

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, June 1, 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.

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	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. Christopher J. McClure	(Vice President)
	Mr. J. P. Ducro IV	(President)

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** None

<b>OFFICER(S) PRESENT:</b>	Mr. James M. Timonere	(City Manager)
	Mr. Michael Franklin	(City Solicitor)
	Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC	(Clerk of Council)

**OFFICER(S) ABSENT:** Mrs. Dana D. Pinkert (Finance Director)

**EXCUSED ABSENCE(S):** None

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

**PRESENTATION(S):** The President reported Ms. Debra Rich, is a photographer who has taken pictures of places of interest for many years. He said he has taken a personal interest in the volume of beautiful pictures she has taken of the City of Ashtabula, which she has placed on numerous facebook forms, primarily one titled "Growing Up In Ashtabula". He said there are an estimated 8,000 members in the form, all of whom have an interest in Ashtabula. Many of the members are either from Ashtabula and are now all over the country, or who still reside here. He said her photographs also display the positive aspects of our community.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-77**

### **A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO MS. DEBRA A. RICH**

**WHEREAS**, it is with honor that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio give special recognition to Ashtabula native **Ms. Debra A. (Debbie) Rich**; and,

**WHEREAS**, Debbie's love for being outdoors and photographing the wonders of nature, much of which she acclaims "abounds right here in our own city and county", was cultivated at an early age by her mother's love for taking pictures of events. Debbie's father recognized his daughter's talent and built a darkroom in the old homestead on Cleveland Avenue, where she developed and printed black and white photos, thus winning the Ashtabula Star Beacon photo contest; and,

**WHEREAS**, Debbie attended Station Elementary and West Junior High Schools, and after graduating from Ashtabula High School she pursued her passion by taking Professor Richard Jaskela's photography class at Kent State University at Ashtabula ; and,

**WHEREAS**, Debbie's affection for Ashtabula, the place she calls home, and the place in which she has worked her entire employment career (from which she will soon retire), is apparent in her photography and her spoken words, "The potential here is endless; Walnut Beach is one of the most well-known in the area and also from a distance. In addition to photography I enjoy working in the yard, dining locally and being with friends and family; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is with Debbie's ongoing love, passion, and efforts to capture, through her photography, the many magnificent images of Ashtabula, that she pays homage to our town; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, do acknowledge and show our deep appreciation to Ms. Debra A. Rich for showing us, through her eyes and her photo lens, what our mission statement 'looks' like... **"TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND PARTNER WITH OUR CITIZENS, BUSINESSES AND NEIGHBORS TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL WHO LIVE IN AND VISIT ASHTABULA"**.

The President presented Ms. Rich with a throw that displays four of her photographs of her favorite points of interest in our City. They also depict each of the four seasons.

Ms. Rich said, "Thank you for thinking of me, and this is just beautiful - gorgeous. And I hope we can use it to help our City. There's no doubt I'm proud of Ashtabula – our past, our present, and our future".

The President announced Ms. Rich gave us permission to replicate the throw and make it available for sale to the public. The distribution of the proceeds is still being worked out.

However, at present the cost of the throw is estimated at \$100, with a portion of the proceeds to go to Ashtabula City Parks & Recreation to improve community beautification. Persons interested in purchasing one will be able to do so soon.

The President entertained a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded; motion CARRIED.

**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**

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

- May 04, 2015 Regular Meeting
- May 12, 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** - None

(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

**READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES** - None

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **Community Allocation Grant**

The City Manager requested an ordinance for authorization to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Development Services Agency for a Community Allocation Grant in the amount of \$78,000. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request.

Discussion: The Manager reported the grant will be used at Walnut Beach in conjunction with another grant we have been told were awarded but has not officially been announced. The funds will be used to remove the most northern section of the parking lot, seeded with grass to allow it to return to its native condition. The parking will be relocated towards the back of the concession stand by the bocce court. Pieces of the asphalt will also be removed. This will better the traffic flow and allow for easier upkeep of the grounds. The Manager said this project is in keeping with the Harbor Master Plan. As funds become available aspects of the project be initiated. The motion CARRIED.

### **Hulbert Ave. Change Order**

The City Manager requested an ordinance for authorization to enter into Change Order No. 2 to contract with Union Industrial Contractors, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$13,555 for the purpose of providing additional labor and materials for the Hulbert Avenue Rehabilitation Project. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request.

Discussion: The City Manager reported this change order will address the aprons to the entrance of the parking lot off Hulbert Avenue. The City Council previously approved the use of Revolving Loan Funds for this project. The motion CARRIED.

### **Water Pollution Control Plant Upgrades**

The City Manager requested an ordinance for authorization to enter into a contract with Nerone & Sons, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$432,800 for the purpose of providing services and materials for the Water Pollution Control Electrical Improvements Project (Contract B). Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager requested an ordinance for authorization to enter into a contract with Nerone & Sons, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$1,515,900 for the purpose of providing services and materials for the Water Pollution Control UV Light Disinfection Improvements (Contract C). Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request.

Discussion: The Manager reported it is known that the City has been in discussions with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) regarding our Waste Water Treatment Plant relative to the OEPA mandates that were issued; the Electrical and UV Light Projects being two of them. The funds are from an EPA loan. The motion CARRIED.

### **Clifford Kadon Presidential Park (CKPP) Improvements**

The City Manager requested an ordinance for authorization to enter into a contract with Brobst Landscaping, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$13,500 for the purpose of installing rubberized mulch under the playground equipment at Clifford Kadon Presidential Park.

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request. Discussion: The Manager announced preliminary work will begin at 3:00 p.m., on Friday and resume on Saturday at 8:00 a.m., with the equipment installation. He announced volunteers were needed.

### **Yard Waste Pickup**

The City Manager announced the pickup has ended, crews are picking up what remains on treelawns, and the service will resume in October. During the months the City does not pick up, residents may deposit their yard waste bags in the trailer that will be located in front of the Public Works Department.

### **Jobs**

The City Manager said perceptions believed and statements made that there are no jobs in this City are false. He has been working closely with Molded Fiberglass (MFG) on their workforce needs. They have hired several hired people over the last few years. They are now in need of 100 more employees to accommodate their much needed expansion. The Manager said MFG is one of GMs top suppliers. MFG manufactures several Corvette parts right here in Ashtabula City. It has been a struggle for MFG to find the last few employees needed. He said other companies he regularly speaks with have the same hiring need.

On Tuesday, June 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., MFG along with Growth Partnership, Elite Employment Agency, and the City of Ashtabula, will host an open house at MFG's West 29<sup>th</sup> Street facility. Prospective employees will be given a tour of the facility so they can see what they will do if hired. After the tours participants will be able to apply for one of the jobs and possibly begin working within a couple days. The new Corvette, along with a possible 40 other Corvettes, will be displayed. The Manager said if our residents do not take advantage of the jobs, those outside the city will. He said he would like to see city or county residents apply for all the available jobs, get them, show up for work, and advance. He said if this does not happen we will have to accept what MFG has to do in order for their company to keep progressing. And, we cannot fault them for whatever they deem necessary. The Manager said MFG has been absolutely wonderful to work with to ensure we have one last shot, locally, to get these jobs filled. He also values the role Elite and Growth Partnership are playing.

The President noted that while the positions are entrance level, there is room for advancement and to remain with the company. He said applicants are not being hired temporarily through an employment agency but for full-time employment, with benefits such as profit sharing, health care, and opportunities to grow with the organization. The President said he would hate for it to come to the point where MFG is unable to maintain their operations here due to the lack of available workforce, causing them to have to relocate where the workforce is. The Manager wholeheartedly concurred. He said MFG approached him for help and knows their needs will be fulfilled, one way or another. The Manager said, "We want them to be city and county residents".

**Questions and Comments for the City Manager**

**MFG:** In response to the Ward 4 Councilor's inquiry, the City Manager said MFG has in excess of 500 employees in Ashtabula, and have their headquarters located here, also. The Councilor reported a church member of hers was hired by MFG about a month ago. She said she is happy the work is enjoyable, and that after 90 days she will have hospitalization.

**Paving**

**Summer Avenue:** The Ward 5 Councilor reported he has received several calls asking if Summer Avenue will be paved, and asked if a decision has been made. The City Manager responded no, but there are three roads he hopes will be added towards the end of the program; the funds for which will come from project deductions. The Manager said the project bid had to cover every manhole, catch basin, etc., which work the contractors included in their scope of. As the process progresses, deduction change orders will permit more streets to be added. The Manager said Summer Avenue, a stretch of Lyndon Avenue, Southwood Drive and a fourth one which he was unable to recall, are being considered. The roads were named in no particular order. Points of consideration will be the length of the road, how much work has to be performed, and how much funding remains.

**Madison Avenue**

**Road Repair:** The Ward 5 Councilor reported My Neighborhood is going to do quite a bit of work at Clifford Kadon Presidential Park. He asked if the road could be addressed. The City Manager said crews need to grade and scrap the road and lay new grinding, if necessary. He said it is on the City's 'to do' list.

**Signs:** The Councilor also reported the neighborhood is full of kids. He asked if "Children at Play" signs could be posted and extra police patrols placed on Madison Avenue, due to excessive speeding. The President noted this is the same road that has lots of potholes and one home on it. The Councilor responded yes, and that motorists go through the parking lot, up the grass, across the park and park on the basketball court. The Manager responded, okay.

**Commercial Structures:** The President asked the Manager if he was able to find out anything about the abandoned Todd Avenue Church and commercial structure located on the southeast corner of West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. The Manager said asbestos testing has been ordered, the work to raze the structures has begun, 2014 Allocation Grants funds are being used, and similar fund were applied for this year.

**Ashtabula County Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) Activity:** The City Manager reported asbestos testing has begun, contracts have been let and demolitions will begin shortly. Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) funding was secured to address these demolitions. The Land Bank was awarded another \$300,000, for a total of \$800,000, for these efforts. Because of the assistance the City has provided and because we need the most assistance through this program, most of the funds will be used to target demos in our community.

**East 6<sup>th</sup> Street:** The Ward 5 Councilor reported there is a sunken manhole cover by the Norfolk/Southern Railroad's west end, East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, parking lot. The Manager reported it belongs to Windstream and they have been notified.

**Former West Avenue School – Vacant Land:** The Ward 4 Councilor asked if there have been 'bits' on the property. The Manager said the surrounding companies are 'anxious to get at it'. A bid package will be put together and he would like to get it sold by midsummer.

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

#### **Questions and Comments for the City Solicitor**

**4-Wheelers:** The Ward 5 Councilor asked the Solicitor to address 4-wheelers on city streets. The City Solicitor responded he has consistently taken the position that a 4-wheeler can only be operated on the street if it is a registered vehicle. This means it would have to have a registered license plate issued by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles pursuant to inspection by the Ohio State Highway Patrol, indicating it is a road worthy vehicle. To date, no one has brought it up as a defense to a citation for operating a 4-wheeler on city streets. They have universally been convicted of the offense. The operation of such a recreation vehicle on a city street or sidewalk is prohibited unless it can be demonstrated to 'his satisfaction' that it is a registered vehicle with a license plate and an inspection certificate. He said these vehicles usually do not have turn signals, windshield wipers, defrosters, and other things we take for granted on a street-legal vehicle. They may be added by using a kit, but after that you have a 'kit-built vehicle' and the Ohio Patrol has an inspection program for those to certify that they are equipped with those minimal things that are needed to make a vehicle street-legal. He said at this point one is probably better off purchasing something else like a Jeep.

The Vice President reported he has seen licensed utility vehicles (e.g., John Deer Gators) in his neighborhood and asked if it would be a vehicle. The Solicitor said, "It could be but, again, if you look at how they're sold – the basic model doesn't have any of the things I'm talking about (turn signs, break lights, windshield wipers; the other things we require for people to operate a car on a street." He said he has not seen one with a registration plate, yet. He said he would very much like to speak with the owner to find out what they had to go through to get it registered.

### **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The President entertained a motion to formally request ORDINANCE NO. 2015-76 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FROM UNAPPROPRIATED PARKS & RECREATION FUND 233 THE SUM OF \$13,500 FOR THE PURCHASE OF RUBBERIZED MULCH FOR THE CLIFFORD KADON PRESIDENTIAL PARK PLAYGROUND. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the request; motion CARRIED.

### **Sewer Bills**

The President announced that the Finance Director wanted residents to know that sewer bills with an invoice date prior to June 1, and not paid by August 3, are certified to the Ashtabula County Auditor's Office to be placed on the owner's following year's property tax duplicate. Sewer bills follow the property. Notifications will be sent to landlords on record informing them of any outstanding sewer bills prior to the outstanding balance is certified. Property owners are encouraged to contact the City of Ashtabula Service Billing at (440) 992-7106 or email Nita Senita at [nsenita@ashtabulacity.com](mailto:nsenita@ashtabulacity.com), with questions or concerns about an outstanding sewer bill.

### **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Audit**

The Fiscal Year 2014 CAFR was submitted to the State on May 27. The City's annual audit will be complete before the end of June, after which a post audit meeting will be scheduled.

## **CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

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

The Chair announced the committee will meet Tuesday, June 9, at 4:00 p.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. The agenda will include follow up on items discussed at last month's meeting, such as: e.g. donation containers, suggested zoning fee amendments, and the difference between conditional use and special use permits.

The Chair asked the City Manager when, this month, the black recycling containers will be removed. The City Manager said the company said mid-June.

### **Parks & Recreation**

The Parks & Recreation Board will meet on Tuesday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m., at Smith Field – rain or shine.

**Clifford Kadon Presidential Park:** The Chair reported this weekend and this summer much will be going on at Clifford Kadon Presidential Park. My Neighborhood's Community Garden located at this park has been tilled and plotted, 10 (ten) raised beds were purchased, and in ground planting will also take place. For more information about the garden contact Tiffany Reid at Community Action (997-5957).

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

The Chair announced the committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, June 12, 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 Chair announced the committee will not meet this month. Once the rescheduled July meeting date is decided, it will be announced. The regularly scheduled July meeting falls on the Friday, July 3, which is the day the City observes Independence Day.

**Questions and Comments for the Committee**

**Double Utility Poles:** The President asked for an update on the removal of old utility poles. The City Manager said he is working with Windstream.

**New Traffic Signalization Project:** The Vice President asked for an update on this Project. The City Manager said the last couple of weeks it has progressed quickly. Many of the new signalization is being turned on. There are no new traffic patterns “as of yet”. The Station Avenue and Route 20 intersection will completely be redesigned. Instead of six lanes there will be four so motorist will not have to sit at the light 7 to 8 minutes.

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

The Chair announced the committee will not meet this month. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 22, at 4:00 p.m. It is the Chair’s hope the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation will be able to make it. Also on the agenda will be Police body cameras, Fire Department disaster preparedness for train accidents, and facsimile fire arms (e.g., air guns w/orange barrels).

**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. The Clerk presented the following legislation agendas:

**CONSENT AGENDA DISPOSAL**

Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to dispose of the Regular Legislation Agenda in the Consent Agenda format, with the exception of the second reading of Ordinance No. 2015-65 and first reading of Ordinance Nos. 2015-74 and 2015-75; motion CARRIED.

**LEGISLATION READING**

**Second Reading**

ORDINANCE NO

2015-65 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PERMIT PARKING FOR CHURCH SERVICES ONLY ON WEST 44<sup>TH</sup> 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), was presented for its second reading. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to adopt the ordinance. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

**First Readings**

ORDINANCE

2015-74 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NO. 2014-117, IN ORDER TO RESTRICT PARKING IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION ON EAST 45<sup>TH</sup> STREET IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY. (City Council)

Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED.

The ordinance was placed on its first reading.

ORDINANCE

2015-75 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF EAST 45<sup>TH</sup> STREET FROM 1628 EAST 45<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO 1712 EAST 45<sup>TH</sup> STREET. (City Council)

Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED.

The ordinance was placed on its first reading.

**Regular Consent Agenda**

ORDINANCE

2015-69 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY FOR A COMMUNITY ALLOCATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78,000. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-70 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO CONTRACT WITH UNION INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$13,555 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE HULBERT AVENUE REHABILITATION PROJECT. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-71 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NERONE & SONS, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$432,800 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SERVICES AND MATERIALS FOR THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (CONTRACT B). (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-72 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NERONE & SONS, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,515,900 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SERVICES AND MATERIALS FOR THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL UV LIGHT DISINFECTION IMPROVEMENTS (CONTRACT C). (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-73 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BROBST LANDSCAPING, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$13,500 FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING RUBBERIZED MULCH UNDER THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT CLIFFORD KADON PRESIDENTIAL PARK. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-76 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FROM UNAPPROPRIATED PARKS & RECREATION FUND 233 THE SUM OF \$13,500, FOR THE PURCHASE OF RUBBERIZED MULCH FOR THE CLIFFORD KADON PRESIDENTIAL PARK PLAYGROUND. (Finance Director)

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Littering:** The Ward 2 Councilor, again, urged citizens to take pride in their community and STOP LITTERING. He announced that it is illegal to leave unwanted furniture on treelawns or at clothing donation bin locations. He asked that residents call the City's Sanitation Department and schedule a pick up, for which there will be a small fee.

**Grass Cuttings:** The Ward 2 Councilor urged citizens to STOP placing grass cuttings in the street because they plug the storm drains. He asked that photos of violations be submitted to the City.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 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.

The President reported that at the May 18 Regular Council Meeting a request for a D1 Permit (Beer only for on premise consumption and in sealed containers for carry out, until 1:00 a.m.) and a D3 Permit (Spirituous liquor for on premise consumption only until 1:00 a.m.), were requested for the same establishment. No objections were presented for this evening's permit request.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS** - None

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

**Mr. Andrew Isco, Southwood Drive:** Reported that last year the crew that surveyed and marked their road told him, weather permitting, the road would be paved. He said he thought he heard the Manager say tonight the road is no longer on the list.

The City Manager confirmed the road was on the list last year, and that markings were done because crews were going to be in the area. He said when the City's comprehensive paving program was reevaluated this year; some streets that were on the list were removed. Removals were predicated on the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) rating the City's consultant assigned to it prior to the comprehensive paving program beginning, and made recommendations as to which roads should be paved. The paving list was reassessed to make as much progress as possible with the funds available. The Manager said his earlier report this evening was that the City is very hopeful, but cannot say with 100% certainty the streets that were removed can be paved with any of the savings.

Mr. Isco reported both storm sewer drains on his road have collapsed. He said the City placed cones over the drains last year and dirt has sensed filled in the holes, and are worse than they were last year.

The Vice President asked if it is true that the City said outside of the comprehensive paving program our Public Works crews would be able to pave some roads. The City Manager said we would have to contract any paving outside of the comprehensive paving program because the City does not have the equipment. Permanent Improvement funds would also have to be available. Our crews are able to perform seal coating, crack sealing, and basic pothole fills.

The Vice President assured Mr. Isco there are other means whereby his road may be addressed. The Manager concurred and said paving does not end with the comprehensive paving program which began last year and will end this year. The President wanted it to be clear that outside of the comprehensive paving program, paving will not be able to be done at the rate we were able to do so before. He said the annual paving budget, which is approximately \$400,000, is earmarked to pay the comprehensive paving program loan; therefore funds for additional paving will be limited. The Manager said Southwood would cost about \$50,000 to address.

The President told Mr. Isco he fully understands how he feels given the street was prepared and he was told it would be paved. He offered Mr. Isco his sincere apology to Mr. Isco.

Mr. Isco asked if his road was scheduled to be paved in 2014, and was not paved, what happened to the money. The Manager said the funding did not change, but was reallocated in accordance with the ODOT street ratings in order to maximize the loan's usage.

Mr. Isco said he understands and believes the City is looking much better. He said the company that tore up his road last fall to perform a water repair should be repairing the serious problems which exist at the end of his road. The City Manager said the company is having their contractor perform permanent repairs to several roads.

**Ms. Pamela Ralph, 3230 Superior Avenue:** said she moved here from Middleburg Heights, OH 15 to 20 years ago. She said she took her children to visit here and could not believe the difference in the neighborhoods. She said Superior Avenue is a nice area; neighbors take care of their properties and help others take care of theirs. She would like to see the neighborhood cleaned up, and neighbors help the elderly maintain their properties. She said the neighborhood is called "the little ghetto" but that it is not bad at all; and that "we need to improve the areas reputation". She said she is considering a move because she does not want to live in a town where people do not care about one another.

**Mr. Mike Court (son of Ms. Pamela Ralph – see above):** said the former Saint John High School property needs attention. Members of the dais told he the school no longer owns the property. Mr. Court said the Ashtabula County Auditor's website says differently. He then said as long as people fear the Station Avenue and Superior Avenue areas, the city will not change. The Manager said he believes the school still owns a small strip of land by the former school on Superior Avenue and West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street.

The Vice President reported the grass at the former Saint John High School is high and will need to be brush hogged. Ms. Ralph said the grass is so high it is unsafe for those who walk at night in the area. She recalled when she lived in Cleveland and the Westside Market area was bad. She said it was cleaned up and now doctors and lawyers live there because it is close to Cleveland Clinic and downtown.

The President announced he would have liked Mr. Dante Conard to be present for this conversation. Mr. Conard is someone that would be good to work with. He told Ms. Ralph the City of Ashtabula supports her efforts; that the City lacks the manpower to do what she is asking, but we could use all the help residents will give.

The President reported there is now a police officer residing on Spencer Avenue, which is located up the street from Superior Avenue. He then said several condemned homes in the area were razed. He said Mr. Jones who lives on West 39<sup>th</sup> Street and Station Avenue has maintained about five (5) vacant lots (between his house and Route 20) so they will look nice. The President said while Mr. Jones does not own them he is attempting to acquire some of them through the Land Bank process. He told Ms. Ralph that she and the other residents who were mentioned are trying to do what they can, but that we need more residents like them.

The Vice President said G.O. Ministries, located in the same area, has done and will continue to do more in the neighborhood, for the betterment of the neighborhood. The Manager said two large commercial structures on West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street that were falling in were razed last year, and paved today. He told Ms. Church, Project Administrator for the City is working with CSX Railroad and a newly developed organization to try and convenience Amtrak to restore the old West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street railroad depot, and make it one of their hubs. He told her that the focus of the area is not loss; for example Ann Avenue was paved this year.

**Mr. Court (address above):** said he knows one of the police entrance test candidates, believes he would be a good officer, has inquired to the City Manager as to why he was not hired, and was going to contact Police Chief Robert Stell to ask the same. The President noted the Police Chief was present and invited Mr. Court to speak with him after the meeting.

**Sidewalk Repair/Replacement Program:** The Ward 4 Councilor asked if the City still has the Program. The City Manager responded yes, does not know how much was allocated this year, but that each year it is all spent. He said maintenance of sidewalks is the responsibility of the homeowner, but that the City pays a portion because our easement runs through it. Residents who would like to participate may visit the Planning & Community Development Department for instructions.

**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, June 15, 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 8:25 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**