

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

**Monday, June 19, 2017**

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. Kris E. Hamrick (Ward 5 Councilor)  
Mr. John S. Roskovics (Ward 1 Councilor)  
Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2 Councilor)  
Mr. Michael D. Speelman (Ward 4 Councilor)  
Mrs. Kristy L. Hosken (Ward 3 Councilor)  
Mrs. Josephine Misener (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):** Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to excuse the Vice President from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the agenda; motion CARRIED.

**PRESENTATION(S):** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**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 15, 2017 and June 5, 2017, Regular Meeting minutes for Council's approval. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes stood approved as presented.

- **Formal Legislation Request(s):** None
- **Form and Correctness:** The Clerk of Council certified conformity to Council Rule 21.
- **Legislation Overview:** The President provided an overview of the Legislation Agenda.
- **Public Discussion (Legislation Portion Only):** None

### Legislation Reading

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-72, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO REQUIRE THREE-WAY STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LAIRD AVENUE WITH WEST 9TH STREET. (City Manager), was presented for its seconded reading. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to adopt the ordinance. On the roll to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Speelman, Mrs. Hosken, Mrs. Misener voted yea; motion CARRIED.

- **Suspend Charter Requirement of Two Readings**

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-80, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,500.00 FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR THE SSO ELIMINATION PROJECT – PHASE 2. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-81, AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 141.11, ENTITLED COMPOSITION, IN ORDER TO PERMIT HIRES IN THE POLICE DIVISION TO BE MADE BY LATERAL TRANSFER UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-82, AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 141.11, ENTITLED COMPOSITION, APPOINTMENTS AND LATERAL TRANSFERS. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-83, AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1137.11 ENTITLED DISTRICT PARKING REQUIREMENTS; VARIANCE. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-85, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 TO A CONTRACT WITH A.P. O’HORO FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$186,590 FOR THE WPC (Water Pollution Control) PRIMARY SETTling TANK REHAB PROJECT. (City Manager)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to waive the reading of the ordinances; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick second to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Speelman, Mrs. Hosken, Mrs. Misener voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinances: Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Speelman, Mrs. Hosken, Mrs. Misener voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The President remarked that we are very fortunate to have a church, with a vast history, that has been in our community for 200 years. She said they do so much for our community and do so in a quiet way. The President read the following resolution, which she will present to the church at their Saturday, July 1, celebration banquet:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-87**

**A RESOLUTION OF CONGRATULATIONS AND APPRECIATION  
TO  
ST. PETER EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**WHEREAS**, it has come to the attention of this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio that a very special recognition is in order; and,

**WHEREAS**, St. Peter Episcopal Church located at 4901 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, Ohio, is celebrating 200 years in the City of Ashtabula. The congregation first met in the Blakeslee Log Cabin on Seven Hills Road in Ashtabula, then in a cabin on Main Avenue, and have been at their present location that was rebuilt in the 1960s; and,

**WHEREAS**, St. Peter Episcopal Church is a leader in lending a helping hand to its Downtown neighbors. The Church has several community outreach programs, such as: Summer Camp Week, mini-retreats and Noonday Prayer lunches for the local business community, Bible studies, a sewing and yarnning group that make clothing and blankets for patients in our local hospitals and hospitals around the world. They also host a free concert series offering 6 concerts a year in a variety of genres called "Music Without Barriers". Their "Hope and a Future" outreach offers a children's program, a hot meal, a crockpot cooking club that develops recipes from the foods available through the food pantry, and prayers; and,

**WHEREAS**, St. Peter Episcopal Church lends its parish to several 12 Step Programs and Self-Help Groups; they have a strong relationship with the My Neighborhood Collaboration group - a Community Action organization that uses the parish for many family oriented activities and that has devoted themselves to one of the Church's visions, which is to make life better for the families in the Presidential area located adjacent to the parish; and,

**WHEREAS**, St. Peter Episcopal Church was host to several locals and visitors who gathered in South Park to see the historic Nickel Plate Road 765, a 1944 steam locomotive, when it stopped in Downtown Ashtabula to pick up passengers for a roundtrip excursion from Ashtabula to Youngstown, OH; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, do hereby sincerely APPRECIATE St. Peter Episcopal Church for their genuine care for Downtown Ashtabula and the Ashtabula citizenry. We CELEBRATE and CONGRATULATE them on, this, their 200<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in the Ashtabula community. St. Peter Episcopal Church, THANK YOU for making a big difference in our small corner of the world!

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Josephine Misener  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher J. McClure  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
John S. Roskovics  
WARD 1 COUNCILOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
August A. Pugliese  
WARD 2 COUNCILOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristy L. Hosken  
WARD 3 COUNCILOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael D. Speelman  
WARD 4 COUNCILOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kris E. Hamrick  
WARD 5 COUNCILOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
James M. Timonere  
CITY MANAGER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Franklin  
CITY SOLICITOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana D. Pinkert  
FINANCE DIRECTOR

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to adopt the resolution; motion CARRIED.

## REGULAR BUSINESS

**PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES:** None

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

- **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **Thomas Pallotta & Sons, Inc. – Safe Routes to School Contractor**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Thomas Pallotta & Sons, Inc. with a mailing address of 257 E. Indianola Ave., Youngstown, OH 44507 as the most responsive bidder for construction of the ATB Lakeside Safe Routes to School Project in the amount not to exceed \$ 431,285.75. Funds for the expenditure will be taken in part from the Capital Improvement Fund 412 as well as funded through the Ohio Department of Transportation. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the Manager's request. The Ward 2 Councilor expressed his pleasure with seeing this legislation. He said the project has been in the works for at least 5 years. He asked the Manager where the sidewalks will be installed. The Manager responded, right now, the plans are for the sidewalks to be installed "coming north and south on Cemetery Road, back to Wade, and from the campus (elementary school ) to West 30<sup>th</sup> Street." The Ward 1 Councilor asked if the project is for the installation of sidewalks only. The Manager responded, yes. The Ward 2 Councilor asked how wide the sidewalks will be. The Manager responded the install will be in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); however he does not recall if the sidewalk width is 4 or 6 foot. The motion CARRIED.

**Roto-Rooter - Valleyview Boulevard Storm Drain Project**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Roto-Rooter with a mailing address of P.O. Box 524, Ashtabula, OH 44004 for emergency road work to repair a storm drain in the amount of \$15,500.00. Funds for this expenditure will be taken from Capital Improvement Fund 412. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

**Andritz Separation Inc. – Water Pollution Control (WPC) Scroll Replacement**

The City Manager requested an agreement with Andritz Separation, Inc., with a mailing address in Arlington, TX 76001, for the purpose of replacing the scrolls for the Centrifuge at the Water Pollution Control Plant, in the amount not to exceed \$40,000.00, which includes shipping of the part. Funds for this expenditure will be taken from the WPC (Water Pollution Control) Capital Fund 504. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the Manager's request. The City Manager reported a couple months ago he asked for an ordinance to enter into an agreement with this same company, from whom we originally purchased the Centrifuge. After about 14000 hours the system, which does not run 24/7, requires an overhaul. When the machine was opened for the overhaul it was found that the scrolls, which help in the sludge dewatering process, were severely damaged and have to be replaced. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

**Questions/Comments for City Manager**

**Paving:** The Ward 4 Councilor asked if more layers will be placed on West 44<sup>th</sup> Street. The Manager responded, yes, that the base layer is all that has been applied.

**West 58<sup>th</sup> Street House (next to church):** The Ward 5 Councilor reported the church is interested in the property and asked if it is on "the list". The Manager said it is in the "pipeline" but it has not, yet, been acquired by the Land Bank.

**House - Perryville Place and Samuel Avenue:** The Ward 5 Councilor asked about the status of this house that belongs to Mr. Spencer Wold. The Manager said it, too, is in the pipeline and does not know if the Land Bank has, yet, acquired it. The Manager said he understands all Mr. Wold's properties have gone to tax foreclosure.

• **CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

**City Parks:** The Solicitor reported there are few ordinances on our books that specifically address conduct in parks. He said the Parks & Recreation Board and the City Manager have posted rules in some parks. He receives inquiries from law enforcement when they discover park rules are being violated and want to issue a citation, but do not find a law to cite. Citizens also contact his office to tell what they saw happening in a park and ask if it is legal. He said the Council President has recently inquired about laws that prohibit sleeping in parks. The Solicitor reported he presented Council with the following list of appropriate regulations that affect the use of our public parks, which the Parks & Recreation Board should review and make legislation recommendations for Council to enact:

1. Dogs/pets in designated areas only. Dogs to be kept on leash at all times.
2. Parks hours: sunrise to sunset unless prior Manager permission has been given for longer hours.
3. Beer & wine consumption in designated areas for special events by Manager permission only.
4. No camping out or overnight RV parking.
5. Grilling / cooking in designated areas only.
6. No smoking in parks.
7. Conviction for violation of park rules results in a 1 year ban from all City parks, and subject for arrest and prosecution for criminal trespass if ban is violated.
8. Anyone caught selling, buying, possessing or using illegal narcotics in a City park, or committing assault or other acts of violence in a City park, is to be banned from all City parks for 5 years, and subject for arrest and prosecution for criminal trespass if ban is violated.

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

**Park Rules:** The President said she was pleased to see the Solicitor's proposed list of park rules; that the Parks & Recreation Board will "embrace" them and any others they devise. She said hard work went into getting the Parks & Recreation Levy passed last year, and thankfully the electorate entrusted us with the funds to make our parks beautiful; now it is up to the City to do its part. The level of the fine that could be levied was discussed. The President announced Parks & Recreation Board Chair, Earl Tucker, will call a special meeting of the Board, to discuss park rules; and then the discussion will be continued at the July 11, Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.

**Graffiti:** The President asked for an update on the person recently apprehended in Conneaut for defacing structures throughout the county with graffiti. The Solicitor reported, "The person was charged with a single felony count that, I believe, is intended to lump together all the public property that was defaced in five different communities, and then he was charged with several individual misdemeanor counts, which I think are alternative charges. For whatever reason, the judge or jury doesn't believe that it's appropriate to aggregate all these together then you have multiple misdemeanors which could add up to as much or more of a punishment. The last time I reviewed the docket of the case in Jefferson, because this is being handled by the County Prosecutor's office, the young man's attorneys have filed a motion to suppress some statements that he gave to the Sheriff's Department in connection with his arrest and subsequent interview." He does not believe the hearing has been held. If it has been, it was done recently, and the judge has not, yet, announced a ruling. He reported, "We're in the pre-trial/motion time period; it has not come to trial yet." The President asked if there is a way for the City to "insert" that our graffiti is taken care of as part of his punishment. The Solicitor said it is his understanding we are one of those misdemeanor counts and are also part of the felony charge.

### **• FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Legislation Request:** The Finance Director requested legislation to adopt the 2018 Tax Budget. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

Ashtabula City Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, June 19, 2017

The Finance Director reported the document is on display in the Finance Department, for public review, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. It is also posted on the City's website at ([www.cityofashtabula.com](http://www.cityofashtabula.com)) until it comes to a Council agenda.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**  
(Chair/Vice Chair)

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PARKS & RECREATION (CD/ED/P&R)**  
(Mrs. Misener/Mr. Roskovics)

The Chair announced the committee did not meet in June. The committee will meet on Tuesday, July 11, at 4:00 p.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

**Ashtabula City Parks & Recreation Board**

The Chair announced the Board met on June 13, at 6:30 p.m., at Smith Field. They discussed vandalism to the newly restored fountain at Kevin M. Cornelius Park and newly installed flower boxes at Clifford Kadon Presidential Park (CKPP). The Chair said so many people are stepping up and volunteering their time and money to make our City look nice only for others to destroy it, which is discouraging to her and people who are trying to make a difference. She sincerely thanked Mr. Larry Fargo and his volunteers for the work they did to restore the fountain. She urged if you see something – say something, especially given everyone has a cell phone capable of taking pictures. The Ward 3 Councilor suggested the City consider installing “trail cams” in our parks. The Manager commented on trail cams and on what has been done and is being considered in the way of surveillance, including what Harbor merchants are considering. He, too, asked that people posting what they witness to facebook should take time, rather, to call law enforcement and report it.

**CKKP Pavilion:** The President announced the long talked about pavilion to be constructed in the Park should be completed and ready for the July 4, ribbon cutting. She thanked Ms. Tiffany Reid for her efforts to make this happen.

**New Businesses:** The President announced Formality Resale is a new business for wedding apparel and accessories and after-5 dress wear, located in the former Bureau of Motor Vehicles building on Lake Avenue. The Main Escape, located at 4211 Main Avenue, is a new to downtown. The Ashtabula Downtown Development Association's Meet and Greet will be hosted at this new business later this month. This business has three rooms where participants are locked in and get clues to find their way out. The President said she ran across a few of the same type businesses while recently on vacation.

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

The Vice Chair reported on the committee's Friday, June 9.

At the request of the Chair, the Finance Director reported:

- there are no surprises in the year-to-date financials

- the EMS revenue is a little higher than last year and higher than 2017 budget projections
- the Municipal Court has some ups and downs in their revenues; overall their revenues are coming in as budgeted
- more detail on the Parks & Recreation Levy expenses will be given to the Council President, on a regular basis, as requested
- the Tax Budget was discussed
- House Bill 49, which has the following two items of interest to us, was discussed:
  - **Income Tax:** An income tax measure allowing net profits to opt in to use Ohio Business Gateway to report and submit their net profits. Whoever opts in will be locked in for 5 years and the State will charge us a 1% administrative fee to collect and distribute the tax revenues. It is a change from the initial mandate, but is still a change towards centralized income tax collection.
  - **Certification of delinquent trash fees:** The Finance Director, the City Manager and the City Solicitor met with the County Prosecutor. Ohio Senator O'Brien drafted an amendment to the budget to allow counties to, specifically, certify trash fees. We will know tomorrow if the amendment was accepted as part of House Bill 49. If it was not, we will have to find another way to collect over \$200,000 in delinquent trash fees, annually.

The Vice Chair reported the committee also discussed Parks & Recreation Levy funds, curbside recycling, dock fees, Route 11 mowing by the State, and the Municipal Building doors.

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded the committee's request for legislation to enact an annual, one-time swimming pool fill credit through the Finance Department. The Vice Chair announced a pool permit is required and must be adhered to for safety purposes. The motion CARRIED.

#### **Questions/Comments for the Finance & Personnel Committee**

The President commented on how the State is decreasing local government revenues in order to balance their budget on the backs of local government. She asked the City Manager to reach out to our State officials for a meeting so our concerns may be voiced. The Manager said after the State budget is passed he will issue the invitation for our State representatives to come to town for a July or August meeting.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC UTILITIES/CABLE/SCHOOLS (PW/PU/C/S)** - (Mr. Pugliese/Mr. McClure)

The Chair announced the committee did not meet in June. They will meet on Friday, July 7, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. GreatWave Communications is scheduled to be present to discuss bringing cable service to the City of Ashtabula. The Chair said he continues to receive complaints about the increased cost for television cable every since Spectrum took over Time Warner Cable. He said residents are paying \$150 to \$200 per month for cable service, which is outrageous.

#### **SAFETY FORCES (SF)** - (Mr. Hamrick/Mrs. Misener)

The Chair announced the committee will not meet on Monday, June 26.



**WORK SESSION – No report**

**LEGISLATION AGENDA**

- **Formal Legislation Request(s):** None
- **Form and Correctness:** The Clerk of Council certified conformity to Council Rule 21.
- **Legislation Overview:** The President provided an overview of the Legislation Agenda.
- **Public Discussion** (Legislation Portion Only)
- **Consent Agenda:** The President entertained a motion to dispose of the Regular Business Agenda as a consent agenda, with the exception of Ordinance No. 2017-86, which will be presented separately. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded; motion CARRIED.

**Legislation Reading**

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation for Council's consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-84, AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 937.09, ENTITLED SEWER CREDIT FOR METERED WATER USED IN SWIMMING POOLS. (City Council)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-88, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ROTO-ROOTER FOR REPAIRS TO A STORM SEWER ON VALLEYVIEW BOULEVARD. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-89, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THOMAS PALLOTTA & SONS, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$431,285.75 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SERVICES AND MATERIALS FOR THE ODOT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT (ATB-LAKESIDE SCHOOL CAMPUS SRTS, PID 98625). (City Manager)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to waive the reading of the ordinances; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman second to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Speelman, Mrs. Hosken, Mrs. Misener voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinances: Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Speelman, Mrs. Hosken, Mrs. Misener voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-86, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CHARTER OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE ELECTORS THEREOF, BY REPEALING SECTION 11 THEREOF, WHICH PROVIDES FOR FORFEITURE OF OFFICE BY A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER UPON THREE CONSECUTIVE, UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS, AND FINANCIAL PENALTIES UPON A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER FOR 3 ABSENCES IN A CALENDAR YEAR. (City Council)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to waive the reading of the ordinances; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman second to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Hamrick (yea), Mr. Roskovics (nay), Mr. Pugliese (yea), Mr. Speelman (yea), Mrs. Hosken (yea), Mrs. Misener (yea). The motion CARRIED by a 5 to 1 vote. On the roll call to adopt the ordinances: Mr. Hamrick (yea), Mr. Roskovics (nay), Mr. Pugliese (yea), Mr. Speelman (yea), Mrs. Hosken (yea), Mrs. Misener (yea). The motion CARRIED by a 5 to 1 vote. The President issued a reminder that when Charter changes are proposed, City Council votes to place them on the ballot and the votes of the City electorate determine whether the items presented to them will be enacted.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Clifford Kadon President Park

- The Ward 5 Councilor reported the grass along the fence-line needs mowing.
- The President reported a pile of brush, by the gardens, needs to be hauled away.
- The gardens will be planted at this park, again, this year.

**Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA):** The President announced the ADDA was awarded a \$25,000 Civic Development Corporation grant. The funds were spent on planters and benches for Main Avenue. The ADDA spent \$10,000 of their funds to fill the pots with flowers and pay someone to daily water them. The President said trash is already being placed in the planters. She asked residents to be aware of people who look like they are damaging what is meant to bring beauty to our Downtown community.

**Mowing:** The Ward 3 Councilor reported the vacant property on the corner of West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and Station Avenue (right behind the former St. John School property) needs attention soon because the grass is so high motorists line-of-sight is blocked when turning onto West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street from Station Avenue.

**Speeding:** The Ward 2 Councilor said he has seen more “police lights” on the side of the roads, and thanked the Police Department for stepping up patrols. He said he noticed State Troopers have been in town the last few weekends, as well.

**Meeting Announcement:** The President announced the next Pre-Council and Regular Council meetings will be Monday, July 3, at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., respectively.

### Civic Development Corporation (CDC)

At the request of the President, the City Manager reported CDC has a fundraising campaign every five years. They identify projects and award grants. We, along with many organizations, have been recipients of their grants. Some of the projects the City has used said funds for are the Hulbert Avenue parking lot, Walnut Beach, some river dredging at Brockway Marine and the Ashtabula Arts Center has received funds.

He said the last few years their focus has been on “Placemaking”, which (*capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and well being.*) The Manager said CDC has been a great organization and he sees the relationship continuing.

**Art Competition:** The President reported \$5,000 of the \$25,000 CDC grant was to be used for a public art competition. So, the ADDA is planning a series of whirligigs as part of a public art program designed to add character and attract more visitors to Downtown. She said, “The whirligig or kinetic art is art from any medium that contains movement perceivable by the viewer or depends on motion for its affect. Most commonly it is a term that refers to three dimensional sculptures and figures such as mobiles or whirligigs that move naturally and contain moving parts that are generally powered by men. The ADDA is promoting a contest centered around a whirligig design, likened to the fish whirligigs on Main Avenue. The winning designer will be awarded \$5,000, to purchase the materials and fabricate the artwork that will be placed on the Ashtabula City Hall lawn. The whirligig must depict some thing that relates to Ashtabula’s character, history or heritage. The winning artist’s name will be placed on a plaque alongside the artwork. More details may be found on the ADDA website at [www.ashtabulacity.com](http://www.ashtabulacity.com). The entry deadline is June 30.

**West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Depot:** The Ward 3 Councilor would like the railroad to be asked to remove all the debris from their depot property. The Councilor asked for an update on the proposed restoration of the depot. The Manager said he sent a third letter to Amtrak asking them to conduct a study for the possibility of having a stop in Ashtabula, and has been working with Ohio State Representative John Patterson on the possibility. The Manager said due to a railroad regulation tat says the depot has to be more than 25 feet away from the tracks, the only thing the depot could be is a train stop, because certain parts of the building are less than 17 feet way from the tracks. The Manager said CSX Railroad is willing to demolish the depot, but asked them to hold off because he knew there were groups who wanted the depot restored. He thought that process to get it restored would be further along than it is. He said the building continues to deteriorate, he does not know how much more of the structure is worth saving, but believes if we do not hear anything back from Amtrak by this fall, we probably will push them towards demolishing the structure. The Ward 2 Councilor concurred with his colleagues request to have the railroad clean up the property, which he said looks terrible, and that the least they can do is make the property look presentable. The Manager agreed, said it is a struggle to get them to keep their hillside grass mowed, and that they are not an easy group to work with. The President said she had entertained the thought of moving the depot building, but believes it is no longer movable. The Manager said it is moveable, that structures across the street from the depot were demolished with the anticipation that moving the depot might be an option. But, if moved, the restoration cost would triple or quadrupled.

**Former Carlisle’s Building Update:** At the request of the Ward 5 Councilor for an update, the City Manager reported we await the Environmental Protection Agency’s assessment report from their visit to the property.

## GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

**Mr. Raymond Hall, 1013 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street:** Directed his comments to the Ward 2 Councilor. He said the only thing that has been done since he was last at a council meeting is someone sheered the weeds on each side of the road, decapitating his water shut off; that the road is getting worse; with all the rain we have had a new four inch ditch has been created down the center of the road and now is eroding Woodlawn Avenue; If much more time passes without installing culverts and ditches Woodlawn Avenue will also have to be completely reengineered because it is washing away. The erosion is mostly on the west end. Someone scooped out mud and dumped it on a private lot, which has made a mosquito breeding hole ever since because the water has no place to go. The warm weather has made the water evaporate and made the situation tolerable, but it only takes a quarter of an inch of water for a mosquito to breed. He said the only thing he can do is come to a council meeting and voice his concern, because there is no way to force the City to do anything. He said he does not want to, but the only thing he knows to do is threatened to do something at election time. He said he realizes there is a shortage of funds. He asked, if the problem is not repaired soon how will the City be able to afford the repairs later when more streets in the area are destroyed.

The Ward 2 Councilor said he agrees “100%”. He said he recently drove the roads and said “It is not a very nice street to be on”. He said he saw paint marks and believed that meant the City was doing something. The Councilor said he knows the Manager has tried reached out to Mr. Tim Martin, in the County, to get him involved. The Councilor said what needs to be done is to take a cross-section of the entire road – elevations – set grades – then install the ditches.

The Manager said to say nothing has been done is a very false statement. He reported the backhoe was there because old plans were found that showed there were catch basins on each side of that ditch, and we were trying to locate them. We do not know if the plans were for the installation of the catch basins or if they were already there. He said they did not locate the basins, but did find a collapsed cross pipe that goes underneath the road. He said what he believed is that “it comes from the north side on that ditch line, flows underneath the road to the south side, back down to the east, then comes back across the street to the north side, into a 42 inch main that is actually on that side of the road. Mr. Martin has been to the area twice to look at the ditches and to determine how to level them out. A contractor is on standby to dig the ditches for machine cost and time; City crews will haul the spoils away. Grindings from the City’s paving project are at Public Works. Once the ditches are cleaned out, the grindings will be packed into the road, the road will be rolled, and then covered with an emulsion, so it will almost be like brand new asphalt. The said, “We are moving on that project; nothing is stopping us on it; and I reported that at Council.”

Mr. Hall asked for the timeframe. The Manager said the contractor is working on Valleyview Boulevard. The “hope” is once that job is completed they will move to East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. He said, “I hope to see some activity over there by the end of this month, depending on what else he has lined up.”

The Manager said the paint marks Mr. Hall mentioned are O.U.P.S. (Ohio Utilities Protection Services) markings made by utility companies to show where their underground infrastructure is located. We borrowed Ashtabula Township’s brush hog to get the area cleared out to get a better idea where we

were digging. The water lines are very shallow in the area, which is why the boxes were sheared off; which will be repaired.

Mr. Hall commented further, including that he installed the water lines years ago, that his concern is for the safety of people who use the road because the condition of the under road is unknown, and that he is satisfied residents should see movement by the end of this month.

**John H., 940 Norwood Drive:** said he just returned to his hometown to retire after being away for 43 years. He said he likes the area and is happy to be here. He then reported there is no functioning playground equipment at Woodman Estates, where many children reside, and said maybe the City could help. He said there are swings with no seats. The Manager reported Woodman Estates is managed by Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority (A.M.H.A.). He offered to reach out to them to find out what their plans are to provide usable playground equipment for the children.

Mr. H. said the Ashtabula Police Department has a tough job; and he appreciates what they do.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

*July 3, 2017*

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

*Josephine Misener*

**Josephine Misener  
President of Council**

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

*LaVette E. Hennigan*

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