

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO

4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 15, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: Council met in a **REGULAR MEETING**. The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONY (Prayer/Pledge/Moment of Silence): Pastor Doug Wright of First Baptist Church, Park Avenue, offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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

OFFICER(S) PRESENT:

Mr. James M. Timonere	(City Manager)
Mr. Michael Franklin	(City Solicitor)
Mrs. Dana D. Pinkert	(Finance Director)
Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC	(Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: None

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): None

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

PRESENTATION(S)

The President presented the following resolution to Mr. Bill Luoma, Residential Counselor and Monitors Charles and Rob at Turning Point:

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-81

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO THE
MEN'S RESIDENTIAL UNIT at TURNING POINT**

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio to give special recognition to the Men's Residential Unit at Turning Point; and,

WHEREAS, Turning Point is a ninety (90) day Residential Treatment Center located at 2711 Donahoe Drive, in Ashtabula Township; and,

WHEREAS, Turning Point has a dedicated staff who teach residents coping and life skills they need to reclaim their lives and reenter mainstream society as productive citizens; and,

WHEREAS, all Men's Unit residents at Turning Point selflessly volunteered at this year's Annual Westside Clean Up. Their volunteerism empowered them to make a difference by improving the community and the lives of others, all while making personal improvements to their own lives; and,

WHEREAS, without the extraordinary help provided by the Men's Residential Unit of Turning Point, Westside Cleanup participants would have struggled to successfully complete the cleanup of neighborhoods on the Westside of Ashtabula City; 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 most sincere appreciation to the Men's Residential Unit of Turning Point for their willingness and desire to give back to the community. Their kindness and assistance will go a long way in helping to change their life's course.

COMMUNITY is PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE!

When it's put into action it makes the world a much better place in which to live.

ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST: _____

J.P. Ducro IV
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____

Christopher J. McClure
VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Richard F. Balog
WARD 1 COUNCILOR

August A. Pugliese
WARD 2 COUNCILOR

Alice T. Cook
WARD 3 COUNCILOR

Josephine Misener
WARD 4 COUNCILOR

Kris E. Hamrick
WARD 5 COUNCILOR

James M. Timonere
CITY MANAGER

Michael Franklin
CITY SOLICITOR

Dana P. Pinkert
FINANCE DIRECTOR

The President reported being told the Turning Point residents also assisted with the receipt playground installation at Clifford Kadon President Park.

Turning Point representatives said thank you for the recognition; and that they would like to help whenever possible.

The President reported that about one-third or one-half of the West Side Clean Up volunteers were from Turning Point. He said he saw their participation first hand and knows it really did make a huge difference. The President entertained a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded; motion CARRIED.

Beatitude House (BH) Update (Sara Masek, Director): The Director thanked the President for recognizing the efforts of BH in the community and across the county. She said there is a movement titled "Bridges Out of Poverty" that has included some "Just Getting by World" classes. BH has been open three years, and all three years this movement has been offered at BH, in Conneaut, and a few other places. It is an opportunity for people in poverty to sit together and investigate the causes of poverty in the world and in their own lives, tools they may use to get out of poverty, and hidden rules that may exist which make it difficult to move past the barriers and move into other classes of people, and be successful in employment, school, and society. The BH staff has learned from the students, the students have learned from each other, and are able to discuss the 'tyranny of the moment' - what's going on right now today, such as: people they know who are in drug crisis, custody and legal matters, food or shelter issues, etc.). The program provides participants two hours per week to put those moments aside and think about long term plans and goals and realize they are able to have a future. The Director reported the President is one of their big supporters and invited others to get involved, as well. The President said what sold him on the program is the difference in the lives of the graduates, and how it has affected them social-economically. Statistics have shown their earning power and their life improvements.

The Director reported the success rate for residents going into permanent housing is 95% and up and 0% return to homelessness in 2.6 years. Success is evident in their lives by continued progress because of the tools they have been given to work with. The entire mission/goal of BH is to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. The Program also has a self and community assessment piece.

The President asked the Director to remain so they may formalize the activities of June 22. He also invited others to participate in a two to three hour evening with some of the residents.

Jericho Project: Ms. Amber Kendzerski, member of Kellogsville Church of the Nazarene, reported on a project she has started titled, 'The Jericho Walk'. It is an event that brings together all county churches as one body to pray over our county, in "one mind, one body, one spirit, one faith, one Lord, in one place, at one time".

Ashtabula City Regular Council Meeting
Monday, June 15, 2015

The event took place last year in Conneaut with three participating churches and 65 to 75 people in attendance. It is scheduled for Saturday, August 1. It will start at Lance Cpl Kevin M. Cornelius Memorial Park - up Main Avenue - to West 48th Street - down Park Avenue – to Lake Avenue – back up Main Avenue – arriving back at Cornelius Park. The parade will stop at various locations to pray. The parade will be followed by fellowship and a potluck meal at G.O. Ministries. Any commodities which remain at the close of the event will be donated to G.O. and the Samaritan House. She said the event has grown more than she anticipated with a definite 10 churches confirming they will participate, 25 churches saying they are interested but have not committed, and she has been in constant contact with 60 churches. Ms. Amber said her project is supported by the Ashtabula County Ministerial Association. She has been in contact with the Ashtabula Auxiliary Police and still awaits instructions on tweaking her permit because the event is going to be larger than anticipated – with an estimated 400 to 600 participants. She extended an invitation to the dais to attend. The President invited Ms. Kendzerski to remain at the meeting and speak with Police Chief Stell regarding crowd control.

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 18, 2015 Regular Meeting
- June 1, 2015 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 - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Consent Agenda Legislation Only) - None

LEGISLATION READING - None

(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Curbside Recycling Program

The City Manager requested an ordinance for authorization to enter into an agreement with Toter, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$279,930 for the purchase of 3,500 recycling and 3,500 rubbish containers as part of the City's participation in a grant-funded curbside recycling program. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request. Discussion: The City Manager announced the cost of the containers was estimated at \$55 per container; however the bid came in at \$38 or \$39 per container. The grant is \$200,000 with a local match of \$200,000, which has been set aside. The three flippers needed for the trucks are \$7,000 a piece. The total project cost, at this time, is about \$300,000. To bring the remainder of the City on board more funding would have to be secured. The Manager reported once the Ashtabula County Solid Waste District (ACSWD) identifies and sets up the individual drop-off locations, which they are able to do with a similar grant they secured, the bin company will place markers on each bin and drop them off at resident's homes. The program will commence in late fall or early spring. The ACSWD is responsible for the cost of modifications and equipment for the conveyor and compactor in our Recycling Building. The Program will begin with Monday/Friday trash pickup routes, which is the majority of Ward 1 and all of Ward 2. The Manager said more details are forthcoming. The motion CARRIED.

Repeal of CRA – MC3 Holdings

The City Manager requested an ordinance to repeal, in its entirety, Ordinance No. 2014-64, which was authorization 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. This is due to a change of plans by the prospective tenant of the premises. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Balog seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Removal of Black Recycling/Advertising Bins

The City Manager reported the removal of these recycling bins from throughout the City, which had become dump sites, began today.

Clifford Kadon President Park Volunteers

The City Manager thanked all the "great" volunteers who came out to assist with the construction and installation of the playground equipment. It was erected quicker than anticipated. He encouraged the equipment to be used, enjoyed, and respected.

Questions and Comments for the City Manager

CKPP Playground Equipment: The President acknowledged the City's Public Works crews who assisted with the equipment installation. The Manager concurred and said they continued to work on it Monday and Tuesday. He said the roofs at the park, if not addressed yet, will be. The President asked that unwanted and illegal activity at the park be reported immediately to the Police Department. The Manager said there are no gates, therefore there is no set time the park closes. He said he knows the light installation project has been discussed and once coordination is made with the Cleveland Electric Illuminating (C.E.I.) Company, it will be lite. The Manager said the parks should only be used from dawn-to-dusk.

Paving:

Summer Avenue: The Ward 5 Councilor reported Summer Avenue residents express gratitude for the City's quick action on getting their road paved. The Manager said after the first round of paving was "straightened out" and the "bills came in", it was determined that there were extra funds, so Lyndon Avenue, Southwood Drive, and Summer Avenue were addressed. Within the next week or two, weather permitting, the program should be completed.

Portion of Park Avenue: The Manager reported the Library expansion contractor began site work, and Aqua Ohio has to install their water line on Park Avenue. The City will hold off on completing that section of Park Avenue paving until all road work is completed.

Bands-on-the-Week: The City Manager reported that because it began sprinkling at about 5:50 p.m. and because rain was predicted all day, there was a light turnout. He said about 75 to 100 people attended to hear the Madison Jazz Project. The next session is Sunday, July 5. He thanked Dr. Kalil for coordinating the music again this year, and Ashtabula County Medical Center for sponsoring it. He said the American Legion posted the flag and the concession stand was and is open.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT - No Report

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Annual Report: The Finance Director announced the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (C.A.F.R.) is complete.

2014 Audit: The Finance Director reported the City's 2014 Audit is almost complete. A post-audit meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 22, at 2:30 p.m. The preliminary opinion should arrive next week; so far there are no indications that there are any problems.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

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

The Chair reported on the committee's June 9 meeting, as follows:

The City's Planning & Community Development Department Director, Luciana Ratermann, left the city's employ to begin a new phase in her life. She leaves behind a strong foundation through preparation and submission of various grants, from which revenue was received. These efforts aided in the City's continued rebuilding efforts. She'll be missed and we wish her well.

Proposed New Donation Bin Legislation: The Solicitor reported the Manager has offered to meet with him, review the proposed legislation, and update him with any thoughts from the Planning & Community Development Department. The President recalls serious dumping issues at the bins in the Lake Avenue/West 8th Street plaza, as well as at the bin located in the former TOPS grocery store parking lot. He asked how they were addressed. The Manager said they continue efforts to reach the donation bin companies. In the meantime the City has removed the items. It has been suggested to the Lake Avenue/West 8th Street landowner to rethink allowing the bins on the property. The same urging is being attempted with the new owners of the TOPS property.

Zoning Permit Fees: The Manager and Solicitor are drafting proposed legislation that will group all our zoning and other permit fees in one place. It will also bring our fees in-line with the current trend. Once the proposed legislation is prepared, it will be submitted to this committee for review, comment, and recommendation to the full Council.

Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA) Update: ADDA Vice President Ms. Marty Cephas gave an update on their upcoming activities, such as:

- Chocolate Walk (July 17- 18)
- Steam Locomotive from Youngstown (July 25-26) carrying 700 people to Main Avenue each day – volunteers are needed to guide visitors and assist with the meal Casa Capelli will serve them in the Municipal parking lot – more details to come – St. Peter's Church will host an activity to coincide with the train's visit
- Lance Cpl Kevin M. Cornelius Memorial Park Fountain Restoration

Action at this Council meeting: Mrs. Misener moved, Mr. Balog seconded to draft a letter of support for the Fountain Restoration Project; motion CARRIED.

Molded Fiberglass (MFG) Job Fair: MFG's recently held job fair resulted in 200 plus applications. Thirty to fifty full-time persons are needed, some of which began working by the weekend of that same week. MFG manufactures Corvette parts, and makes enough parts, per day, to for 500 Corvettes.

Jobs: There are more employee needs like that of MFG throughout the county. Elite Employment Services assisted MFG and are assisting others.

Parks & Recreation

Clifford Kadon President Park: A new pavilion is scheduled to be constructed at the Park and dedicated on July 27. Before this happens the formal construction plans must go to the Parks & Recreation Board, Planning Commission and City Council for approval; and to the County in order to secure a building permit.

Meeting Announcements: The Committee is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, July 14, at 4:00 p.m. The Parks & Recreation Board is scheduled to meet the same day at 6:30 p.m., at Walnut Beach.

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

The Chair reported on the committee's Friday, June 12, meeting, as follows:

Finances

Revenues

- * Higher than expenditures
- * Income Tax up from 2014
- * Emergency Management Services (EMS) revenue is up and was budgeted lower than normal
- * Our property tax valuation went down.

Expenses

- * Police and Fire Departments overtime still up
- * Finance Director assured committee Police Levy Funds are in a separate account and will remain in such.

Legislation Request: The Committee voted to bring to the full Council the Finance Director's request for supplemental appropriations in the Water Pollution Control, Law Enforcement Trust and Recycling Grant Funds. Mr. Ducro moved, Mr. Balog seconded the committee's recommendation; motion CARRIED.

Tax Budget: The Public Hearing on the City's 2016 Tax budget will be scheduled for Monday, July 6.

Curbside Recycling: The City Manager gave an extensive report earlier in this meeting.

Equalization (EQ) Basin Fee becoming Capital Charge: A meeting will be scheduled shortly to continue this conversation.

Parks & Recreation Fundraiser - Ashtabeautiful Throws: The Chair suggested to the committee that the 'Debbie Rich photograph throw' be sold for \$100 as a fundraiser for the City's Parks & Recreation Fund. He would order the first batch and cover the \$50 per throw, manufacturing cost. After much discussion, including various facets of reporting that would be required if the throws were sold through the City, it was decided that the sales would best be handled by the Chair through his private business and that proceeds from the sales would be gifted to the City's Parks & Recreation Fund through donations.

Job Postings: At the request of the Chair, the City Manager announced the following:

- Part-Time Dispatcher – 29 hours per week – no benefits – application deadline is around June 19
- Part-Time/Seasonal for Sanitation/Public Works to cover vacations – deadline is June 19 – apply at JobSource on Lake Avenue – no benefits – maximum 120 days

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

The President announced the committee's next meeting has not been scheduled.

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

The Chair announced the committee will meet on Monday, June 22, at 4:00 p.m. The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation will make a presentation, Police body cameras, Fire Department disaster preparedness for train accidents, and facsimile fire arms (e.g., air guns w/orange barrels), will be discussed.

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

The President entertained a motion to dispose of Ordinance Nos. 2015-78, 79 and 80 by consent agenda format. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded, motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING

Second Reading

ORDINANCE

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

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. Discussion: The City Solicitor reminded the members of Council of the issue he raised regarding signage on the next ordinance and “to keep in mind that we will end up restricting parking for about a hundred foot swath on one side of the City street. And, it will be important to put up clear signs indicating where parking is permitted and where it is not – or at least where it is not, in order to enforce any tickets in that area”. The Clerk of Council noted that when the Solicitor’s email regarding this matter was received, she suggested that it go to the Police Chief because the Chief provided the committee with very detailed and specific language in his recommendation response. She then suggested it would be the responsibility of Public Works and the Police Chief to make the determination. The President made a suggestion; however in the end left it to the stated departments/persons to make the final decision. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE

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

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. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The Clerk of Council presented the following for Consent Agenda disposal:

ORDINANCE

2015-78 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-64, 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, DUE TO A CHANGE OF PLANS BY THE PROSPECTIVE TENANT OF THE PREMISES. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-79 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST, RECYCLING GRANT AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015. (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE

2015-80 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE 3500 RECYCLING AND 3500 RUBBISH CONTAINERS FROM TOTER, LLC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$279,930, AS PART OF THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN A GRANT-FUNDED CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM. (City Manager)

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. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

MISCELLANEOUS

The following Bridge Street activities were announced:

- TABS (The Arts on Bridge Street) (date unknown)
- Beach Glass Festival (June 27-28)
- Nina & Pinta Tall Ships & Tours (June 27-28)
- Wine & Walleye Festival (August 21-23)

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

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, July 6, at 7:00 p.m.; Pre-Council at 6:00 p.m., and the Tax Budget Public Hearing at a time to be determined.

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 8:06 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

July 6, 2015

ATTESTED BY: _____

J.P. Ducro IV

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

ATTESTED BY: _____

LaVette E. Hennigan

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