enacted a "tie-out" ordinance, that limits the amount of time an animal may be tethered and unattended outside. So, those complaints may be directed to the ACO. Ms. Rennick said no one answers the ACO phone. The Solicitor responded there is only one ACO. The Manager said the telephone book listing is for the office, it does not ring to his mobile phone, and he is only in the office for the last 30 to 40 minutes of the day to do reports. The Manager said he knows the ACO has been to the location several times. He said he personally spoke with the owner last year when there was property clean up issues to address. Our Housing Inspector has been to the property a few times (6 to 7 between this year and last year), pertaining to cleanliness. Last year some productivity was seen, but sounds like it is back to the same condition. The Manager said the City will pay another visit to the property. He will speak with Police Chief Robert Stell after this meeting to see what may be done. The Manager said if Ms. Rennick calls the Police Department Non-Emergency telephone number 992-7172, and an officer has time to go to the property and determines there is a problem, the ACO will be called out. Ms. Rennick believes the tenants have a scanner and are forewarned.

The President said they may be an orientation period for the new ACO. However, he would like to make sure that person gets a hold of Ms. Rennick, is told of the problem, and gives specific attention to the property, if at all possible.

**Mr. Nik Tressler, 202 West 58<sup>th</sup> Street:** During City Manager Hugh Thomas' tenure, he was struck with the truth of our extremely high accident rate for a city of our size. He had a study done, at which time it was determined we have a large number of stop signs and traffic lights for a community of our size. The excessiveness caused motorists to be impatient and stop obeying the traffic laws. Shortly after Mr. Thomas left many of the stop signs and traffic signals were removed. The move to have more traffic signalization than what is needed is happening again. He said there comes a point where more signs are not effective.

**Mr. Nelson Morrison, 325 West 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Apartment No. 915:** asked why the former West Avenue Elementary School burned structure is not yet razed. The President commented on some of the report the City Manager gave earlier in this meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**RECONVENE OPEN MEETING:** N/A

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

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**Regular Meeting:** The President announced the next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m.; Pre-Council at 6:00 p.m.

**Tag Line:** The President said, "Remember to keep believing in Ashtabula!"

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Cook moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to adjourn the meeting.

DATE APPROVED: **May 19, 2014**

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

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

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

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