

**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, July 7, 2014**

**Ashtabula City Municipal Building  
4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004**

**Call to Order**

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

**Opening Ceremony (Prayer/Pledge/Moment of Silence)**

The Ward 1 Councilor offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

<b>Members Present:</b>	Mrs. Josephine Misener	(Ward 4 Councilor)
	Mr. Kris E. Hamrick	(Ward 5 Councilor)
	Mr. Richard F. Balog	(Ward 1 Councilor)
	Mr. August A. Pugliese	(Ward 2 Councilor)
	Mrs. Alice T. Cook	(Ward 3 Councilor)
	Mr. Christopher J. McClure	(Vice President)
	Mr. J. P. Ducro IV	(President)

**Member(s) Absent:** None

<b>Officer(s) Present:</b>	Mr. James M. Timonere	(City Manager)
	Mr. Michael Franklin	(City Solicitor)
	Mrs. Dana D. Pinkert	(Finance Director)
	Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC	(Clerk of Council)

**Officer(s) Absent:** None

**Excused Absence:** None

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

**Presentations:** None

**Executive Session:** None

**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 more efficiently conduct business by grouping like items together 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:

- June 16, 2014 Regular Meeting

Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the meeting minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections the minutes were approved as presented.

### **FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS**

#### RESOLUTION

2014-116 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2015 AND SUBMITTING THE SAME TO THE ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO BUDGET COMMISSION. (Finance Director)

Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to grant the Finance Director's request; motion CARRIED.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Consent Agenda Legislation Only) – None**

### **LEGISLATION READING**

#### ORDINANCE

2014-110 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, PARKS & RECREATION, RECYCLING GRANT, CDBG AND PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014. (Finance Director)

#### ORDINANCE

2014-111 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH RABE ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEM, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$14,839, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REMOVING THE EXISTING CHIMNEY AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND REPLACING IT WITH A NEW B-VENT STAINLESS STEEL PIPE. (City Manager)

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ORDINANCE

2014-112 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT. (Smith Field Goal Posts) (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2014-113 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 951.12 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING AN AMENDED VERSION TO IMPROVE LEAF AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION AND REDUCING COSTS OF OPERATIONS. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2014-114 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 951.12 TO IMPROVE LEAF AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION AND REDUCING COSTS OF OPERATIONS, EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2014 AT 3:00 P.M. (City Manager)

RESOLUTION

2014-115 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ASHTABULA DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION MAIN AVENUE STREETScape PLAN. (City Manager)

RESOLUTION

2014-116 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2015 AND SUBMITTING THE SAME TO THE ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO BUDGET COMMISSION. (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE

2014-117 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP & FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF EAST 45<sup>TH</sup> STREET FROM 1820 EAST 45<sup>TH</sup> STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF EAST 45<sup>TH</sup> STREET WITH STATE ROAD. (Public Works/Utilities/Schools Comm.)

ORDINANCE

2014-118 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP & FILE TO REPEAL, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NO. 2012-74, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC MAP TO PLACE ARROWS AND SIGNS FOR TRUCK TRAFFIC AT THE INTERSECTION OF WEST AVENUE & GRISWOLD ROAD". (Public Works/Utilities/Schools Comm.)

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

**(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)**

## REGULAR AGENDA

### READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

#### **AFSCME Council 8– Local 1197 Union Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to execute a MOU between the City of Ashtabula and AFSCME Council 8, Local 1197 Union for the purpose of clarifying the sick time payout for employees retiring after March 27, 2014. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

#### **Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation (OBWC) – Safety Intervention Safety Grant Application**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to file and execute documents necessary to apply and implement the OBWC Safety Intervention Safety Grant. If awarded, a power lift cot will be purchased for the Fire Department's use on ambulance runs. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request. The Manager reported the equipment costs about \$60,000 and the City's share is five or ten percent. The motion CARRIED.

#### **Ohio Public Works Commission West Harbor Sewer Improvements – Phase 2 Agreement**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement between the City of Ashtabula and the Ohio Public Works Commission for the purpose of providing funding in the amount not exceed \$167,500.00, as a grant/loan, for a total project cost of \$335,000.00, for the West Harbor Sewer Improvements Project – Phase 2. Funding for the City's portion of this expenditure will be taken from Account Number 503-150-5500, entitled Capital Improvements – Waste Water Treatment. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to grant the Manager's request. The Manager reported Phase 1 ended near Allen Avenue and West 9<sup>th</sup> Street. This request will allow the project to continue east from Walnut Boulevard south. How far the funding will allow the project to progress depends on what is found during the televising stage. The motion CARRIED.

#### **Fitzgerald's Wine Bar - Resolution of Support**

The City Manager requested a resolution in support of Fitzgerald's Wine Bar to locate at 1023 Bridge Street. The resolution is required to be submitted with their application for historic tax credit consideration, to renovate the building. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request. The Vice President reported the Manager told Council this is one of the last buildings in lower Bridge Street that needs renovating, and that it needs a lot of work. The Manager said the building pretty much consists of four walls and a roof. There is no floor, just dirt, so the structure will be completely renovated. The historic tax credits were the impetus of the former Hotel Ashtabula being renovated. The building is now occupied by Signature Health. The Manager said this is a way the State of Ohio and the federal government are able to give back to local businesses to help them get started.

The President reported the owners of the establishment requested the resolution of the City, and if others did the same we would support them, as well. The motion CARRIED.

**Union Industrial Contractors – Mattson Drive Change Order No. 1**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to execute Change Order No. 1 with Union Industrial Contractors of Post Office Box 1718, Ashtabula, OH 44004, in the amount not to exceed \$6,924.53 for additional excavating and compacting the subgrade and installation of the stone for the Mattson Drive Project. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from Account Number 412-200-5554, entitled Street/Bridge Improvements. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request. The Vice President asked why a dead-end street with only three to four houses on it is concrete when Lake Avenue, a main road, is falling apart. The Manager said he was unsure but that the road has lasted 40 to 50 years, plus. The total cost of the project is close to \$30,000. The motion CARRIED.

**Formal Legislation Requests**

The City Manager formally requested ORDINANCE NO. 2014-109 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING CONTRACT WITH STEVEN P. DLOTT, ESQ., FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES CONNECTED WITH PENDING WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request. The President asked if Mr. Dlott handles all City workers' compensation claims or if this is new. The Manager reported Council passed legislation allowing him to represent the City, but the \$5,000 contract amount has expired. This ordinance extends the amount by \$10,000 because the case he is working on has not been settled as quickly as anticipated. The Finance Director reported Mr. Dlott may be used for other worker's compensation related issues; and that if funds remain from this extension, they will be used. The motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested ORDINANCE NO. 2014-107 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NO. 2014-60, PASSED ON APRIL 21, 2014, FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING A PAY RAISE OF 2% TO THE POSITIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT/PUBLIC SERVICES, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH COMMISSIONER, MEDICAL DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR, NURSE, CLERICAL ASSISTANT, POLICE CHIEF, FIRE CHIEF, ASSISTANT CITY SOLICITOR I, CLERK OF COUNCIL (CERTIFIED), EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER, AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, GRADE 1. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's recommendation. The President requested to be excused from the discussion and vote on this legislation, and on Ordinance 2014-108(a), because his wife is one of two Public Health Nursing Directors for the City of Ashtabula. The Clerk of Council noted that the President's request is to abstain from the discussion and vote on Ordinance Nos. 2014-107 and 2014-108(a), and to yield the floor to the Vice President to preside. Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to grant the President's request. The Solicitor announced the President's involvement is permitted when legislation is being requested and repealed. The Clerk of Council reported she was told that the President's participation was not allowed in the case of a payroll ordinance, in which his wife's position is listed, when the pay is being decreased, increased, and remaining as is.

On the opinion of the Solicitor the President continued to preside, therefore the motion to grant his request to be excused from the discussion and vote on this legislation did not commence. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE POSITION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING DIRECTOR. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to grant the Manager's request. The President reported his understanding is that the increases were budgeted for, with the exception of the Health Department. The Finance Director reported she calculated the balance for the remainder of this year, and the total not budgeted for is about \$2,000. She said the thought was not to increase the budget but to transfer appropriations. She said the Health Department should have enough funds in their operating, and that we do not budget to the penny. The Vice President asked what was budgeted in order to cover all the increases for the positions noted in Ordinance No. 2014-107. The Finance Director responded, "The annual calculation is \$11,800. Because the increases this year will only be effective July 7 through December 31, 2014, \$11,800 becomes \$6,000 and \$2,000 becomes \$1,000". The Manager reported \$7,500 is the net effect on the General Fund when calculating the annual funds needed for the annual calculated increase. The Vice President reported that last year these positions received no increase, but that their full salaries were reinstated to the level they were prior to the 2012 reduction. The Solicitor urged that if substantive discussion was going to take place on the request for the legislation, rather than during the actual presentation of the legislation for a vote of Council, he would have to reverse his previous position, and at this point it would be appropriate for the President to abstain for the discussion, because it is a generalize discussion about the merit of the increases. The President noted his wife's position is not affected. The Solicitor said he does not hear the discussion's focus to be on the other positions – noting there has been discussion about the Health Department funding, etc. The President ended the discussion on this legislation, and noted it would take place when it is presented to Council to enact. The President called for the vote on the Manager's formal request for the legislation; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager requested AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, HEALTH DISTRICT. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

### **Ashtabula County Solid Waste District (ACSWD) Proposed Generation Fee**

The City Manager reported the ACSWD had two public hearings on proposed countywide recycling. They were poorly attended. He reported ACSWD has been running short of funds, and as a result they pulled community recycling bins. They want to bring the County recycling program back, and are trying to determine how to further supplement their coffers, which have been losing funds, ironically because of recycling. ACSWD is funded by tipping fees paid at the Geneva Landfill. The City of Ashtabula is either one of or the largest support/payee of said fees, because we have our own Transfer Station and Sanitation Department.

ACSWD is considering two revenue increasing options. The first is a \$5.00 per ton Generation Fee. This would result in a \$70,000 Ashtabula City Sanitation Department operating cost increase. The second option is the enactment of a fee on improved parcels. These are parcels with structures on them. The fee amount has not been determined, but would be placed on the property tax bill. The Manager said because the Generation Fee would severely affect our Sanitation operations, as well as some of the larger commercial businesses that generate a lot of waste, he is opposed to the Generation Fee. Also, because Ashtabula City is the largest populated municipality in the county, we have a seat on the ACSWD Policy Committee, and may exercise veto power if a Generation Fee is put forth. Whether refuse is removed by a city operation or a private hauler, someone is going to tack the fee onto user's bill. The Manager said his concern with the improved parcel fee is that our residents are already funding the County recycling program through their property taxes. He said in order for the ACSWD to meet the 90% availability of recycling throughout the county, placed on them by the State of Ohio, the City's of Ashtabula, Conneaut, and Geneva must somehow provide a curbside recycling program. He said Ashtabula City applied for and received a grant for \$200,000 for curbside recycling, but our match is \$200,000 to implement the program. He said while he is not in favor of either of them, he is definitely not in favor of the City's tax base and our Sanitation Department further supplementing recycling throughout the county. He said he asked Council for their advice and permission to pen a letter to the ACSWD and the Ashtabula County Commissioners opposing the Generation Fee and stating his concerns with the parcel fee. He said, having said this, if we exercise our veto power on the Generation Fee, and the parcel fee is implemented, it may be presented as Ashtabula City's fault that property taxes were increased to cover the cost of recycling. So, it's kind of been placed in our lap. The Manager said he will keep everyone posted on the direction this takes. The Vice President said because Public Services Superintendent Dominic Iarocci, who was our representative on the ACSWD, is retiring this month, the Manager is going to have to carry the ball on this issue, and asked the Manager to provide an update at the August 1 Public Works/Utilities/Schools Committee meeting.

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR CITY MANAGER**

**ACSWD Proposed Recycling Fee:** The President asked if the ACSWD is proposing a Generation Fee and property tax increase, or one of them. The Manager responded one of them. He said, ironically the more you recycle the less in these fees goes to the landfill, which means less money going to the SWD. The Manager reported attending a one hour meeting in Columbus where he heard a gentleman from another SWD report how recycling has cut funding to SWDs. He said City representatives were also there to receive the \$200,000 Curbside Recycling EPA Grant. The Ward 4 Councilor asked how calculations would be determined if one parcel has multiple structures on it. The Manager said it is one fee per parcel, which will be about \$6 to \$7 per year; the structures on each parcel are not factored in. The Ward 4 Councilor asked if the City of Ashtabula would have to pass the Generation Fee on to residents. The Manager said while he would not want to, the fee would have to be divided amongst the 6500 to 7000 trash stops, per month, due to the annual increase of \$70,000 in expenses the City would face. He said the City's recycling center works well because it is monitored by staff.

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The ACSWD Recycling Program was pulled because a large amount of contaminated recycling items were being deposited, (e.g., furniture, drywall, Conneaut containers were going up in flames on a weekly basis, etc.). This resulted in high costs to operate the Program. He does not know how it will differ this time, other than a request has been made that the bins have smaller slots.

**2014-2015 Comprehensive Paving Project:** The President asked for an update. The Manager said the hope is to let the bids this month and shortly thereafter begin grinding. All State Infrastructure Bank (S.I.B.), documents have been received and executed. Bids are out for 10 to 14 days, Contracts are awarded as soon as GPD says a contractor meets all the requirements and are able to perform the work. This takes a day or two, and then Council has to approve the contract.

The President said the worse roads are going to be addressed in Phase I, and asked if there is a plan to give attention to the roads not scheduled for the first phase. The Manager said every day crews have been out addressing the roads. They are going ward-by-ward, and addressing the ones that are complaint driven. He is trying to avoid having crews running back and forth across town filling potholes when asked to 'by certain people'.

**Potholes:** The President reported there are two good size potholes in the middle of Dunsmore Avenue (between Route 20 and West 48<sup>th</sup> Street), a street that otherwise is in pretty good shape. The President asked if a roster of potholes that have been filled can be created. It will serve to provide details when someone asks. The Manager said crews know where they have been, there is no system of documentation right now, but he is working to put those systems in place. The President encouraged such a system be created.

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

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Sewer/Trash Billing Route Changes:** The Finance Director announced major sewer and trash billing route changes will occur due to changes in Aqua Ohio meter read routes. It will affect about 3,000 of our 10,000 customers. The full affect is not yet known, including what the billing cycle will be. No specific areas are targeted, but the change affects some portions of all of our existing routes. The Finance Director reported the method by which Aqua Ohio made their changes is not known. She just knows it will put those 3,000 customers in one billing cycle, and change our cash flow. A notification will be issued once more information is ascertained. Inquiries may be made of the Finance Director at (440) 992.7107.



**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

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

The Chair announced:

- The Ashtabula City Parks & Recreation (P&R) Board will meet tomorrow at 6:30 p.m., at the Walnut Beach concession stand or pavilion.
- On July 14, at 4:00 p.m. the committee will meet in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

**Questions/Comments for the Committee**

The Clerk of Council asked if the Parks & Recreation Board has a summer meeting location schedule. She noted that in past years the Board met in different places in the summer months. The Clerk reported it is important that any changes to meeting days, times, and locations of public bodies be announced in time enough for the public and media to know. The committee chair directed the inquiry to the Board Chair, Mr. Earl Tucker, who reported there are no set summer meeting locations.

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

The Chair announced the committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, July 11, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

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

The Chair announced the committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, August 1, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. He said he looks forward to meeting the new Public Services Superintendent, if an appointed has been made by August 1.

**Questions/Comments for Committee**

**Hiring New Public Services Superintendent:** The Manager reported he conducted the first interviews, was very pleased with the quality of applicants, interviewed 12 whom he believed deserved an interview, and that second interviews will be granted to four or five of them, with the hopes of making a decision by the end of the week.

**Retirements:** The President thanked and complimented Public Services Superintendent Mr. Domic Iarocci and Sanitation Foreman Mr. Les Anderson for their years of service to the City. They will both retire this month.

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

The Chair reported on the Committee's June 20 meeting, as follows:

**Police Department**

**2013 Police Department Annual Report:** The Ward 4 Councilor asked that an annual report be compiled, which the chair agrees should be provided. Police Chief Robert Stell said he began working on it this spring. The Chair will soon check with the Chief to determine his progress. The Chair said one of the reasons for an annual report is to provide historical data regarding police activity. He reported the Fire Department is required, by ordinance, to issue an annual report.

**Police Department Blotter Reports:** The Police Chief used to provide this committee with blotter reports. However the Chief reported 'no one was paying any attention to them', so he ceased providing them.

**Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA):** A report of activity at AMHA housing complexes was recently issued.

**Operating Budget:** The Finance Director told the committee she may have to move funds around. She will determine if funds are available to move from within the Police Department's line items or if more appropriations will be needed in the future.

**Additional Officers and Dispatchers:** The Manager was asked if, this year, he will be able to hire additional officers and dispatchers due to the May 6 passage of the Police Levy. The Manager told the committee that funds from the Police Levy will not be realized until next year. He hopes that this year's fourth quarter General Fund balance will allow dispatchers to be hired this year. If possible, this would allow the officers who are dispatching to be placed back on the road. It was noted that some new hires will need more training than others. The Chair has confidence in the Police Chief and Manager to see that ample and timely training is received.

**Safe Neighborhood Initiative (SNI):** There will be a SNI dress rehearsal in Council Chambers on Wednesday, July 23. The actual meeting will take place on Friday, July 25. This evening the Manager reported the SNI is being brought to the City by the Police Chief Stell working with the Ohio Attorney General's Office. He and the Chief visited Warren, Ohio to watch their process take place. It was a very powerful session to see. "Essentially the City is identifying the people in our community that we know might not run with the best of crowds, or have a history with the police department, or a criminal history. We are bringing them in and telling them we know who you are, we know who you run with, we know the guys and girls you hang out with, and we know where you and your friends hang out. If the unwanted activity continues you will all be targeted. The intent is not only to let them know we know who they are and what they are doing. It is also to get them out of that lifestyle. Involved in this process is the clergy, JobSource, and others who are able to provide those who are targeted with beginning anew. There will be more sessions after the initial ones.

The sessions are not open to the public.”

### **General Committee Discussion**

**Meth Labs:** No one has an answer for ridding the city of these labs.

**Fire Department Retirements:** The process to replace Fire Chief Ronald Pristera and the Fire Marshall was discussed.

### **Questions/Comments for the Committee**

**Police Blotters:** The Ward 4 Councilor stated she does not remember receiving blotters when she was previously on Council. She asked if they can be provided to the Committee. The Chief reported he provided the blotter at the Safety Forces Committee meeting for a couple years, but that much of it was not being reviewed. The blotter is a monthly print out consisting of crime statistics. The Chief offered to begin bringing them to the meetings again; the Ward 4 Councilor thanked him.

**Civil Service Commission Police Entrance Examination:** The President asked the Police Chief if the results have been posted. The Chief responded no. The written tests have been scored, the physical agility portion has to be conducted and scored, then the Civil Service Commission has to certify the list at one of their meetings, then the results will be posted. The completed process is still a few months out. The Vice President said because of the change in our population mix, bilingual officers are needed. He asked the Chief if additional points are granted to bilingual candidates. The Chief said extra credit points are given to candidates fluent in a second language. He would have to look at the criteria more closely to determine if the specific second language is Spanish. He said bilingual capabilities are addressed in the interview process. The Vice President said, “The more our law enforcement looks and talks [*like*] and interacts with our population, the better we’re going to be at preventing crime. I think now is the time if we can do anything to make our law enforcement look and talk [*like*] and be part of the community, as much as possible, with our applicants especially.” The Chief said at this point he does not know who passed or failed, and that the newest Dispatcher is fluent in Spanish. The Ward 4 Councilor asked if with the hire of the latest Dispatcher an officer was placed on the road. The Manager reported the Dispatcher was hired on a part-time basis to fill a vacancy for the village dispatch contract.

**Safe Neighborhood Initiative (SNI):** The Ward 5 Councilor asked for the times of the Wednesday and Friday sessions. The Manager asked if the Councilor was interested in attending; the Councilor responded yes; the Manager said he would consult with Mr. Fiatal.

**Next Committee Meeting:** The Chair announced the committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, July 18, at 8:00 a.m. Residency requirements for our Police and Fire Chiefs’ will be discussed, as well as planning for a future Fire Department retirement.

**Subject for next Committee Meeting:** The President reported receiving a couple of calls concerning loud music coming from moving vehicles, as well as loud vehicles, including motorcycles. He asked if the Police Chief could address what our legislation allows an officer to do about these types of complaints. He said the callers were frustrated with their perception that nothing is being done about this nuisance; and the President said he has no data to prove it true or not.

**Work Session** – No Session/No Report

### **FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS**

The President announced, “Because my wife is one of two Public Health Nursing Directors for the City of Ashtabula, I request to abstain from discussion and the vote on Ordinance Nos. 2014-107 and 2014-108(a), and will turn the floor over to the Vice President to preside. The Vice President entertained a motion to permit the President to abstain, as requested. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded the President’s request. The Clerk remarked that Ordinance No. 2014-108 addresses all employees with the exception of the Public Health Nursing Director’s position. She asked for the Solicitor’s confirmation that the President is permitted to participate in the discussion and vote on Ordinance No. 2014-108. The Solicitor responded yes. On the roll call to permit the President to abstain, as requested: Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Cook, Mr. McClure voted yes; motion CARRIED.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (Regular Agenda Legislation Only) – None

### **LEGISLATION READING**

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation for consideration:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2014-107 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NO. 2014-60, PASSED ON APRIL 21, 2014, FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRANTING A PAY RAISE OF 2% TO THE POSITIONS OF SUPERINTENDENT/PUBLIC SERVICES, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH COMMISSIONER, MEDICAL DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR, NURSE, CLERICAL ASSISTANT, POLICE CHIEF, FIRE CHIEF, ASSISTANT CITY SOLICITOR I, CLERK OF COUNCIL (CERTIFIED), EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER, AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, GRADE 1 (City Manager),** was presented. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. The Vice President asked the Manager to provide an explanation. The Manager said when the City previously experienced budget constraints, this group of employees took a 2% pay reduction. He and the City Solicitor took a larger percentage pay reduction. He said the Administration followed the three Union contractual obligations for this suggested pay increase. He reported the Police Chief is in the bottom third of salaries for cities of our size. He said salaried personnel are not eligible for overtime.

He said he has found that the current hourly personnel do not want to move up to a salaried position because they would take a significant pay cut. When budget constraints arise the only option he has is to cut union personnel, and that such recommendation passes seamlessly. He said most of the employees who are being considered for a 2% increase are the ones that are called upon day-to-day to make sure things get done. He said our salaried personnel make lower or comparable salaries to the staff in other municipalities of the same size and budget, and who perform the same services. This pay increase request is not because union personnel received 2% increases. He believes it is a fare request; and that \$11,500 was budgeted for, \$7,500 of which comes from the General Fund. The timeline is such that there was a 2% reduction and 2% reinstatement, but no increases were suggested or given until now. The Solicitor said he is sure middle management has been required to, or voluntarily took, either furlough days or reductions in order to keep the departments going. He said his department was doing so in 2010 or 2011, as well. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings:

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2014-108 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE POSITION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING DIRECTOR**, was presented. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. The President said he does not question that the persons slated to receive a 2% increase are deserving of their pay and an increase. He appreciates all they do for the City of Ashtabula. He believes it is an awful tough time to give raises that are not contractually required. The City has an awful lot of needs, and it is tough to make the decision to increase the pay of the non-contractual staff at this time. He worries about where we will be at the end of 2014. The Vice President said “as we get our house in order” and as we go into 2015, he would like to see the merit base salary of non-union personnel enforced, and proper assessments are made. The union does not negotiate the salaries of these employees; therefore it should not be, and cannot be, an automatic process if we want to have an affective form of merit based wages. The Ward 2 Councilor said even before he was a member of Council, employees and public officials were asked to give up a lot. He said he thinks union and non-union personnel have come through for the City. We still have tough times ahead. We have cut Public Works from 16 to 19 men down to 4, and several other departments have been cut. He rhetorically asked how things can get done without the proper staff numbers. He said the Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) has helped and will help in the future, and asked how much can be asked of the employees. He said 2% years ago would have been laughed at; realizing times are different now. He said department ‘belts’ have been tightened, and gave credit to all employees and elected officials for doing so. He said if the belt keeps being tightened there will be nothing left to give. He said residents realize what employees have done over the past several years, and it is time to let them do more of what they are supposed to do with the staff levels needed to get it done.

The President said he would not debate his Ward 2 colleague's comments; and noted it is not about taking anything away from citizens. The Solicitor commented that when the Manager asked for input regarding the pay increase, he was asked to provide his suggestions/request for members of his staff who he felt 'merited' the increase. He indicated to the Manager that two positions listed in the ordinance were positions he believed "merited" the increase. He does not consider the increase to be a 'me-too' increase. He believes it is "recognition that his staff members have earned by their work ethic, their job performance, their self-motivation, and many cases their self-supervision". He said he cannot imagine getting the job done that gets done without them. He wished they could be offered more than 2%, and recognizes the President's fiscal concerns. He has been with the City long enough to know we are okay but 'only precariously so, and do have to watch the budget very closely.'" He complimented this Council, Manager, and Finance Director for doing exactly that. He cannot imagine a better investment of the dollars available than to make sure the people who are the glue that hold the City together get some recognition of their efforts. The Manager said this did not come from any of the non-union employees. It came from him realizing they are deserving of an increase. He said even one employee who has been with the City a very short time is also deserving of an increase, but he did not include him because he was a new hire. He said not all non-union personnel are included in the proposed 2% increase; and that he believes the increase has been based on merit. He said upon his review of Ordinance No. 2013-193 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING PAY RATES AND OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE AND NON-UNION PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, he realized if something was going to be done or suggested, this would be the appropriate time to do so. The Vice President acknowledged he understands the comments and said, "I ask that we never forget the people we represent. The people we represent make less than the average City worker. The people we represent, because of the times the way that they are, are working harder for less money and less benefits. So, let's never forget that." On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mr. McClure voted yea; Mr. Ducro IV voted nay. The motion CARRIED by a vote of 6 to 1. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mr. McClure voted yea; Mr. Ducro IV voted nay. The motion CARRIED by a vote of 6 to 1.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2014-108(a) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, HEALTH DISTRICT**, was presented. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mr. McClure voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mr. McClure voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The Vice President returned the floor over to the President to preside.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2014-109 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING CONTRACT WITH STEVEN P. DLOTT, ESQ., FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES CONNECTED WITH PENDING WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS**, was presented. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**MISCELLANEOUS**

The President and Manager announced the following upcoming activities:

- Mount Carmel Festival: July 11, 12, & 13
- TABS Festival (The Arts on Bridge Street): July 19 & 20
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bands-on-the-Beach Concert: July 20, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Multi-Cultural Festival: July 26 & 27 (contact Clerk of Council for volunteer opportunities)

The Vice President reported that since the last council meeting the Beach Glass Festival took place on Bridge Street and was a success.

**Point Park Steps:** The President asked when the steps are scheduled to be restructured. The Manager replied in 2015.

**GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

**Mr. Steve Senita, 2305 Walnut Boulevard**

**Paving:** Mr. Senita said he is a proponent of the proposed street paving project. He remembered when he lived on Amelia Avenue; the road was scrapped twice and paved. He said the holes are still there because before a street is scrapped all the holes must be packed tight. If not, when the blacktop is applied, what is in the hole is not packed down, so as vehicles drive over the road the same holes appear. He said the road should be perfectly flat before paving takes place. He said when the county paved Austinburg Road they had crews fill all the holes one day. It did not pass their inspection, so they made the crews do the same thing the second day. The third day they walked from Route 84 to Route 45 to properly prep the road. The crews then returned to pave the road, and the road is still intact; no holes are popping up. He said the holes cannot be left unpacked. The road has to be scrapped, the holes have to be filled, the road has to be level, and then the road can be paved.

Mr. Senita said regarding Carpenter Road & Ohio Avenue, "The water comes off Ohio Avenue Extension, crosses Carpenter Road, and there is a big ditch on the side, and then it dumps down where the lowest spot is. It also comes from the other way and dumps down. During the paving process you have to have a laser and a pitch in the middle of the road so the water gets off to the side, and sewers have to be on the lowest spot. Right now they are not, so the water just sits on the road. This is why there is clay all over the road in the spring. One section, which is no more than 8 foot, has been repaired three times."

### **Division of Public Works**

**Snowplowing:** Mr. Senita said last winter he watched snowplows go down Lake Avenue, side-by-side. The road was totally clear, salt was being dumped on the road, but the side streets still had 8 inches of snow on them. He wondered why plows were still on Lake Avenue when it was already cleared. He said two trucks were plowing a side street (e.g. Norman Avenue), which he termed as '50% inefficiency'.

**Yard Waste Bag Removal:** Mr. Senita reported the truck came down his street, with two men in the truck, 15 miles per hour, and picked up all the leaves and bags. A half an hour later, at 15 miles per hour, they came down the road again, and were not turning to go onto one of the side streets off Walnut Boulevard. About two hours later they return again, going about 15 miles per hour. He said he understands there is not ample staff to do the things which have to be done, but on the other hand someone is not supervising the crews. He said when they leave the Public Works building in the morning they should have been instructed on their routes. He said there has to be a plan, and the plan should be devised on a grid pattern.

**Potholes:** Mr. Senita reported he just paid \$600 to have front-end work performed on one of his trucks. He said he believes the City is filling potholes based on calls they are receiving. Therefore, crews are driving over other potholes to get to the location of the call. He suggested there be a plan. He said it is simply and can also be applied to snowplowing. He suggested both sides of the main streets are done first and once, and then proceed to the secondary roads. He gave the example of working on Norman Avenue. He said crews should begin at Carpenter Road and proceed to Walnut Boulevard, and not just do 4 to 5 blocks on Norman Avenue. He said last year he reported potholes on Thayer Avenue were caving in, and that the potholes have never been filled. He said the crew began at Carpenter Road, went down to West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, and turned the corner; they never went all the way to West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, now the section that was caving in is a hole.

**Mr. Dennis Hill, 1325 Walnut Boulevard:** thanked Council for the opportunity to address them. Walnut Beach: Mr. Hill said he has spoken with visitors and citizens of our community who go to Walnut Beach. He said they are afraid to get out of their vehicles and bring their children to the concession stand. Most of it is because of the thumping and bumping of loud cars. He said it probably is hurting concession stand business because he knows people who will not go to the Beach anymore. He said the loud music coming from vehicles is intimidating and scary.



He spoke of the possibility of elderly motorists becoming nervous because of loud music coming from vehicles being on both sides of them. He said while he would not put the blame on anyone for this nuisance being a part of our community for so long, he wonders if there is another way to patrol the beach, which is a summertime favorite place. He said the use of Walnut Beach and Lake Erie, in our community, is lacking because of this problem.

**Snowplowing:** Mr. Hill said several times, he too, has witnessed cleared roads being snowplowed, and salt being placed on roads which do not need it. He said he wonders if this is one of the reasons for larger holes in the roads.

The President thanked Mr. Hill for coming; and said, "We always appreciate people coming to Council meeting, asking questions, and addressing Council. You're welcome anytime." The President said sometimes the laying of salt is 'preemptive'. While it might not be needed at that very moment, it will be needed due to the forecasted drop in temperature and/or ice. The President said he, too, has witnessed plowing on roads which do not need plowing, when others do. He said it is about knowing the needs and prioritizing them. He also said he believes a good job was done last winter.

The Vice President said Mr. Senita's comments are valid in that successful paving is predicated on proper road preparation. He said crews need to be watched, especially given some of the personnel are new to the job.

**Paving:** In response to Mr. Senita's comments, the Manager said all utility companies have been contacted to make sure their work is completed before the paving program begins. He said Aqua OH has been responsive; Dominion East Ohio Gas (DEOG), not so much so, but they have been seen out and about town. He said most of the gas mains are 'off to the treelawn', so we are not as concerned with DEOG's lack of response as would be with Aqua. He said core samples of the roads are going to be taken, which is something he does not remember ever happening. The sampling will reveal if there is 4 to 5 inches of asphalt (we are able to mill so many inches), and able to get the crown. The City's project consultant is going to be on site during construction conducting sampling of materials being layed on the road, making sure the layers of thickness are being layed according to specifications, an ODOT recommended blend is going to be used, rather than some of the other materials which have been used in the past. He said specifications which have never been used are in the bid package. The Manager said he agrees with Mr. Senita's concerns. He said there are between 4 to 5 hundred catch basin repairs in the paving program. Two City employees are doing some of our catch basin masonry repairs, and a lot has also been contracted out. Unfortunately weather and the late start contractors got this season has caused contractors to get behind. He said he is getting to the point, unfortunately, where if some of the contractors do not begin soon, he will move on and pay a little more to hire another contractor. He said the freeze/thaw and extreme winter weather has revealed broken pipe and tile work which has probably existed since February or March, but now water is flowing, causing erosion, underminings and collapses to occur. He said news reports reveal the City of Ashtabula is not the only community being subject to terrible road conditions.

He said the City's new televising camera is being used to perform some jetting and televising. Crews were on Harbor Avenue today addressing the sink hole, and identifying what exactly is the problem, and determining how to repair it. He said they are being found faster than they can be repaired, but that the City will stay on top of it. He said we are trying to address road that will be paved first, to make sure they are ready for paving.

**Ms. Elke Wellman, 132 Grove Drive**

**Main Avenue Streetscape Plan:** Ms. Wellman commended the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA), for their revitalization efforts and Streetscape Plan, which will end at South Park. She said not everyone comes into downtown from Route 20; some come from Route 84. Therefore a stretch of Main Avenue, from South Park to the Agape Club (which she believes is a 'slum') should be addressed in the Plan.

**Deplorable Structures:** Ms. Wellman said the rental structures at 5103, 5107, 5109 Main Avenue are owned by the same persons. Regarding '5103' she said there is always drug activity going on; that it is nothing to see 15 to 20 people hanging out at this location. She noticed yesterday some of the front of the structure was painted. She asked how these structures are passing City inspection given they are dumps. She asked if interior inspections are performed given the condition of the exterior. She said it cannot be legal for the amount of people who live there to do so.

**Former Martone's Reconditioning Building:** Ms. Wellman said the now abandoned building, located on Main Avenue, is overgrown with weeds. She suggested that when the city mows private lawns (because the owners have not), they also trim the weeds and assess that to the property owner's taxes too.

**Street Sweeper:** Ms. Wellman reported she requested the street sweeper on Grove Drive this year and last. She said has not seen the sweeper, and the storm sewers are plugging up.

**153 and 143 Grove Drive:** Ms. Wellman reported she knows these structures have been cited. She said the owner of 153 got another attorney and supposedly had a June 6 pretrial hearing. She asked how many times an owner is able to get a new attorney and drag the process out before the house is required to be razed. The Solicitor confirmed he received Ms. Wellman's email, said he filed an additional charge on the owner of 153, and that it is his intention to continue to file charges until the owner realizes he can spend more in attorney's fees, court costs, and fines, than it would cost him to raze or repair the structure. The Solicitor explained that the criminal process works when there is a sanction that motivates the person to do other than what he has done. He said this particular owner believes he does not have the money to raze the structure, which belief has been stated through his attorneys. The Solicitor said if the owner chooses to continue to pay fines, court costs, and attorneys, and ultimately risk up to 30 days in jail, that it is his choice. We cannot do any more than impose the punishment that the statute calls for. Ms. Wellman reported it has been going on for four and a half (4 ½ ) years and asked if the owner has been fined.

The Solicitor said one case is completed, the fine was paid, and approximately one month later an additional charge was filed against him because he still was doing nothing. The Solicitor said he will get back with her regarding the specifics of his June 6 pretrial.

Ms. Wellman asked about 143 Grove Drive. The Solicitor recalled it is the property that is in the name of a deceased owner, and is a little more troubling. It may be that Ashtabula City may have to find or appoint an administrator of this non-existent estate, in order to do something with the property. He said if the heirs elect not to take possession of the property, they may disclaim the property. Ms. Wellman said there is only \$3,000 in back taxes owed on the property. The Solicitor said the property's value is highly questionable. He said ultimately the property probably is going to have to be razed at the public's expense.

Ms. Wellman said what is happening on her street is a shame because of the block grant funds the City put into the street about 10 years ago.

The President thanked Ms. Wellman for being a good watchdog for her street.

**South Main Avenue:** The Vice President said there are great businesses on South Main, but what is sprinkled in amongst those businesses is terrible. He said it is part of our Main Avenue and, sadly, is a bad area of the City. He said anything ADDA can do to extend their focus beyond north of the railroad tracks would be helpful. He said it would be a disservice to the 'great' businesses if we did not do everything we can to bring them into the redevelopment scope. The Ward 4 Councilor said the area is terrible; complete with drug and prostitution activity. She said the City Manager has sent the City's inspector to two of the Main Avenue properties Ms. Wellman spoke of. She said a raid was conducted the same day as one of her committee meetings. She said it is unfortunate it takes so much time to accomplish what may be able to be accomplished overnight. She said, "It seems like you have all the rights in the world when you're doing something wrong. Those who take care of their properties have to watch someone who does not, literally destroy a whole neighborhood." She said she knows houses in these areas are being watched, and that Police Chief Stell has commented on active enforcement that is taking place. She said she would find it hard to believe that some of the violators are not part of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative that is being geared up. The Manager said certain of these owners are familiar with our Inspector, the Planning & Community Development Department (PCD), the Solicitor, and the Fire Department. He said one of the largest fines levied in the State of Ohio was levied against one of these rental properties. While it may look like nothing is being done, a considerable amount of time is being spent in the area tackling what we can. He agrees that those who do wrong have the rights. He said once citations are issued they have so many days to make repairs; and the City tries to work with people who are serious about complying. The Manager said the age old question is 'What do we classify as Main Avenue. Do we go from Bunker Hill Road (from West Avenue to Route 20), or from the former Municipal Building location (4400 Main Avenue) to our current location (4717 Main Avenue), or from the railroad tracks to a certain area.'" He said the reality is we need to begin somewhere, and believes the scope of the area ADDA is in is a little bit too big for us to tackle immediately.

It was the same debate on Bridge Street when revitalization was first broached. For instance, do we go from the top of the hill to the bridge, or Columbus Avenue to Lake Avenue, or should it be extend up Lake Avenue. The Lift Bridge Community Association (LBCA) decided to focus on a very small portion of Bridge Street, which has now grown. He said as we go after things to implement this downtown plan, it, too will grow. He said ADDA has the support of Nassief's, A-Louis Supply, the Chalk Box, and those businesses in the south Main Avenue area. He said the PCD Department is going to have to stay diligent about the structures mentioned above, which are in the commercial district (something Bridge Street does not have). The Manager said over the last two years the City has forced over 10 people to raze their own homes, and that the City has performed a significant amount of structure razing.

**Norfolk/Southern Railroad Underpass – Main Avenue:** The Ward 5 Councilor said this afternoon he noticed the underpass, on all four sides, was cleared of trees and brush. The Manager responded that it took three months of the City's inspector working with the railroad. He said pictures of N/S's clean up were sent to CSX Railroad, who attempted to give attention to their Lake Avenue/West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street yard, which attempt the City was not too pleased with.

**Main Avenue Revitalization Scope:** The President agreed that shortening the scope of what can be done on Main Avenue is going to be important. He said he has heard comments that 'this end is getting neglected'. There is no way to have resources to take care of the entire length of Main Avenue. He said the focus is from West 48<sup>th</sup> Street to West 44<sup>th</sup> Street – 4-City blocks. It is four times larger than what LBCA has focused on, and progress has taken 12 years to see.

The Vice President said the newly renovated former Ashtabula Hotel, now home to Signature Health, will be open for public viewing on Saturday, July 26, from Noon to 3:00 p.m. He said the renovation is a testament to what the entire street could look like.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**RECONVENE OPEN MEETING:** N/A

**ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:** N/A

**CLOSING REMARKS** - None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Balog seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Ashtabula City Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, July 7, 2014

DATE APPROVED: August 19, 2014

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

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

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

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