

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO

4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 18, 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): The Ward 1 Councilor offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	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)
	Mrs. Josephine Misener	(Ward 4 Councilor)
	Mr. Christopher J. McClure	(Vice President)
	Mr. J. P. Ducro IV	(President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

OFFICER(S) PRESENT:	Mr. James M. Timonere	(City Manager)
	Mr. Michael Franklin	(City Solicitor)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT:	Mrs. Dana D. Pinkert	(Finance Director)
	Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC	(Clerk of Council)

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): None

SUNSHINE LAW: The President certified conformity to the Sunshine Law.

PRESENTATION(S): None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

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 - None

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Consent Agenda Legislation Only) - None

LEGISLATION READING - None

(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

REGULAR AGENDA

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Health Insurance Renewal

The City Manager requested an ordinance for authorization to enter into a contract with Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield, for the purpose of providing employee health, dental and vision insurance coverage for the period of June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016. Funding for this expenditure will be taken out of the Self Insurance Fund No. 602. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Point Park Stairs

The City Manager requested an ordinance for authorization to enter into a contract with Union Industrial Contractors, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$268,090 for the purpose of providing labor and materials for the Harbor Streetscape Project, Phase Two - Point Park Stairs. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from the Permanent Improvement Fund No. 412. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request. Discussion: At the request of the Vice President, the City Manager announced this project has to be completed by the end of August – as is the case with the Bridge Street Parking Lot and Hulbert Avenue rebricking projects. His hope is that they are completed prior to the Wine & Walleye Festival which takes place on Bridge Street. The motion CARRIED.

Saybrook Township JEDD

The City Manager requested an ordinance for authorization to enter into a Joint Economic Development District contract with Saybrook Township, Ohio (Lantern @ Saybrook Alzheimer's Facility). Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Questions and Comments for the City Manager

2015 Paving Program Update: At the request of the President, the Manager reported most of the east side paving has been completed (East 46th, 42nd and 51st Streets, and Topper Avenue). Crews then moved to Park Avenue and have completed resurfacing there and now begun milling Center Street. In the Harbor area East 24th Street & Harbor Avenue are opened up. Paving is moving along quickly and the contractor is doing a “very nice job”.

2014 Paving Update: Burton Scot, the 2014 paving project contractor has completed the punch list. The list is being reviewed prior to releasing their retainer funds.

Traffic Signalization Project: The Ward 2 Councilor asked when the new traffic lights will be turned on. The City Manager said the project is moving quicker than anticipated. He received Council’s approval to extend the contract to August but does not believe it will go that long. The signals will be covered but operational for a prescribed amount of time to ensure they are working properly before unbagging them and removing the old lights. He said he anticipates this happening in June. Part of the project is to install handicapped ramps in the areas where lights are being replaced or installed. Some intersections will have audible signals for the hearing impaired (West Avenue, Ashtabula County Medical Center light, Five Points, and a few others).

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 on the committee’s Tuesday, May 12, meeting, as follows:

Westside Clean Up: A-100 Club member, Mr. Kevin Grippi, addressed the committee regarding the clean up that happened a few weeks ago. It was very successful, so much so that further collaboration is needed to solve issues resulting from the success (e.g., more volunteers, physical or financial assistance from groups/organizations, and cost to dispose of tires [the City Manager offered to research more grant funding for tire disposal, such as the City has taken advantage of in the past], redirecting disposal to more efficient locations [one roll-off costs \$400 – there were 8 and more are needed], have the landfill opened, educate community, uniform officer, etc.). More discussion will take place to determine how to make 2016 better.

Donation Containers: Because containers are being used as dump stations, it is necessary to regulate them. Planning & Community Development Department (PCDD) Director Luciana Ratermann presented proposed legislation for the committee’s consideration.

Some of the regulations being considered are: application and application fee, annual review, limit number of permits (e.g., a total of 5 citywide), locations disclosure, responsibility for maintaining them, contact name and telephone number, permit revocation with constant violations, and first preference to local seekers.

Sidewalk Recycling Containers: These containers will be removed from the City sometime next month.

Zoning Fees: The PCDD Director presented sample fee amounts and structures. Also discussed were special and condition use permits which are approved by the Ashtabula City Planning Commission without City Council oversight. PCD will continue to review these items and present recommendations to the committee in June.

Road Vacations: The procedure to vacate a city road was discussed in light of the handling of the most recent request for vacating East Street (now named West 50th Street). It was agreed that all road vacate requests will be submitted to the Clerk of Council. It will facilitate the process' smooth transition from the requestor to the outcome.

At the request of the Committee Chair, the City Solicitor explained that the proposed legislation seeks to codify what had been tried administratively over a period of years. However, as personnel change, if it is not in writing the wheel is reinvented, processes are changed and this is confusing.

Mrs. Misener moved, Mr. Balog seconded to Repeal and Enact new Codified Ordinance Sections 919.01 and 919.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ashtabula pertaining to Street Vacations.

No Parking Signs: The Committee discussed prohibiting parking on the following two city streets in order to create safer conditions:

Mattson Drive

Mrs. Misener moved, Mr. Balog seconded to Request Legislation to Prohibit Parking on the South Side of Mattson Drive, the full length of the road; motion CARRIED.

East 45th Street:

Mrs. Misener moved, Mr. Balog seconded Repeal Ordinance No. 2014-117, enacted on July 7, 2014 titled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP & FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF EAST 45TH STREET FROM 1820 EAST 45TH STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF EAST 45TH STREET WITH STATE ROAD; motion CARRIED.

At the recommendation of the Ashtabula City Police Department, Mrs. Misener moved, Mr. Balog seconded to Request Legislation to Prohibit Parking on the south side of east 45th Street, 40' to 50' in each direction, from the center most area of the bend; motion CARRIED.

Parks & Recreation Board: The Board is very busy trying to create a positive environment in our parks. The more the parks are used the better it will be. Ms. Tiffany Reid was recently on the radio to promote and market our parks.

Clifford Kadon Presidential Park (CKPP)

Playground Equipment: On June 6, playground installation will begin. The Manager reported he requested one more mulch bid. Once the bid is received he can proceed. Supplies and equipment are ready to go, but more volunteers are needed to make the work go faster and be lighter. Twenty-two (22) flower planters previously on Main Avenue were relocated to CKPP, during last Saturday's Ashtabula Downtown Development Association's (ADDA) annual clean up. Main Avenue really looks nice.

Lighting: Vandalism completely destroyed the skate park. The City Manager said he will work with The Cleveland Illuminating Company to have a light installed in that area of the park. There will be a cost to install the light and it will be added to the City's monthly light bill.

Pavilion: A pavilion will be constructed.

Signage: Ms. Tiffany Reid is working to get park signage. She is working on presenting the Board with a mock up sign for their review.

Walnut Beach:

Clean Up: It is the Manager's hope that the coordinated clean up will take place this Saturday.

Bands-on-the-Beach: Ashtabula County Medical Center is, again, the financial contributor for this year's event, which will take place during the summer from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., rain or shine, as follows:

- June 14 – Madison Jazz Project
- July 5 – Don DiSantis Quartet
- July 26 – Prime Time Big Band
- August 30 – Tony Esposito Big Band

Concession Stand: The stand will be open for business again this year.

Lifeguards: Lifeguards will be on duty 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

South Park: St. Peter's Episcopal Church will host summer lunches in the Park. A fall festival is also being planned.

Smith Field: Andover Bank has donated a second tree to the City.

Lighthouse Swim: In July, the YMCA will host its second annual lighthouse swim fundraiser.

Summer Meetings (2nd Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m.): The P&R Board will meet at Smith Field in June and Walnut Beach in July.

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

The Chair announced the committee will not meet this month. The next scheduled meeting is Friday, June 12, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2nd Floor Conference Room.

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

The Chair announced the committee will not meet this month. Their next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 5, at 8:00 a.m.

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

The Chair announced the committee will not meet this month. Their next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 22, at 4:00 p.m.

Work Session – N/A

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Regular Agenda Legislation Only)

The President briefly outlined the Legislation Agenda. There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA DISPOSAL

The Vice President moved to dispose of the Regular Legislation Agenda, with the exception of the first reading of Ordinance No. 2015-65, in Consent Agenda format – a ‘second’ was not provided. On the roll call to grant the motion: Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING

First Reading

ORDINANCE

2015-65 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PERMIT PARKING FOR CHURCH SERVICES ONLY ON WEST 44TH STREET AND PARK AVENUE ON THE SOUTH AND WEST SIDES OF CORNELIUS PARK IN ORDER TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY AND PREVENT A TRAFFIC HAZARD. (City Manager)

Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. The ordinance was placed on its first reading.

The President presented the following legislation for consent agenda format disposal:

ORDINANCE

2015-64 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CONTRACT WITH SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP, OHIO (Lantern at Saybrook). (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-66 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH UNION INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$268,090 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE HARBOR STREETScape PROJECT, PHASE TWO - POINT PARK STAIRS. (Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-67 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY Y.M.C.A. FOR LIFEGUARDS. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-68 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ANTHEM BLUE CROSS, BLUE SHIELD, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMPLOYEE HEALTH, DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE PERIOD OF JUNE 1, 2015 THROUGH MAY 31, 2016. (City Manager)

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Graffiti Removal: The Ward 2 Councilor asked the City Manager if the graffiti was removed from a bulletin board on West 32nd Street. The City Manager was not positive but will check. The Councilor reported there is graffiti on a side wall down Tannery Hill by the Little League ball field.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **NEW:** 415 Water Street LLC, 415 Morton Drive, Ashtabula, OH 44004
D2: Wine and certain prepackaged mixed drinks for on premise consumption and in sealed containers for carry out until 1:00 a.m.

No objections were presented.

- b. **NEW:** **GrindHouse Gourmet Burgers LLC, 1001 Bridge Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004**
D1: Beer only for on premise consumption and in sealed containers for carry out until 1:00 a.m.
D3: Spirituous liquor for on premise consumption only until 1:00 a.m.

No objections were presented.

MISCELLANEOUS

Library Groundbreaking Ceremony: The President reported there was a nice groundbreaking ceremony at the Ashtabula County District Library on West 44th Street, to formally announce and begin the process of a large 17,000 square feet addition. The President said this will be a wonderful asset to Downtown Ashtabula, and thanked the Library for “staying put and reinvesting in our Downtown community”. The Library has speakers on hand if anyone wants them to present the details of the project. The project is expected to be completed in one year.

Park Avenue Paving: The City Manager reported some have inquired about the unpaved portion of Park Avenue. The reason it has not been paved is because the library’s renovation project will call for opening up the road to run a sewer lateral, a storm lateral, and Aqua Ohio needs to install a new waterline. The improvements are expected to be performed in the next couple weeks.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Ms. Patricia Blum, 1540 West 17th Street: the grass on Michigan requires cutting. Garbage is being dump on Michigan Avenue were the grass is high.

Ms. Blum reported the grass at Drs. Nag and Rag’s vacated West 19th Street property, which is up for sale, is getting very high.

Mrs. Blum asked when Lake Avenue will be paved; noting the road hump is still there. The City Manager reported we are exploring how to address the hump, which has gone down considerable. He said Lake Avenue will be paved when funds are secured.

Mrs. Blum asked what has been decided on the proposed replacement of the Equalization (EQ) Basin fee by a Capital Improvement fee, when the EQ Basin is paid off. The President responded that the Finance Director continues to work on proposals for consideration.

Mrs. Blum said winter will be here and asked that the City assist Lake City Plating in finding a place for their employees to park other than along West 17th Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING: N/A

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

CLOSING REMARKS

Meeting(s)

The President announced the next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 1, at 7:00 p.m.; Pre-Council at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President asked everyone to "Remember to Keep Believing in Ashtabula", and adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: June 15, 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