

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO
4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Regular Meeting

Monday, August 17, 2015

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

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

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

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

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

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: None

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): None

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

PRESENTATION(S): The President welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Betty Holman to the floor. Prior to presenting them with the following resolution he stated, "What an honor it is for me to be able to present this recognition to you this evening on behalf of City Council and the elected officials here in the City of Ashtabula for the contributions you have made to our community, which are countless. From a personal standpoint one of the things I would like to acknowledge is 55 years together. And, in this day and age where people don't take their wedding vows as such a commitment, I think it's a tremendous example. And, I think that's one of the greatest gifts you can give to anybody – is to be a happily married couple for so many years. What a wonderful example you set for your family and for the community. Among other things, that's one of the things I would like to acknowledge".

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-103

**A RESOLUTION OF CONGRATULATIONS AND APPRECIATION TO
ADAM AND BETTY HOLMAN**

WHEREAS, *it is with honor that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio give special recognition to Mr. Adam and Mrs. Betty Holman; and,*

WHEREAS, *Adam and Betty celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 16, 2015; and,*

WHEREAS, *Adam and Betty's anniversary is a testament to how two individuals are able to join together as one and become a partnership that displays trust, love, understanding, patience, and selflessness; and how that they are able to truly be an inspiration for the institution of and commitment to marriage; and,*

WHEREAS, *as individuals, Adam and Betty are appreciated for their civic-mindedness, for being life-long community servants, and for displaying genuine kindness to absolutely everyone; and,*

WHEREAS, *Adam, a husband and father, was also an educator, coach and athletic director. He has been an advocate for the well-being and success of men and women & boys and girls. His involvement in the N.A.A.C.P., in government and in community service agencies enabled him to successfully advocate for civil rights, and to help so many of our citizens find employment so that they could provide for their basic, daily needs; and,*

WHEREAS, *Betty, a wife and mother, has blessed so many with her entrepreneurship as the owner of "Betty's Beauty Shoppe" (affectionately known as "Betty's"), located at 1123 West 43rd Street, off West Avenue. It is the longest Black-owned beauty salon in our City, opening in 1969. Betty has quietly listens to or has counseled so many who have graced her salon chairs. She also like to provide the latest women's fashion items for sale, and opened a carry-out food service whose specialty is BBQ; and,*

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, do hereby congratulate MR. ADAM and MRS. BETTY HOLMAN on reaching one of life's milestones. We sincerely appreciate you for sharing your marriage partnership with, and giving of yourselves to so many in the City of Ashtabula, the State of Ohio, and beyond.*

The audience applauded!

Mrs. Holman said, "It's been a pleasure; thank you". Mr. Holman said, "Being a citizen of Ashtabula and a hard worker for this area, and being a part of City Council and the functions of Ashtabula, we are very, very proud to receive this proclamation from you. And, we thank you very much. And, you will have our respect to the end".

The President said, "Mr. Holman was his teacher for health and physical education in high school; therefore I've known his for many years; and it was truly an honor to be able to present this recognition to him this evening. So, thank you for all you've done".

Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Balog seconded to adopt the resolution; motion CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING: N/A

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is a means whereby Council is able to efficiently conduct business by grouping routine items and disposing of or enacting them by one motion, a second, and a vote.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Clerk of Council presented the following meeting minutes for disposal:

- July 6, 2015 Regular Council Meeting
- July 13, 2015 Special Meeting
- July 20, 2015 Regular Council Meeting
- August 3, 2015 Regular Council Meeting

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

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Consent Agenda Legislation Only) - None

LEGISLATION READING - None

(end of consent agenda)

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

ODOT PID 94081 – Route 84 Resurfacing – City Limits

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into a consent agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the purpose of providing street resurfacing on Route 84 within the City limits. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED. The project is scheduled to take place in 2018 or 2019 and has not yet been defined.

Wine and Walleye Festival: The City Manager issued a reminder that the Festival is scheduled for this weekend. There will be lots of traffic, Bridge Street, beginning at Columbus Avenue, will be closed on Friday starting at 2:00 p.m., and he provided the detour route. He reported that the Hulbert Hill brick restoration may be completed and the road may be opened. He said the road "looks outstanding", and that two to three men laid every brick by hand.

Questions and Comments for the City Manager

Festival Shuttle: The Ward 2 Councilor asked if there will be shuttle service. The Manager said yes, trolley service will be running. The parking lot at the corner of Lake Avenue and West 8th Street will be the pickup and drop off location. More details may be obtained by visiting www.wineandwalleye.com or by calling the Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce office at 998-6998.

Recycling Program: The Ward 2 Councilor reported a lot of senior citizens have expressed concern with not being able to handle the large recycling containers and asked if they have to accept them. The Manager said the containers will be 64 gallons, will be on wheels, and will be registered and delivered to each property. He said one container will be for recyclables that will be picked up every other week, and one will be for garbage that will be picked up weekly. He said without saying or promising too much he is sure arrangements can be made to assist some residents with getting the containers to curbside, such as is the case now for some who have disabilities or are not able to handle their personal garbage containers. He asked that patience be exercised before making assumptions about the program, which is scheduled to begin late fall or early spring 2016.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

City Income Tax - November 3, 2015 Ballot Language: The City Solicitor reported that the Clerk of Council shared correspondence with him she received today from the Ashtabula County Board of Elections indicating that the proposed language for the City's continuation of its existing 1.8% income tax, under the new law, has been approved with "the addition of language indicating that this is a continuation of an existing levy of income tax. I certainly approve that change and I do not urge Council to contest it, in any way. I believe it's understood that this is basically a replacement of our existing tax. The only change being that rather than expiring every three years, if passed, this would be a permanent or a continuing income tax."

Questions and Comments for the City Solicitor

City Income Tax: The Ward 2 Councilor said, "A couple weeks ago I voted no on this resolution. Being that our residents, the electorate voters of the City of Ashtabula, have come through for 40 plus years on passing our income tax. I think maybe it was twice that it didn't pass; we had to put it back on the ballot again. I know the State is mandating that we do change the way we operate our tax levies because of Ohio Revised Code 718. But, I still feel that our residents, every three years, should have the opportunity to vote for the City income tax. Now, we definitely need the City income tax. I would never vote against the income tax. What I'm against is the income tax being continuous - without giving the residents the opportunity to vote on it. I believe that if the residents are paying for something they should have the right to vote for it. But, I don't want anybody to get the idea that I'm against our City income tax. It's a 1.8. If we don't have that 1.8% income tax, we're in a lot of trouble. We would be able to implement a 1%, which would be useless. So, I don't want anyone to get the wrong idea that I'm against the City income tax - I am not against the City income tax. I'm just against the way the State of Ohio is mandating that we change the way that we present our City income tax. So, I'm hoping that the residents pass it. But, I still feel that we should challenge the State. I do believe if the tax was to go on the ballot for three years, and they said it's wrong, then I would say that we would have to do it *[their way]*. But, I feel that we're just giving in to the State of Ohio because they say this change is needed. I would like to be challenged by the State of Ohio and see what would happen. Therefore, I just want everyone to know, please, do not think I'm against the City income tax - I'm for it a hundred percent. I'm just against the way it's being presented, which would be continuously. If we pass it this next fall it will be implemented forever - not every three years. Thank you!"

President: There is one clarification... you alluded to the fact that we could implement a 1% income tax automatically. I think the Solicitor said we may not have that authority because of our Charter. So, there is a potential that we wouldn't even have the ability to implement the 1%. And, certainly, I don't know what would be involved in fighting the State, as far as the cost involved with that, or any legal fees that would be involved. Correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Solicitor, those were two of the reasons that you recommended doing it the way that you propose - that we follow through with the State's recommendation to avoid there possibly being a situation where we could be without the income at all, if it wasn't able to be passed.

Solicitor: Mr. President, it is true that our Charter indicates that any tax upon income in the City of Ashtabula must be voted upon by the residents. It doesn't specify, of course, that they have to vote every three or five years. It just says that at some point they must authorize an income tax. The State law that says without a vote of the residents a city council can impose a tax of up to 1%, I do not believe would necessarily trump our Charter. I don't believe we get to pick and chose what parts of State law apply and what parts don't. But, the Charter is pretty clear that we must have a vote of the citizens in order to impose a tax on income. Whereas the State law says without a vote of the residents a city council [may] impose a tax of up to 1%.

President: Another question I would have is if the legislation passed, as proposed, and the citizens wished to have the income tax removed, they could always request that issue to go to the ballot at a later date. By referendum of some sort it could always go back on the ballot, if they choose. It's not that it would be there forever – it's not that it couldn't be removed if a citizen or a collection of citizens wanted it to be.

Solicitor: Mr. President, that is correct. The right of referendum is unchanged by the law.

Ward 2 Councilor: Mr. President, I don't want anybody to get the impression that I'm against it. Please, it's not that. I'm against what the State is causing us to do. And, I just feel that the voters should still have that privilege [*to vote on the income tax*]. That's my point. I'm not saying don't pass the income tax; I'm definitely a hundred percent for the income tax. I just don't like the way the State's forcing us to put it on as a continuation and taking away the residents opportunity to vote on it every three years. That's all.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Formal Legislation Request: The Finance Director formally requested the following legislation:

ORDINANCE

2015-98 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE POLICE LEVY, CODE ENFORCEMENT, DEBT SERVICE, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT, WATTER POLLUTION CONTROL AND SELF INSURANCE FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015. (Finance Director)

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

Certification of Unpaid Sewer and Trash: The Finance Director issued a reminder that the deadline to pay delinquent sewer and trash bills before they are certified to the Ashtabula County Auditor has passed. Payments for delinquents are not being accepted in the Finance Department. It takes approximately three weeks to a month to process the final list that gets sent to the County Auditor. The Finance Director suggested delinquent payments not be attempted to be made at the County Auditor's Office, at this time, because there is nothing anyone can do to stop the certification process. The Finance Director also reported that the County has reached out to her because people are trying to make their delinquent payments at their office. She said while it is beneficial to pay the bill, it is not beneficial to do so prior to the certification process being complete.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

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

The Chair announced/reported the following:

August Meeting: The committee's August 11 meeting was cancelled.

September Meeting: The committee will meet on Wednesday, September 9, at 4:00 p.m., at City Hall. Legislation regarding donation clothing bins and zoning fees will be reviewed for submission to the full Council.

Parks & Recreation: The Parks & Recreation Board meet on Tuesday, August 11, at 6:30 p.m., at Clifford Kadon Presidential Park (CKPP). It was a nice evening, the Board's accomplishments were reviewed, and they started looking ahead at the planning of the next projects in an effort to help further the promotion of the City's green spaces.

Clifford Kadon Presidential Park (CKPP)

Pavilion Construction: These efforts to get the pavilion constructed have come a long way, but right now an engineer's certified stamp is required on the construction plans so the project may begin.

Lighting: The City Manager is working to secure figures for the lighting installation.

Signage and Picnic Tables: Lake Erie Correctional Institution (LECI) is designing the sign that denoting the park's name. There is also an opportunity to acquire 20 (plus) picnic tables from LECI to be placed in all City parks.

Next Meeting: The particulars regarding the Board's next meeting will be announced shortly. The committee chair requested the Manager's attendance at the Board's next meeting.

Questions and Comments for Community/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee

Blanket Donations: The President presented a \$500.00 check to the Finance Director representing the first, of hopefully many, stipends for the proceeds of the "Ashtabeautiful" blankets. Close to 20 have been sold, the upfront investment to purchase the blankets has been paid off, so funds now received will be profit and will be submitted to the Finance Director to be placed in the Recreation Fund. The committee Chair announced a couple blankets were purchased to be raffled off by the Parks & Recreation Board. The President announced blankets may be purchased at the Clerk of Council's office (992.7119), with all proceeds going to Parks and Recreation.

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

The Chair announced the committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, September 11, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2nd floor conference room. There are no pending items at this time.

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

The Chair announced the committee's September meeting has been postponed. The committee is scheduled to meet in October.

Questions and Comments for Public Works/Utilities/Schools Committee

The Ward 2 Councilor issued a reminder that students will return to school on Tuesday, August 25; and for motorists to "watch your speed".

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

The Chair announced the committee's Monday, August 24, meeting was cancelled. They are scheduled to meet again in September.

Legislation Request: Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Misener seconded to have the City Solicitor prepare 'creative sentencing' legislation, as it applies to our codified ordinances versus State statutes. The legislation will be based on that which is in place in Geneva, OH. It will give the Ashtabula Municipal Court Judge more leeway in sentencing. Motion CARRIED.

Questions and Comments for Safety Forces Committee

Police Levy Hires: The Manager said he believes the list from which to hire new police officers will be certified by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) after their next meeting; however he has not received correspondence from CSC Chair Bret Cimorell on the topic. He said the test was given, and that all participants needed to complete the physical agility portion, which deadline he believes has passed. If this is the case the list may be able to be certified at this week's meeting. Police Chief Robert Stell had no updates to offer.

Work Session - None

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Regular Agenda Legislation Only)

The President presented the Legislation Agenda. There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA DISPOSAL

The President entertained a motion to dispose of Legislation Nos. 2015-98 through 2015-102 by consent agenda. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING (Consent Agenda)

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation for its second reading:

ORDINANCE

2015-97 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MATTSON DRIVE.
(Community/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation)

Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to adopt the ordinance. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation for consent agenda disposal:

ORDINANCE

2015-98 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE POLICE LEVY, CODE ENFORCEMENT, DEBT SERVICE, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT, WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND SELF INSURANCE FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015.
(Finance Director)

ORDINANCE

2015-99 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO CONTRACT WITH RONYAK PAVING, INC. FOR THE 2015 STREET RESURFACING PROJECT.
(City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-100 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT WITH UNITED SURVEY, INC., FOR THE WEST HARBOR SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,839.61, AS WELL AS A TIME EXTENSION FOR THE PROJECT. (City Manager) (Extension of timeline and original camera work on siphon line)

ORDINANCE

2015-101 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HUNTINGTON INSURANCE, INC., AND TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY TO PROVIDE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-102 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR RESURFACING OF STATE ROUTE 84 AND MINOR BRIDGE WORK. (City Manager)

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Liquor Permit Request – Change of LLC Membership Interests

Permit No. 2017043

DeGee's II LLC, dba DeGees II LLC, 2055 Lake Avenue & Patio, Ashtabula, OH 44004

D5 *Spirituos liquor for on premises consumption only, beer and wine for on premises, and off premises in original sealed containers, until 2:30 a.m.*

D6 *Sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and Midnight*

ACTION: There were no objections to this request.

MISCELLANEOUS

Water Fountain Restoration: The President thanked Larry Fargo of Fargo Machine for the work he has performed so far on the water fountain located in Lance Cpl Kevin M. Cornelius Memorial Park. He said there is more to do but that what has been done so far looks great.

West 32nd Street Railroad Bridge: The Ward 2 Councilor reported how nice the newly painted bridge looks.

Indian Trails: The President said he took his daughters, out-of-town friends and their children to the Indian Trails bridge back to where the train disaster happened. He said they spent a lot of time walking up and down the stretch and gave a "hats off" to Mike Wayman, Chairman of the Ashtabula Township Park Commission and the Commission, for the work they have performed. He encouraged others to visit this beautiful part of nature, which is an asset to our community. The President said part of the Civic Development Corporation's (CDC) funding is to continue the trail along the Cedarquist Park side in order to connect the two sides together.

Traffic Signal Signage: The Ward 2 Councilor asked if all the new traffic signal signage has been corrected. The City Manager said there is a punch list, that he knows signs on Prospect Road still need to be changed, instructions were given to erect a 'right turn only' sign at Lake Avenue and West 9th Street for the right curb lane (*travelling south*), the audible signals are being worked on, and tether wiring needs to be installed. The President asked the Manager to have the new traffic lights at the intersection of East 23rd Street and Columbus Avenue looked at to see if they make sense.

Events

Blue Line County (Benefit Ashtabula County K-9): Lake Shore Park, Saturday, August 22

Ward 5 Neighborhood Watch (NHW) Party: Saturday, September 5, 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., Clifford Kadon Presidential Park, free food, drinks, and activities. Attendees will be able to throw a pie in the face of city officials. It was reported that the Finance Department has met the challenge; others were encouraged to do so too. The Ward 5 Councilor reported that the NHW sign issue has been resolved.

Street Lines: The Ward 2 Councilor said crews are doing a great job lining the roads. The Vice President said because of how quickly motorists approach the newly painted right turn lane lines on Lake Avenue (south bound) at West 32nd Street, he wonders if the painted lane will do more harm than good.

D-Day Reenactment: Friday and Saturday, August 21 & 22, at Conneaut Lake Park

Bands-on-the-Beach: Saturday, August 30 (last one this year), 4:00 p.m., at Walnut Beach

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Rich Keyes, Ward 5 Neighborhood Watch Member – 5313 Nathan Avenue: read a prepared statement from Mr. David Williams, also a NHW member: “Members of Ashtabula City Government and Management collectively: The members of Ward 5 Neighborhood Watch have unanimously agreed to expand the scope of the group from a general attempt to curtail crime to include the scope of watching out for our neighbors. We agreed to the direction of significantly improving the quality of our ward through the reduction of crime but are now including the way point of restoring our community to what our minds visualize. It’s not a simple task and many who live here simply do not have the income or the skills needed to tackle basic home repairs or updates. Many of the houses in our jurisdiction have been marked for demolition, have materials that are fully salvageable and reusable, and can be repurposed via a group of volunteers who are willing and ready to revitalize the place we call home. The workers are willing to donate time and personal expenses as well as signing waivers of liability to help promote true neighborhood watch. Seeing those who can be helped and stepping up to help them by safely removing materials that are not yet ready for landfill, we can save the City money by limiting dumpsters needed once a property has been demolished. The material that was spared can be relocated to a needy property which can save the owner money, improve property values, and instill the belief of hope to the residents of our City. Good-hearted citizens are willing to give what they can in the name of compassion and faith to bring back the sense of pride to our neighborhood. With your guidance and approval we can jumpstart a movement that will inspire a safer, more beautiful City that we all are proud to live in.”

The President reported receiving the same letter. He told the Manager he responded to Mr. Williams and encouraged him to follow up with the question of getting the materials.

The President further stated that if a property is scheduled to be demolished the City does not have the right to give permission to go onto the property to remove items from it. He said when the demolitions are let for bid usually the contractor who is awarded the bid has the right and authority to recoup anything they want to salvage, which may also help them defray some of the project costs, thus they are able to provide a more reasonable bid to the City. He said the contractor would have to grant permission to someone to remove anything from the property.

The City Manager issued a reminder that the current demolitions are not City demos, but are the activity of the Ashtabula County Land Bank (ACLB). Therefore the ACLB would have to consider the offer. He said Habitat for Humanity has reached out to the ACLB about materials, as well as restoring some of the homes on the demolition list. He said the City of Ashtabula is administering a demo program on behalf on the ACLB, but that ACLB takes possession of the properties and is charged with demolishing or removing the blight. He said as a member of the ACLB, he would be happy to present Mr. Williams' request to them. He said the President's statement regarding the contractors looking at what may be salvaged, when bidding, is accurate. The Manager said the other issue is that 99% of the structures have asbestos and a lot of the structure's treasures are damaged because the asbestos has to be removed from them.

The President said he is for salvaging but the reality is that once the process begins there is less to salvage. And, the safety of persons, other than the contractors, going into the structures would also be a concern, even if a waiver of liability is signed. The President suggested Mr. Williams be encouraged to discuss his idea with the ACLB and the contractor(s) who is awarded the job. The President thanked Mr. Williams for his "great vision".

Mr. Adam Holman, 3559 Austinburg Road, Ashtabula City Property Owner: reported a house was razed from property located on the corner of West 34th Street and Station Avenue. He asked who is responsible for removing the tree trunks, rocks, and junk that remains on the property, which is making it difficult for the lawn to be cut. He said Hiawatha Church of God in Christ would do it but they do not have the equipment needed to navigate through the debris left on the property. The Manager will look into this. The President thanked the church for keeping the neighborhood up nicely.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING: N/A

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

CLOSING REMARKS

Meetings

The President announced the next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m.; Pre-Council at 6:00 p.m.

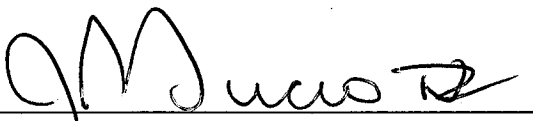
Ashtabula City Regular Council Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2015

Council will meet in a PUBLIC HEARING on Tuesday, September 8 @ 5:45pm, to allow for public comment and recommendations regarding the contract between the City of Ashtabula and Saybrook Township for the "Saybrook Township JEDD II".

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: September 8, 2015

ATTESTED BY: 
J.P. Ducro IV
President of Council

ATTESTED BY: 
LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
Clerk of Council