

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
Monday, August 6, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER**

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.

**MOMENTS OF SILENCE**

A Moment of Silence was observed due to the tragic passing of Ms. Kelly Estep and her sons, ages 3 and 4 years, from a fire that ripped through their Ward 5 Washington Avenue home.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

The Honorable Albert S. Camplese, Judge, Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas – Juvenile Division, administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Richard A. Quaranta, who on May 5, 2018 was appointed by the Ashtabula City Democratic Party Precinct Committee to fill the unexpired Ward 3 City Council representative seat. Mr. Quaranta said he and the Judge have been acquainted for many years and it was a personal pleasure to have him administer his oath.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. August A. Pugliese	(Ward 2 Councilor)
Mr. Michael D. Speelman	(Ward 4 Councilor)
Mr. Richard A. Quaranta	(Ward 3 Councilor)
Ms. Jane E. Haines	(Ward 5 Councilor)
Mrs. Kym A. Harley	(Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. John S. Roskovics	(President)

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:**

Mr. Christopher J. McClure	(Vice President)
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**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:**

**EXCUSED ABSENCE(S):**

Mr. Speelman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to excuse the Vice President from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

**SUNSHINE LAW:**

The Clerk of Council certified conformity to the Ohio Sunshine Law.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:**

None

## **PRESENTATION(S)**

- **Farewell to Finance Director Dana Pinkert**

On behalf of the members of Council and the Administration, the President and the Clerk of Council presented Dana with a framed photo of the Bascule Lift Bridge so that she may take a piece of Ashtabula with her. The President said, "Mrs. Pinkert has been with the City of Ashtabula for 6 years. We are very sad to see her go. We certainly wish her well in her new endeavor; she'll be moving south. We are going to miss her because she's been such a great help to us. We're Council members and we don't have the depth of understanding of government finances, and such, as she does. She was always able to explain it to us, make us understand and comprehend and make it clear for us. And, we appreciate that."

Ms. Pinkert said, "It has been my pleasure to serve the City of Ashtabula, from the Council that I started under, and clearly their commitment to work together. What I always hear is Ashtabula used to be this and that, but what I heard from Council members, the City Manager, the Solicitor – they don't want to make it the Ashtabula it used to be. Their vision is to make it better than it ever was. To be a part of some of that has been my pleasure. The Finance Department is professional and doing a wonderful job. They are still going to be there to provide customer service. Thank you."

### **Kids for Positive Change – "Straws On Request" Policy**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-66, A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LIMITING THE USE OF NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTIC STRAWS AND REQUESTING A "STRAWS ON REQUEST" POLICY BE ADOPTED BY LOCAL FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICE OPERATIONS. (Kids for Positive Change – Ms. Camille Licate, Founder/Director), was presented for its first reading. Kids for Positive Change students: Malia, Michelle, Clara, Sadie and Jason took turns reading the WHEREAS sections of the resolution. The Clerk read the remainder of the resolution and the resolution was placed on its first reading.

The President announced the second reading will take place Monday, August 20; and that if five or more affirmative votes of Council are cast, the resolution will pass that evening.

Ms. Licate announced A. Louis Supply Company, located in Ashtabula, Ohio, is carrying compostable, biodegradable straws that will be introduced to area restaurants. They are for cold beverage use only, are environmentally friendly, do not require fossil fuels to make, and will fully decompose after 60 to 180 days.

The President reported he took out of town guests to two Harbor restaurants. They were impressed that our community embarked on this venture and more impressed when they read the table cards and learned it was a student-initiated action.

The President thanked the students for all they have done and told them City Council is very proud of them.

Ms. Licate announced the students will be present for the August 20, second reading; they will continue to speak with restaurants; they are cognoscente of the concern people with disabilities have to not having plastic straws available, and we will continue to educate about viable alternative straw options.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At the request of the City Manager, Mr. Speelman moved, Mrs. Harley seconded to convene an Executive Session to discuss the Sale of Property. On the roll call to convene the Executive Session: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Quaranta, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Harley, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; the motion CARRIED.

### **Reconvened**

The President announced the public portion of the meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m., with no action to take.

### **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 presented the following minutes for Council's consideration:

- July 02, 2018 Public Hearing
- July 02, 2018 Regular Council Meeting
- July 09, 2018 Special Council Meeting
- July 16, 2018 Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Harley seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes stood approval as presented.

### **Legislation Agenda**

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

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES**

None

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

### **CITY MANAGER**

The City Manager presented the following:

#### **Finance Director's Farewell**

The Finance Director was thanked for her service to the City. "It has been an absolute pleasure to work with her. It is amazing to see what the department has gone through during her tenure. Her knowledge of the City's budget and the entire process, and the ability to keep me in line, has been greatly appreciated." She will be greatly missed by his office and wished her well.

#### **Wine & Walleye Festival**

Thank you to the Lift Bridge Community Association (LBCA) and the core Wine of Walleye Festival Committee for an "absolutely outstanding weekend". He thanked those who attended the festival, said the wine tent attendance was one of the biggest yet, and the fireworks were "phenomenal". He thanked the Ashtabula City Parks & Recreation and the Ashtabula Fire Department (who held fundraisers) for their financial contribution to the fireworks.

The presentation of the \$25,000 award to the LBCA for winning the 2018 America Main Street (AMS) contest was special. The picture AMS representatives took was "fabulous" and they had a good time being with us and seeing our community. He was impressed by the number of people he did not know, which is a testament to how many out of towners were present. Historic Harbor Living, LLC, gave tours of their townhomes that are under construction.

#### **Meet Me On Main – First Fridays**

Last Friday's First Friday event was extremely well attended.

Wonderful things are happening in our community, even with naysayers in our midst. He encouraged people to continue to realize the "fruits of their labor".

### **Questions / Comments for City Manager**

#### **Speeding**

The Ward 4 Councilor reported receiving complaints from downtown business owners about motorists speeding and expressed their concern for pedestrian safety. He suggested the crosswalks be repainted, that more signage be erected or place signs in the road like he has seen in the City of Geneva. The Manager said the signs Geneva has were on Main Avenue and Bridge Street at one time, but they consistently were blown away by vehicles. The Councilor said more foot traffic is being generated by First Fridays and it would take one person being hit to discourage attendance. He asked that attention be given to the concern; the Manager agreed to do so.

**CITY SOLICITOR**

**Finance Director Farewell**

The Solicitor echoed the Manager's sentiments in that Dana will be missed by all who worked with her. "It has been a pleasure to work for her. She's been highly professional; she's been easy to communicate with; and we wish you the very best, but we really wish we could keep you for awhile."

**FINANCE DIRECTOR**

The Finance Director said, "It has been my pleasure to work for the City of Ashtabula and work for the residents. It has been good to see what has happened over the past six years and to be a part of it. Working with the Clerk of Council, the City Manager and others – it really has been a wonderful experience. I am honored to have had the opportunity." She reminded everyone of the various responsibilities of the Finance Department, which consist of six staff members plus the Finance Director, such as: Utility Billing (over 10,000 accounts) – generates 60,000 bills, annually; over 10,000 taxpayer accounts; responsible for billing, entering, banking, posting, payments, customer service in person and via email and telephone; city-wide accounts payables and receivables on both sides of the ledger (over \$50 million in activity); human resources and payroll administration for more than 100 full-time employees, including pension, federal reporting, HR mandates, worksheets to create cash statements and annual converted statements. They work hard, they're dedicated, they're professional and they really believe part of their role is to facilitate the other department's objectives. I just wanted others to know that and that it was my pleasure working with them and putting that team together."

**Legislation Request**

The Finance Director formally requested a supplemental appropriation request for the General, CDBG, Sanitation and Water Pollution Control. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded; motion CARRIED.

**CLERK OF COUNCIL**

**Roster Updates**

The newly appointed Ward 3 Councilor's information has been added to the Roster of City Council Members and the roster has been published.

**Farwell to Finance Director**

The Clerk said she appreciated Dana's attention to detail, her coverage at regular council meetings in the Clerk's absence, her grasp of government accounting and how she brought our Finance Department into the 21 Century.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

(Chair/Vice Chair)

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

(Roskovics/Speelman)

The Chair reported the committee will meet Tuesday, August 14, at 3:00 p.m.. The Planning and Community Development Department will explain some of our city ordinances pertaining to code enforcement, for the purpose of assisting this committee with determining how to make our legislation

more effective in the committee's effort to help clean up the appearance of the City and address many concerns received from residents. "We want them to know we hear them and we are working on their concerns."

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

The Vice Chair announced the committee's August meeting cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 14.

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

The chair reported on the committee's Friday, August 3, meeting, as follows:

The Manager told the committee:

**Paving:** He was unsure when paving will actually begin, but that the contractor has 45 days to complete the project. Koski Construction was awarded the contract for the Municipal Building and City Hall Annex/Justice Center parking lots; no start date has been decided. Grindings from paving will be laid on the road leading to the breakwall at Walnut Beach. The Chair announced Domino's "Paving for Pizza" is still accepting votes at [www.pavingforpizza.com](http://www.pavingforpizza.com). He said he wrote Dominos a note and hopes it reached them.

**West Avenue Bridge:** The expansion joints will be smoothed out soon.

**Curbside Recycling:** Hopefully the program will begin this fall; two containers will be distributed to Wards 1 and 2 residents later this summer – one for solid waste/one for recyclables.

**Transfer Station (TS):** An increase in TS fees will be presented to Council. They have not been raised for quite a few years. This is the fee charged when items are delivered to the Station. Solid Waste fees for curbside pick up will remain the same. The committee voted to bring the changes to the full council. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to have legislation drafted to approve the City Manager's suggested changes to Codified Ordinance Chapter 951. The Clerk reported suggested changes to Commercial Container rates were also presented and approved by the committee for presentation to the full Council. The Manager said these rates have not changed since 2007, but will now be more in line with the 'economy in scales and increased cost over the years". He said the proposed revised Transfer Station rates will start at \$4.00 versus the current \$12.00 minimum. The Ward 5 Councilor attested to the fairness in the City's commercial container rates and the "excellent" customer service City crews provide. The Ward 3 Councilor asked about the disposal of medical waste. The Manager responded there is a certain amount of medical waste allowed to be disposed of in residential garbage. In response to the Ward 2 Councilor's inquiry, the Manager reported if containments are discovered in residential garbage, the container will not be picked up or it will be sorted through at the TS when delivered to the recycling building and handle on a case-by-case basis. The Ward 1 Councilor asked if curbside recycling educational materials will be given to Wards 1 and 2 residents. The Manager said the Ashtabula County Solid Waste District is going to mail a brochure to everyone. He believes they are also having educational magnets produced, like those placed on a refrigerator that will also have a space for the pickup date to be written. He said he is also going to

dedicate a section on the City's website about curbside recycling and how to dispose of electronics and non-recyclable items. The Solicitor said recycling regulations do not exist in our codified ordinances. He suggested committee time be spent working on creating them. He said nothing can be suggested that will violate or conflict with the Ohio Revised Code, but suggested a basic framework be established. The Ward 5 Councilor wanted to make it clear that "Ashtabula does currently recycle"; we do not curbside recycle, but do accept all recyclables at the Recycling Center on West 24<sup>th</sup> Street.  
The motion CARRIED.

#### **PW/PU/Cable/Schools Committee Appointment**

The President announced the appointment of the new Ward 3 Councilor to this committee.

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

The Chair reported on the committee's Monday, July 23, meeting, as follows:

#### **Pamphlet**

The Ward 5 Councilor had asked that a pamphlet be created that lists the police department phone numbers for crime reporting. The Manager presented a suggested pamphlet. He will have 1000 printed, each member of Council will receive some for distribution and some will be placed in various other locations.

#### **Body Cameras**

The Police Department body cameras are in. They will start being used one software issues are resolved.

#### **Prohibit Parking on Both Sides of West 48<sup>th</sup> Street (between Kain & Benefit Avenues)**

The Police Department study revealed no parking on both sides of the road is necessary. Mr. Speelman moved, Ms. Haines second to bring the request out of committee to the full Council and have legislation drafted; motion CARRIED.

#### **East 46<sup>th</sup> Street & State Road Intersection**

Residents expressed concern with vehicles being parked too close to this intersection. The Chair moved, Ms. Haines seconded, to have the Police Department conduct a study at this intersection; motion CARRIED.

#### **Late Night Activities (Point Park / Walnut Beach)**

Residents have voiced concern with activities happening during the late night hours at Walnut Beach and Point Park. It was suggested that perhaps Auxiliary Police Officers could patrol these areas because uniformed officers are busy responding to priority matters. The committee was told Auxiliary cannot be used because they do not get paid and that using uniformed officers would create overtime. The chair asked and the Chief agreed to find out if officers can be scheduled to work overtime during peak times, so as to not take officers off the road, when there might be undesirable activity at these locations. Curbing this unwanted activity would also serve to reduce the need to remove the garbage being illegally dumped at these locations, thus eliminating the need for Sanitation crew overtime that is being paid to remove it. The Police Chief will give a report at the next meeting. The Manager said

Police Chief Stell and staff have determined a way to make sure these areas are policed more and believes the activities have been “extremely curtailed”. He said the Point Park lights were shot out but have been replaced. The new light shades, that better protect the lights, have not. He said now patrolmen are receiving complaints from the people who want to visit Point Park after 11:00 p.m.

#### **Increased Police Protection in Cornelius Park**

The Ward 5 Councilor announced she received a request for added police protection in Cornelius Park (formerly North Park), and the Manager is following up.

#### **Questions / Comments for Safety Forces Committee**

The Ward 5 Councilor presented a resident’s request to prohibit parking on one side of Adams Avenue (between West 52<sup>nd</sup> and West 57<sup>th</sup> Streets); either side is acceptable. Mrs. Harley moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to have the Police Department study the request and make a recommendation for Council’s consideration; motion CARRIED.

#### **New Fire Engine**

The new vehicle is on track to be delivered in November.

**WORK SESSION:** No Report

#### **LEGISLATION AGENDA**

- Formal Legislation Request(s): None
- Form and Correctness: None
- Legislation Overview: The Clerk of Council provided.
- Request Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs Harley seconded to present the Regular Business Legislation Agenda in consent agenda format; motion CARRIED.
- Public Discussion (on legislation only)

#### **Mr. Ben Porter, West 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Ashtabula, Ohio**

Thanked the Finance Director for her service to the City. Thanked the Clerk, Ward 4 Councilor and City Manager for getting action moving on his West 48<sup>th</sup> Street parking concern (see request above). The President instructed Mr. Porter on the process for addressing requests for traffic control changes; noting that once the legislation appears on the agenda it will have its first reading; the following regular council meeting there will be a second reading and vote. If a majority of the members of Council vote in favor of the request, the signs will be erected shortly thereafter.

- **Legislation Reading**

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation by consent agenda:

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-67, AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, SANITATION, CDBG, AND WATER POLLUTION CAPITAL FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2018. (Finance Director)



ORDINANCE NO. 2018-68, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A BUS GARAGE CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO FACILITATE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR A TERM COMMENCING ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2019 AND ENDING THE 31<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2023. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-69, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE OF SERVICE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO FACILITATE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR A TERM COMMENCING ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2019 AND ENDING THE 31<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2023. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-70, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HISTORIC ASHTABULA HARBOR, LLC, AND VENCILL HOMES, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000 FOR THE REHABILITATION OF 1003 BRIDGE STREET, AND PAID IN PART THROUGH THE STATE OF OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY DISCRETIONARY GRANT FOR \$100,000. (City Manager)

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Liquor Permit – New:** Trimurtinarayan LLC dba Grizzly One Stop, 901 Bunker Hill Rd, Ashtabula – Ward 5 - C1: Beer only in original sealed containers for carry out only until 1:00 a.m. A hearing was not requested.

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

Council President

- He learned a lot about the City's Finance Department from the Director during her report.
- He echoed the City Manager's sentiments regarding last weekend's Wine & Walleye Festival. City Council is so grateful to the Lift Bridge Community Association and the Festival Committee. Also echoing the Manager's sentiments, he was able to introduce his guest to only two people because that was all he knew.
- He said he toured the new townhomes and believes "they are just great; they were really nice".
- This week is Farmer's Market or Local Agriculture Week. He was surprised to learn how many farms there are in Ashtabula County. We are tops in Ohio in terms of certain

products. He issued a reminder that every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., there is a local farmer's market set up on the grassy area, south of City Hall.

#### Ward 1 Councilor

- Last week she and her mother had the opportunity to tour the Mya Women's Center, 517 West Prospect Road, Suite C, Ashtabula, during their open house. "It focuses on women struggling with an unintended pregnancy. It helps them to feel safe, comfortable and empowered to make the best decisions. The Center offers, at no cost, medical grade pregnancy testing, STD testing, parenting and abortion recovery classes." The 3D ultrasound test imaging machine was very interesting. It can "image and detect the heartbeat of a fetus at five weeks. There are personal advocates on site to help not only give the mothers opportunity to talk freely about motherhood, but to help them and give them information on medical referrals, if needed. The site also provides clothing, diapers and supplies to its mothers." If anyone is in a crisis or knows of someone who is, please tell them to contact the Mya Center at (440) 990-9107; online at [www.myawomenscenter.com](http://www.myawomenscenter.com). There's no cost for any of their services, so please take advantage of this wonderful Center available to our area." The Ward 3 Councilor asked if they have overnight accommodations. The Ward 1 Councilor responded, no, but that they help with everything and is sure they are able to find housing for someone in need.
- She gave a shout-out and thank you to the Edgewood High School class of 1977. Several of them were in town visiting a couple weekends ago. On a Sunday morning about 25 plus met at the Harbor Yak, rented kayaks and went out for about 3 hours to clean up debris, garbage, and other items from the Ashtabula River.

#### Ward 5 Councilor

- New banners are displayed on Main Avenue poles. They feature downtown churches, Ashtabula County District Library, the Cornelius Park fountain and the Main Avenue clock.

#### Ward 4 Councilor

- On Saturday, August 11, the United Way Bridges and Vines Bike (bicycle) Ride begins at South River Vineyard. Last year 200 to 300 signed up for the ride. This year they already have 300. The course is 13 to 300 miles. The recommended start time is 7:30 am to 8:00 a.m., if riding 100 miles or more. The entry fee is \$40, the route is well marked and all riders will be served a meal at the conclusion.
- He returned to this town from being gone while serving in the military 21 years. He is proud of our town, is glad his family returned. The Wine & Walleye Festival was awesome, he is glad he convinced some of his friends to move to Ashtabula, and is proud of what we are doing here. He said it was fun to take folks to the Festival and show it off. He said the Manager does more work on the Festival (more than he will take credit for) and he gave him and the core Festival committee a shout-out.

- He said he is proud of what the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association is doing with the Meet Me On Main – First Fridays event. While the event is not on par with the Wine and Walleye Festival “yet”, but it is getting bigger and bigger because of what Ms. Marty Cephas and ADDA have done. He and his dog, Charlie, were chosen “best costume” at the last First Friday animal event☺.
- “There are just a lot of fun things going on here and I’m just proud to be here.”

Council President

- Echoed the sentiments about First Friday and announced the next one is scheduled for September 7.
- Asked that a nice round of applause be given to Dana!

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

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

September 4, 2018

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics  
John S. Roskovics  
President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

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