

**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF ASHTABULA – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, June 4, 2018**

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., the Ward 2 Councilor offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Michael D. Speelman (Ward 4 Councilor)  
Ms. Jane E. Haines (Ward 5 Councilor)  
Mrs. Kym Harley (Ward 1 Councilor)  
Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2 Councilor)  
Mr. John S. Roskovics (President)

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** Vacant (Ward 3 Councilor)  
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):** Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to excuse the Vice President from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** None

**PRESENTATION(S):** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At the request of the City Solicitor, Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Harley seconded to convene an Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation. On the roll call to convene the Executive Session: Mr. Speelman, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Harley, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. The Council members and officers that were present attended the meeting.

**Reconvene Public Meeting**

At 7:15 p.m., the President announced the public meeting reconvened and proceeded with the open meeting agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda is a means whereby Council is able to efficiently conduct business by grouping routine items for consideration and disposal.

## **PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES**

The Clerk of Council presented the May 21, 2018, Special Council Meeting and Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections the minutes were approved as presented.

### **Legislation Agenda**

- Formal Legislation Request(s): None
- Form and Correctness: None
- Legislation Overview: None
- Public Discussion (on legislation only): None
- Legislation Reading: None

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES**

**None**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **CITY MANAGER**

The City Manager presented the following:

- **Authorization of Collective Bargaining Agreements**

I would like an ordinance to enter into agreements with three employee organizations and authorizing the City to enter into Collective Bargaining Agreements incorporating said terms. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Harley seconded to approve this request. The Manager gave an overview of the terms, reported the unions have approved the terms and that their contracts are being prepared. The motion CARRIED.

- **Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Tax Incentive Agreement – Cleveland Dental Institute**

I would like an ordinance to enter into a CRA Tax Incentive Agreement with Ashtabula County Medical Center (ACMC) and Cleveland Dental Institute (CDI) for the purpose of tax abatement at 50% for ten (10) years.

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Harley seconded to approve this request. The Manager said the area of Lake Avenue by ACMC is becoming a 'medical corridor' and he will look into "pedestrian traffic identifiers", to assist with pedestrian safety. Mr. David Gentile, CDI's CEO and Mr. Sean Calhoun, Business Development Manager for CDI spoke at this evening's Pre Council meeting. They reported CDI will employ 15 persons and services are being tailored to our population's demographics, with a goal of providing affordable care. The Manager said it is difficult to find services for Medicaid patients. He said access to CDI's services will eliminate the challenge of finding dental services for said patients. He said some students in the Ashtabula Area City Schools District have to go to the westside of Cleveland for dentistry and sometimes wait eight months for services. CDI plans to work with school districts and other organizations to get services into the hands of those who need it. ACMC, a 501(c)(3), owns the Lake Avenue Plaza building CDI will 'build out' for their operations. The cost of the build is estimated at

\$550,000. He said tax abatement is being requested because anytime ACMC charges rent to a tenant they have to pay property tax on that portion of the building. The taxes on the portion of the 'build out' prior to construction will be subtracted from the value of the property after construction, which is the portion that will be abated at 50%. ACMC elected not to go for the full 75% abatement amount because they know the Ashtabula Area School District takes the brunt of the abatement. The motion CARRIED.

- **2018 Parking Lot Resurfacing Project**

The Manager said he would not object to the following paving legislation being placed on a first reading this evening.

I would like an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Koski Construction in the amount not to exceed \$152,522.75 for the purpose of paving city parking lots to be funded through the Permanent Improvement Fund. Mr. Speelman moved, Ms. Haines seconded to approve this request. During the "voice vote" on this request, two members of City Council responded "no"; resulting in a 3-2 outcome. The Clerk reported 4 votes are needed to waive the reading of the legislation; 5 are required to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. She deferred to the Solicitor for his opinion. He commented on a simple majority being all that is needed in some cases. The Clerk said when the City's Municipal Charter and the City Council Rules of Order are silent on a matter, Robert's Rules of Order is invoked, which states a simple majority of the members present is the requirement for passage of the type of motion made here. The motion CARRIED.

- **2018 Paving Program**

I would like an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Ronyak Paving in the amount not to exceed \$357,584.85 for the purpose of paving city streets to be funded through the Permanent Improvement Fund. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Harley seconded to approve this request. The Manager announced City Council and staff input culminated in the following list of roads being let for bids:

Mariska (East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to East 1<sup>st</sup> Street) – chip and fog seal  
Maruba (Harmon Road to East 1<sup>st</sup> Street) – chip and fog seal  
East 7<sup>th</sup> Street (Columbus Avenue to Woodland Avenue) – chip and fog seal  
West 11<sup>th</sup> Street (Union Avenue to Norman Avenue)  
Station Avenue (West 44<sup>th</sup> Street to Route 20)  
Valleyview Boulevard (East 48<sup>th</sup> Street to East 46<sup>th</sup> Street)  
Amsden Court (East 48<sup>th</sup> Street to East 47<sup>th</sup> Street)  
West Avenue (West 37<sup>th</sup> Street to Bridge Abutment & Bridge Abutment to Griswold Road)

The Ward 2 Councilor spoke against paving the Municipal and City Hall Annex/Justice Center parking lots at this time due to the number of roads in need of paving. He said citizens deserve to have the roads paved. The Wards 1, 4, and 5 Councilors and the City Manager spoke in favor of doing so, in the spirit of being a good landlord, avoiding the potential loss of \$150,000 in rent income, per year, and to reduce injury claims against the City. The Clerk announced City Council Rules of Order No. 21 speaks to the vote on the previous request above. The Rule states: "No legislation, except for any measure proposed by the City Manager pursuant to Section 28(f) of the Ashtabula Municipal Charter may be

presented without first being presented to the proper Standing Committee of Council, *unless simple majority consent of the members of Council present is given, by a voice or roll call vote.* The President of Council may, at any time, permit a member to introduce legislation or a motion out of the regular order, provided a simple majority of members do not object.” Therefore, with 5 Council members present, the affirmative vote of 3 members was, indeed, sufficient to place the previous request before the full Council. On the 2018 Paving Program request. The motion CARRIED.

- **Yard Waste Bag Pickup**

This week pickup is scheduled for the Harbor. It is the last week the City is scheduled to pickup yard waste bags at curbside. The City will resume curbside pickup in October. Residents may take bags to Public Works year round.

- **32<sup>nd</sup> Street Train Depot - Demolished**

Last Tuesday, at 4:45 p.m., he received a call from a CSX railroad representative informing him the train depot was going to be demolished the very next day. For a little over three years, the City has been actively working to hold off the demolish, while at the same time keeping CSX informed of the deplorable condition of their structure, which we did not believe would withstand another winter. The City has been working with a group actively trying to secure the structure from the railroad to repurpose. He told why the task was hard to accomplish, such as the required proximity of 25 feet from the main rail lines when occupied for public use; portions, of which, were only 7 feet. We learned that the only option was for the building to become ‘Amtrak’ related. The only other option for the building to be used by the public, since it did not meet the proximity requirements, was to move it. In anticipation of the railroad working with the City and the volunteer group, three years ago he had several structures that were located across the street from the depot, demolished and had the road paved. It took almost two years and calls from Ohio State Representative John Patterson, State Senator Sean O’Brien and Senator Sherrod Brown, to get Amtrak to acknowledge that we wanted a study conducted. To date, they have not begun the study nor has a study been given to us. CSX conducted an assessment of their assets and are addressing them, which is why the demolition happened so quickly. CSX agreed to give us pieces of the structure, worthy of displaying, should that time come. He thanked the group for their diligence and hard work to try to save the train depot.

The Ward 2 Councilor said through the years many city managers attempted to save the structure, but the railroad would not listen.

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant (Plant)**

Discussions have taken place the last year and a half, over the last six to eight months City Council has been informed, and now it is time for the public to be told. The City of Ashtabula is going to release a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to explore options for the future of our Plant and collection system. The consideration of the Plant’s future began by an unsolicited proposal he received for the option to purchase this Plant. The dollar amount was too much to ignore. Two “concerns” of his and the Council’s is: 1) what happens to our employees; 2) what happens to rates. The RFQs is just a means to obtain information. In doing so does not mean the City intends to sell, will sell, has to sell, etc; it is only information gathering. The proposal will have to be of the utmost benefit to the City in order to be considered and then accepted and the process will not move quickly. The County of Ashtabula has

been asked if they would like to participate. A lot of good conversation has been initiated, some of which surrounds regionalization. The City just put \$8 million into the Plant and there is more that needs to be spent, more than the City will ever have because we have no reserves and no means for funding, other than through grants for operations. He likened our Plant to a mom and pop store - we have limited means and one operation. Other companies may have several operations, extensive employee systems, more equipment; and therefore may be able to better manage the system. Again, it comes down to rates, service and what happens to our employees. He wants City Council to be involved in the process. He is also going to recommend special meetings be scheduled, with the experts presence, to hear company proposals.

The Ward 2 Councilor recalled the City Council's vote some 40 years ago to enter into the City/County Sewer Agreement; an agreement still active today. He believes this agreement has cost the City several dollars in revenue. Therefore, he cautioned that we move forward very slowly when it comes to the Plant's future. He also said someone he trusts told he the City should never sell.

- **Medical Marijuana Dispensaries**

The State of Ohio announced Ohio dispensary locations. Ashtabula County did not make the cut; therefore the one proposed for Bridge Street will not happen. He was told fifty-three licenses were awarded; the closest to us is Youngstown.

The President of Council expressed disappointment given how many Ashtabula County residents could benefit from a local dispensary. The Manager said he believes population was a factor not the residual benefit. The State legislature was not involved in the awarding process; he believes it was an independent body. He said he has heard recreational marijuana will be a topic in the next governor's race.

- **America's Main Street Contest (National Honor)**

Today, Bridge Street was named America's Main Street. There were 300 entries, nationwide. Electronic votes for Bridge Street over the last three months, paid off. He thanked everyone involved, especially the Lift Bridge Community Association (LBCA), LBCA President Ms. Christine Seuffert, Bridge Street merchants, Ms. Melinda McNutt, who nominated Bridge Street and who has been a relentless volunteer for so many Ashtabula City events, and everyone who voted. The award is \$25,000. As the sponsoring agent, the LBCA board will determine how those funds will be spent. Contest organizers have been invited to make their presentation at our Wine & Walleye Festival, in July. Congratulations have been received from all over the United States. He said while we have issues, we are not alone. "We are dealing with the challenges that we have and we are doing our best to overcome those challenges. What has happened on Bridge Street, and the momentum behind this contest is exactly what we need in this community. Not only does it help us promote what we have here, but it also helps us address those issues that we have." He commented on volunteer groups that have sprung up for the sole purpose of helping Ashtabula, such as, "I'm in Amazing Ashtabula" (IIAA). IIAA was founded by Mr. Jim McKee, who no longer resides here but who has a heart for our community. He has caused residents and non-residents, alike, to get out and volunteer. He said we have so much to be proud of: Lake Erie, the Harbor, Main Avenue (who just had a very successful "FIRST FRIDAY - Meet me on Main" event. This is an event that will take place the first Friday of every month through

October. He encouraged ones to get out and enjoy the events that are offered. He discouraged ones from sitting in front of a screen and typing the “worst or the worst”. He said when bringing the issues to light, bring a solution. “We need your help and we want you to be a part of this.” “Let’s keep doing what we’re doing; things are on the upswing, in my opinion. I know a lot of people don’t feel that way, but I’m in the trenches with everyone, every day. I feel very proud to be here. I had all the opportunities, just like everyone else, to move away and do what everybody else does, and just forget and I didn’t want to do that. I love this place. I’m very happy to call it home. I’m very happy to have a second home here and I’m happy my kids are here.”

The Ward 2 Councilor suggested the Manager notify The Washington Post newspaper reporter who recently wrote a very unflattering story about the City of Ashtabula. *(The story also appeared in the Plain Dealer newspaper)* Everyone thought this was a GREAT idea; the Manager said he would.

- **Wine & Walleye Festival (July 27-29/Bridge Street)**

The sailboat that is going to be used for the cruises this year is “phenomenal. It just barely fits underneath the coal conveyor belt.” Volunteers were encouraged to visit [www.wineandwalleyefestival.com](http://www.wineandwalleyefestival.com) and sign up.

### Questions / Comments for City Manager

The President commented on the efforts and progress being made to revitalization the Historic Harbor District. He said how exciting it was to be at the Harbor Perk when the announcement was made that we were chosen as the 2018 winner of “American’s Main Street” contest. The Manager said between winning the contest and being named in the top 18<sup>th</sup> City out of 100 Micropolitan cities in the United States, “I’ll put our city up against anyone; I really will. We all have issues and we all have a really good things going on. But, it’s time we start acknowledging more the good things that we’ve got going on and really take a hard look, internally, at why some of us gripe and complain the way we do. Try to help us find a solution. Don’t just throw it out there. Don’t just make accusations. Let’s get to what the root of the problem is and let’s find solutions for things.”

The Ward 1 Councilor reported being at the Harbor Perk this morning and said, “It was electric. There were so many people there. And, when they made the announcement, there was screaming and hooting and jumping; and it was just great. And, the community voted for this; everyone around this area voted for this. And, when we bind together as a community we can do great things. It was great. Congratulations.”

The Ward 2 Councilor reported:

- a. There are leaves in the catch basins on East 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Laurel Court.
- b. Complaints have been received about four-wheelers on West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, in the evenings.

The Manager reported there are two areas in the City where this is a problem. He asked that common sense be used; four-wheelers and dirt bikes cannot be in residential areas. He reported speaking with Police Chief Robert Stell about his summer expectations for the department, such as:

- a. Loud music coming from vehicles
- b. Grass placed in the road; we are going to knock on doors and start citing people; enough warnings have been issued; grass in the road is dangerous for our collection system and motorists, especially those on motorcycles when the grass gets wet; and
- c. Vehicles parked on front lawns and treelawns.

- **Fines - High Grass/Weeds**

The Ward 5 Councilor asked if fines for placing grass in the road could increase with each offense. The Manager said this is already in place. He reiterated that the City is not responsible to mow private property lawns and is not a problem the City created. However, we do provide a service by hiring one person to work all summer long to do nothing but mow private properties that are not mowed by the responsible person(s). The City does not have to cut these properties, but feels it necessary to do. Most of the mows are at repeat offender properties. The City is also contracted with the Ashtabula County Land Bank to maintain their properties within the City on which a structure was demolished, for which we receive payment. Most of the cutting fees placed on property taxes are for abandoned homes. If they go to foreclosure we are not reimbursed. We collect very little of what we bill for mowing or code enforcement violations. The Manager sincerely thanked residents who mow vacant properties located next to theirs.

- **Littering Signs**

The Ward 5 Councilor asked if the erection of signs for littering could be placed throughout the City. She recalled as a child seeing such signs, which included the fine for littering. She said this has always stuck with her. The Manager reported some littering signs are in “no dumping areas”, and said they “could be considered” for other areas.

#### **CITY SOLICITOR**

No Report

#### **FINANCE DIRECTOR**

The Director reported the following:

- **2019 Tax Budget**

The 2019 Tax Budget season is upon us. The Tax Budget is what the Ashtabula County Auditor uses to set the revenue side of our budget. It has to be to the County Auditor by July 20. It will be submitted to the City Manager this week. Upon completion of his review it will be distributed, published and City Council will meet in a public hearing to discuss it.

- **Then & Now Certifications**

City Council’s approval was sought to pay The Shamrock Companies \$8,812.18, for a January 31 purchase; the purchase order, for which, was secured on March 1. A purchase over \$3,500, where a purchase order is secured after the purchase, requires City Council’s approval to issue payment. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to authorize payment; motion CARRIED.

**CLERK OF COUNCIL**

**High Grass/Weeds/Vines/Vegetation Fines**

The Clerk of Council announced Codified Ordinance Section 917.05 addresses the fines; and that the same is on the City's website, as well.

**"America's Main Street" Contest Results**

The Clerk reported she was at Harbor Perk this morning for the announcement. She brought with her, Ms. Kelli Carr, from CASNET, a vendor from Akron who grew up in Hudson. The vendor said what she witnessed was phenomenal. She said growing up in Hudson (an affluent area of Ohio) is different than it is today – in that much of its old charm has been replaced with modernization. Ms. Carr also said CASNET is located in an area of Akron that has changed over the years and is now being addressed. The Clerk reiterated what was stated at a former CD/ED/P&R Committee meeting, that many of our community naysayers are residents. People from outside our community see the value and beauty many locals do not. She encouraged locals who do not value their community to take a day trip, and upon their return, her hope is their eyes will then be open to what we have.

**Digitized Records**

The Clerk reported the digitization of City Council meeting minutes and the City's legislation from the 1800s to 2016, and the microfilm of those documents, was delivered this morning by Ms. Carr from CASNET. DocStar will do their part to get them uploaded to our system. The paper versions will be destroyed. She said with all the negative comments said about our City, we are doing things that major cities are doing to move our community forward. The Manager thanked the Clerk, noting that this is exactly what he is talking about. He said he just received notice that over 200,000 votes were cast for us in the American Main Street contest – "CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU".

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

(Chair/Vice Chair)

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PARKS & RECREATION (CD/ED/P&R)**

(Roskovics/Speelman)

The Chair announced the committee will meet on Tuesday, June 12, at 4:00 p.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. Guests: Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, Lift Bridge Community Association and Mr. Chris Raab.

**FINANCE & PERSONNEL - (F&P)** (McClure/Pugliese)

The President announced the committee's Friday, June 8, at 8:00 a.m., meeting cancelled.

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC UTILITIES/CABLE/SCHOOLS - (PW/PU/C/S)** (Pugliese/Vacant)

The committee is scheduled to meet Friday, July 6, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.



**SAFETY FORCES - (SF)** (Speelman/Harley)

The committee is scheduled to meet Monday, June 25, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

**WORK SESSION:** No Report

**LEGISLATION AGENDA**

- Formal Legislation Request(s): None
- Form and Correctness: The President announced conformity to City Council Rules of Order No. 21 was met.
- Legislation Overview: None
- Request Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded for presentation of Ordinance Nos. 2018-49 and 2018-50 to be by Consent Agenda. Ordinance Nos. 2018-51 and 2018-52 will be presented separately and as first readings. The motion CARRIED.
- Public Discussion (on legislation only): Mr. Earl Tucker spoke in favor of paving the Municipal Building and City Hall Annex/Justice Center parking lots.
- Legislation Reading: The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation:

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-49, AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND RATIFYING THE TERMS OF A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THREE EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS INCORPORATING SAID TERMS. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-50, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER AND CLEVELAND DENTAL INSTITUTE FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAX ABATEMENT AT 50% FOR 10 YEARS FOR THE REMODELING, RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 12,000 SQUARE FEET OF COMMERCIAL SPACE AT 2259 LAKE AVENUE, ASHTABULA. (City Manager)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Harley seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Harley seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Speelman, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Harley, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Mr. Speelman, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Harley, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

- **FIRST READINGS**

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-51, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RONYAK PAVING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$357,584.85 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAVING

CITY STREETS. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. The ordinance was placed on its first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-52, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KOSKI CONSTRUCTION CO. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$152,522.75 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAVING CITY PARKING LOTS. Mrs. Harley moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance. Three members voiced affirmatively; two members voiced in opposition. The Clerk and Solicitor agreed that at least 4 affirmative votes of the entire City Council, not just those present, are required to waive the reading. The motion FAILED, thus requiring the ordinance to be read in its entirety. The Clerk announced the matter could be reconsideration by the prevailing side moving to do so. Mrs. Harley moved, Ms. Haines seconded to reconsider the motion to waive the reading; motion CARRIED. Mr. Speelman moved, Ms. Haines seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. The ordinance was placed on its first reading.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Tell Us Something We Don't Know**

Members of City Council and the Administration/Officers are provided the opportunity to comment.

1. City Manager
  - Ashtabula County Medical Center will, again, sponsor the “Bands on the Beach” concerts at Walnut Beach. Mr. Tim Kalil remains the organizer/coordinator. The first concert performer will be Madison Jazz Band, on Sunday, June 17, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  - Larry Fargo and crew are diligently working on the Kevin M. Cornelius Park fountain restoration; a really large project. The Ward 5 Councilor complimented Mr. Fargo for being a “GREAT citizen”; the Manager followed up with “AMAGZING”. The Clerk announced several funds are still needed for the project. Donations may be made through the gofundme account on the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA) website, or sent directly to ADDA, P.O. Box 362, Ashtabula, Ohio 44005.
  - Two inquiries have been received about the City’s West Avenue garage purchase recently let for bid. The bids are due in August.
2. President of Council
  - Asked that applause be given to Ms. Seuffert and the Lift Bridge Community Association for the America’s Main Street contest winning. He asked that our congratulations be passed along.
  - Reiterated that volunteers are able to sign up, online, to help with the Wine & Walleye Festival, which he has done.
3. Ward 4 Councilor
  - Said he spent a lot of time in the military, has lived several places and has seen good and bad places. It is all what you make of it. If you want to see bad or good, that’s what you’ll see.

Unfortunately the ones talking the loudest see the bad things. He said it is easy to be negative on facebook or internet because people can hide behind a keyboard. "Don't let the loudest people detract from what we got doing here. This is a good place. I brought my family back here and I could have gone anywhere."

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters)**

### **Ms. Christine Seuffert, 6018 Hillcrest Avenue, Ashtabula, OH**

- Something she heard during last year's Wine & Walleye Festival she is hearing, again, today, "I'm so proud to be from here". She said do not take that statement for granted.
- She thanked the America's Main Street Committee, a small committee, who spent \$70 on the campaign. The remainder of what was done was through social media, a power communication outlet. She thanked Melinda McNutt, Melody Shiflet, Jim Timonere and Dawn Cragon for letting her tag along for the ride, for daily teaching her so much and for being so positive. She read a letter from someone who has very fond memories of growing up in Ashtabula, her family's history in Ashtabula and she congratulated us on the win.
- She said her colleagues knew about the win a week ago, but didn't tell her, for which she is thankful; because she would have been so excited she probably would have told before today.
- She read the following letter her colleagues wrote for her to read at this morning's reveal: "This year's race to become America's Main Street was a tight competition. And, after 90 days of hard work and determination on the part of individuals across the nation, we finally have a winner. We are sorry to inform you that you aren't excited enough because it's you – you won."
- A few projects already chosen to be done will be placed on the Historic Ashtabula Harbor website so the public may select a few for the LBCA Board to consider doing. She issued a challenge for someone to match the winnings 😊.
- Harbor Events
  - Burning of the Socks, Saturday, June 9, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Harbor Yak
  - Blessing of the Fleet (boats), Sunday, June 10, 11:00 a.m. (music); Noon is the actual blessing. The Clerk suggested the blessing and burning take place Saturday so more people may attend, given many people still attend church on Sunday and are not available until after 1:00 p.m. The Manager said Blessing of the Fleet originated from when Mothers of Sorrows Church was the host; they would process after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. He said it should be easy to move.
  - Farmer's Market, Sunday, June 10 (Opening Day), 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (same time every Sunday through fall)

- Beach Glass Festival, June 23 & 24, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- We are seeing things come to fruition from the ground work previously laid by so many. She received a \$200 Ashtabula Harbor flower donation in memorial of Karen Flack, Doree Petros, Jack Sposito and Dixon Greenwood. While they are no longer with us they held our community in high esteem.

#### **Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA)**

The Clerk of Council gave a “shout out” to ADDA, headed by their relentless President, Jo Misener. She spoke about Mrs. Misener’s constant presence on Main Avenue and her steadfast encouragement for people to get involved in Downtown’s revitalization. She said ADDA’s Promotions Committee Chair, Ms. Marty Cephas, is a marketing genius. She wished everyone could have felt the energy on Main Avenue for the first ADDA sponsored FIRST FRIDAY, “Meet me on Main” event. The event culminated with the phenomenal music of the Jefferson High School Jazz Band playing in Veteran’s Park with several people sitting on park benches and standing, just simply enjoying them. All the vendors said they did well and would return. Musicians were scattered throughout the venue, including in Kevin M. Cornelius Park, along with the Ashtabula Police Department cruiser and motorcycle, the Ashtabula City Fire House and one staff member, and U.S. Army representatives handing out literature. Kudos to Marty and to ADDA for not giving up on Main Avenue, because they do not have the framework from which to draw that exists in the Harbor. Whatever support we are able to give in their efforts to draw people Downtown, we should.

#### **Mrs. Patricia Blum, West 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Ashtabula, OH**

- Thanked the Manager for the update on the yard waste bag pickup.
- Asked why Walnut Beach no longer serves breakfast. The Manager said he has mentioned it to the new concession stand operator; they may try it on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to see how it goes; there is not a lot of money in breakfast and to pay staff in order to offer breakfast might not be financially feasible.
- Asked who the gentlemen are that have been walking the property at the end of her road. The Manager said they may have been affiliated with the Ashtabula County Metroparks bike trail that is in the design stage.
- She spoke with Police Chief Robert Stell who told her nothing can be done about kids entering her property from the former Nag and Rag medical office property. She said she is going to have a bared-wired fence erected if that is what it takes to stop the flow of traffic and depositing of trash onto her property.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

June 18, 2018

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics  
John S. Roskovics  
President of Council

TTTESTED BY:

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