

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 16, 2017

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., the Ward 2 Councilor offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Michael D. Speelman (Ward 4 Councilor)
Mr. Kris E. Hamrick (Ward 5 Councilor)
Mr. John S. Roskovics (Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2 Councilor)
Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)
Mrs. Josephine Misener (President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Mrs. Kristy L. Hosken (Ward 3 Councilor)

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

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: None

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): Mr. Speelman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to excuse the Ward 3 Councilor from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

AGENDA APPROVAL: Mr. Speelman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to approve tonight's meeting agenda; motion CARRIED.

PRESENTATION(S)

1. The President presented the following resolution to "My Neighborhood Collaboration" members Ms. Tiffany Reid, Ms. Carmen Kuula and Mr. Brian Pruitt:

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-128

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
TO
MY NEIGHBORHOOD COLLABORATION**

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

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WHEREAS, My Neighborhood Collaboration is a community volunteer organization that was established in 2012; their mission is bringing people and resources together to help revitalize and rebuild a stronger neighborhood where people want to live, work, play and prosper; and,

WHEREAS, My Neighborhood Collaboration's focus has been in the area of South Park, Chestnut Street, the Presidential Street areas and Clifford Kadon Presidential Park located in the West 58th Street neighborhood; and,

WHEREAS, My Neighborhood Collaboration is commended for their commitment to their target neighborhoods by planting and maintaining a very productive community garden and by hosting community events at Clifford Kadon Presidential Park; and,

WHEREAS, My Neighborhood Collaboration applied for and was awarded a grant to assist with revitalizing Clifford Kadon Presidential Park; with much persistence and determination, and while overcoming many obstacles, on Saturday, September 30, at 10:00 a.m., they hosted a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony in honor of the completion of a newly constructed pavilion at the Park, which took three years of neighbors, organizations, businesses, and community leaders working hand-in-hand, to make happen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, hereby express our unwavering appreciation to My Neighborhood Collaboration for not giving up, but rather staying the course, which has resulted in life being returned to a City recreational facility that has, once again, made the sights and sounds of our youth ring throughout the neighborhood and which has placed smiles on the faces and in the hearts of the Clifford Kadon Presidential Park neighborhood!

ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Josephine Misener
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____

Christopher J. McClure
VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

John S. Roskovics
WARD 1 COUNCILOR

August A. Pugliese
WARD 2 COUNCILOR

Kristy L. Hosken
WARD 3 COUNCILOR

Michael D. Speelman
WARD 4 COUNCILOR

Kris E. Hamrick
WARD 5 COUNCILOR

James M. Timonere
CITY MANAGER

Michael Franklin
CITY SOLICITOR

Dana D. Pinkert
FINANCE DIRECTOR

Ms. Reid said the construction of a new pavilion at Clifford Kadon Presidential Park (CKPP) could not have happened without the true partnership and collaboration between many entities, including the City of Ashtabula, City employees, Ashtabula City Parks and Recreation Board, Ashtabula City Planning Commission, all members of the My Neighborhood group over the years, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Kent State Justice Club, John Korp, Local Laborers 245, and others. She said, "Just knowing that this can happen, just plants that seed that anything can happen." She said as the seed is watered with relationships and partnerships she is excited to see what else we can do in Ashtabula. She said "Thank you everyone from the bottom of our hearts."

The President said while a grant was awarded to construct the pavilion, everyone donated their time and energy.

Ms. Kuula said My Neighborhood Collaboration (MNC) was privileged to be a part of the Project. She said many, many hands have helped over the years to make all the MNC projects and activities come to fruition. She said she hopes MNC has been able to improve the quality of life for individuals who reside in the CKPP neighborhood. Mr. Hamrick moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to adopt the resolution; motion CARRIED.

2. Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC)

Ms. Rachel Truelsch, Director of Regional Services, presented Exhibit A, attached and fielded questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is a means whereby Council is able to efficiently conduct business by grouping routine items for consideration and disposal.

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES: None

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- **Formal Legislation Request(s):** None
- **Form and Correctness:** None
- **Legislation Overview:** None
- **Public Discussion (Legislation Portion Only):** None
- **Legislation Reading:** None

REGULAR BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES

The Clerk of Council presented the Monday, October 2, 2017, Regular Council Meeting minutes for Council's approval. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes stood approved as presented.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER

The Manager presented the following legislation requests:

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Elimination; Phase 1 – Lake County Sewer – Change Order No. 1

An ordinance to execute Change Order No. 1 with Lake County Sewer for the purpose of additional cleaning and heavy root removal as part of the project; in the amount not to exceed \$27,295.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the Water Pollution Control Capital Improvement Fund. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the request. Discussion: The President announced and the Manager confirmed that we are still within the project's budgeted amount. The motion CARRIED.

Police Body Cameras – Motorola Solutions

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Motorola Solutions through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing program, contract number STS 473077-0 for the purchase of Police Body Cameras and Service Agreement in the amount not to exceed \$104,721.05. Funding for this expense will be taken from Fund 412 and Fund 101. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve the request. Discussion: The Manager reported the [not to exceed amount] is over a five year period; the annual cost is a little more than \$16,000. He said there are additional expenses in year one of the agreement due to the "vault (storage unit) service" and the need to purchase required accessories. Motorola's current program provides the body cameras at no cost. The motion CARRIED.

Police Dispatch Room Remodel – Northeastern Communications

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Northeastern Communications with a mailing address of 2527 South Ridge Road East, Ashtabula, OH 44004 as the sole bidder for the Police Dispatch Room Remodel in the amount not to exceed \$87,245.34. Funding for this expense will be taken from Fund 412. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to approve the request. Discussion: The Manager reported that a lot of [this] has been predicated on the State changing its PSAP (Public-Safety Answering (aka Access) Point). The County's PSAP will be increased from 1 to 2, one of which will be located in the City of Ashtabula's dispatch room. The County is also going to a centralized CAD system for dispatch. "All this equipment will be installed in this room." Funding for the project will come from the County and our EMA Funds that come from the Perry Nuclear Power Plant for radio and dispatch equipment. The total of these two funding sources is about \$10,000. The County will also purchase

some of the furniture, and because the County is also remodeling their dispatch room, we will cooperatively purchase furniture to get better pricing/reduced. The President said while the term “remodel” is used, it is a complete overhaul. The Manager said today they found out the area has to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which may call for some redesign. The dispatch operations will be moved to the basement of the City Hall Annex/Justice Center while the remodel takes place, and returned to the newly renovated area once it is completed. The motion CARRIED.

Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) – Office of Community Development (OCD) – Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Application – Water Pollution Control Plant Improvements.

An ordinance for authorization to file a Residential Public Infrastructure Grant application through the Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Community Development for an amount of \$600,000 for funding to complete critical work at the Water Pollution Control Plant. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to approve the request. Discussion: The Manager reported that about one year ago, the City asked residents to complete income verification surveys. Because our sewer district takes affluent from Saybrook, Ashtabula and Plymouth Townships and the City of Ashtabula, our income figures were based on the census data which showed we were not eligible to apply for these grants due to the median household income. We all knew the census data was skewed. To prove it we had to get 400 income verification surveys from within our service district. The ODSA approved the surveys so we are now able to apply for the grant. The good news is the delay saw the grant amount increase from \$500,000 to \$600,000. The surveys are good for three years, which means we will be able to revisit the request in that time period. The Manager said this project will be a supplement to the other Plant projects. The motion CARRIED.

REMINDERS

- **Tire Amnesty Day** is Saturday, October 21, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, at the Transfer Station, on East 24th Street. Tires no larger than 18 inches will be accepted. Residents will be able to drop off 4 tires at no charge, with a \$1.00 charge/tire for quantities of 5 or more. Tires with rims will be \$9.00 per tire to dispose of. Legally not more than 10 tires may be transported at any given time. Tires from businesses and large tires are not permitted.
- **Treat-or-Treat** in the City will be observed on Saturday, October 28, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **Leaf Pick-up** has resumed. The schedule is on the City’s website. Pick-up this week is in the Harbor area. The last Harbor pick-up will be the week of November 26. The last pick-up in the wards will be the week of December 3.

Questions/Comments for City Manager

Vehicles on Property: The Ward 5 Councilor reported receiving notice about demolition derby vehicles, motors and parts in the yard at 801 West 48th Street.

Demolitions: The Ward 5 Councilor said he notices many houses being razed. He asked for an update on a house on West 58th Street. The Manager said he did not have an update. He said the Land Bank just acquired another 20 houses; the City will administer the demolition. The Ashtabula County Prosecutor’s office has stepped up the foreclosure process and shortened the timeline; a lot of work

will commence because of it. About 5 houses per week are being razed. There remains about \$2.3 million to spend by 2019.

Street Cuts: The Vice President asked if contractors are given a deadline or are bonds pulled to permanently repair temporary street cut patches. The Manager said we have bonds but there is no deadline. Ninety-Nine percent of the cuts belong to Aqua Ohio who hired Koski Construction has their street cut contractor. They wait until several cuts have settled and then take care of them at one time. They have one more round of cuts to repair before the asphalt plant closes, which is weather driven. The Manager said the City has three or four permanent repairs of our own to make (Valleyview Boulevard, two on Ohio Avenue and one more).

Tannery Hill: The Ward 4 Councilor reported the road is in bad condition and asked that holes be patched.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No Report

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Legislation Requests

The Finance Director requested the repeal of Ordinance No. 2017-111, to correct the fund from which payments are made. Mr. Speelman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED. The Director reported this ordinance says B & J Electric, the Collins Boulevard Lighting Project contractor, will be paid from grant Fund 290. Payment will also come from 412 Permanent Improvement, which is why the repeal is required. The motion CARRIED.

The Finance Director requested a new ordinance authorizing the Manager to enter into a contract with B & J Electric of Poland, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$63,101.58, for construction services for the Collins Boulevard Lighting Project. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

(Chair/Vice Chair)

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

(Mrs. Misener/Mr. Roskovics)

The Chair reported the following:

The committee did not meet in October.

The Ashtabula City Parks & Recreation Committee met Tuesday, October 10, at 6:30 p.m. Most of the meeting was developing a plan on how to prudently spend the Parks & Recreation Levy dollars. The City Manager recruited Ms. Melinda McNutt to assist in the process. She is creating surveys that will

go to the public and is organizing public meetings to get public input. The goal is to have the plan in place and ready to go next year.

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

The Chair announced the committee met Friday, October 13, and discussed the following:

Finances: The Finance Director reviewed the year-to-date financials and the budget. The paving carryover will be about \$63,000. Projected Parks & Recreation Levy funding year-end balances were also discussed. The Chair asked the Finance Director to speak more to the year-to-date financials. The Director reported:

- There are no big surprises
- Income tax is still coming in higher than last year and than budgeted due to the new House Bill 5 mandate payment of “declared tax payments”. This year people are required to pay quarterly what they may have paid in April 2018, resulting in increased 2017 income tax revenues. This will not be the case next year and is not a trend
- The Police Wages account may have to be increased due to required back wage payments; and to cover Police and Fire Overtime. We will wait until the end of the year to see if there are savings in other line items and transfer the funds instead of pulling from fund balances.

The Chair deferred to the Finance Director and City Manager to comment on the 2018 City Budget Draft, its timeline, and how it will be appropriated.

- The Manager reported a slight deficit spending is projected for 2018 and a very small carryover balance.
- The Director has repeatedly said the City has to do what is necessary to increase the year-end fund balances in order to have a larger carryover.
- The Manager said department heads were, again, conservative with their budget request; and that he appreciated it.
- He said he always appreciates the Director’s work on the budget and her assistance in understanding it.
- He said while we have a good budget to work with, “we are only one catastrophe from being in trouble.”

The Chair announced the budget draft will be online starting tomorrow; the required budget public hearing will be announced at the next regular council meeting.

Formally Requested Legislation

Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to formally request ORDINANCE NO. 2017-125, AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO JOIN A COALITION OF MUNICIPALITIES RETAINING SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE PURPOSE OF INITIATING LITIGATION TO CHALLENGE THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 718 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE RELATING TO MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX, was presented. Discussion: The hope is to get an injunction from the Ohio Supreme to delay the enactment of House Bill 49, in order to retain our municipal tax collection locally. The Finance Director reported the Coalition has firm commitments from 100 other communities who are working on a resolution so they, too, may join the coalition. The Ohio Municipal League is working with the Coalition, which consists of municipalities opposed to state control of

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local income tax and those who want to keep their home rule status. The President said not only does the state want to take control of the collection of local income tax revenues; it also wants to charge a fee to do so. The Director also noted that if the state gets their way municipalities will not have control over auditing the returns when they are filed. When filing locally questions may be asked immediately. She said she cannot imagine an entity as large as the state taking on all corporation "net profit returns" and going through them the way the local municipality is able to because local governments know their community business community. The Director said this could also equate to a loss of revenue. The Vice President said he heard it would also mean a reduction in staff, which would not be the case in Ashtabula City. The chair announced that the City Manager's portion of the committee meeting was covered during the Manager's report earlier in this meeting.

The Auditor of State Award with Distinction will be presented to the Finance Department at the committee's December 8, meeting. The motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-121, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF BALANCES FROM FOUR (4) BOND RETIREMENT FUNDS, WHICH ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THEY WERE CREATED, TO FUND 388 FOR DEBT RETIREMENT; Pugliese seconded to formally request this legislation; motion CARRIED.

November Committee Meeting: The chair said he sees no need to meet in November unless a meeting is needed for budget purposes; the Finance Director concurred.

Questions/Comments for Finance & Personnel Committee

The Ward 1 Councilor asked the Finance Director how Parks & Recreation (P & R) Levy funds are handled. The Director responded that the funds are required to be in a separate fund solely for parks and recreation expenditures. The funds not spent each year carry over to the next year. The City decides how to spend the funds. The City Manager works closed with the P & R staff and the P & R Board. The Manager said the Police and the Parks & Recreation Levies are written to say, "For the expenditures with regard to those departments", so with *regards to the Parks and with regards to the Police Department*. He said he and Council made a commitment that 5 police officers and 2 dispatchers would be hired with Police Levy funds, and that they would be outfitted with the same funds. We could have just supplemented the department and provided for their needs. However, during the levy campaign it was made clear what for what the funds would be used. During the P & R Levy campaign we promised to hire 3 full-time and 2 part-time personnel; promise kept. We also pledged to put \$50,000 towards operations and \$50,000 towards capital, which funds will have carryovers and be rolled over each year. But the way in which the levy is written we could have said all the funds would be spent on capital.

The President asked members of Council if they objected to spending some of a Pre-Council meeting time to discuss the proposed budget, if necessary, rather than scheduling a Finance & Personnel Committee meeting or work session. Hearing no comments, the discussion will take place at a Pre-Council meeting, if required.

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

The Chair announced the committee did not meet in October. He said so for there are no agenda items for the November 3rd meeting, but will check with the Manager closer to the meeting date.

SAFETY FORCES (SF) - (Mr. Hamrick/Mr. Roskovics)

The Chair announced the cancellation of the committee's Monday, October 23, meeting.

WORK SESSION – No report

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- **Formal Legislation Request(s):** None
- **Form and Correctness:** The Clerk of Council certified conformity to Council Rule 21.
- **Legislation Overview:** The President reviewed the legislation scheduled for 2nd reading; all others were commented on earlier in this meeting and required no further review.
- **Public Discussion** (Legislation Portion Only): None

Request Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation Agenda by consent agenda, with the exception of Ordinance No. 2017-115; motion CARRIED.

Legislation Reading

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation:

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-115, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF WESTWOOD DRIVE AT ANY POINT SOUTH OF ITS INTERSECTION WITH WEST 9TH STREET (Councilor Pugliese - City Council), was presented for its second reading. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to adopt the ordinance. On the adoption of the ordinance: Mr. Speelman, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. McClure, Mrs. Misener voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-121, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF BALANCES FROM FOUR (4) BOND RETIREMENT FUNDS, WHICH ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THEY WERE CREATED, TO FUND 388 FOR DEBT RETIREMENT. (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-122, AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NUMBER 2017-111, IN ORDER TO CORRECT THE FUND FROM WHICH PAYMENTS ARE TO BE MADE. (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-123, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH B & J ELECTRIC OF POLAND, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$63,101.58 FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE COLLINS BOULEVARD LIGHTING PROJECT. (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-124, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT WITH LAKE COUNTY SEWER CO., INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$27,295.00 FOR THE SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW ELIMINATION PROJECT – PHASE 1. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-125, AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO JOIN A COALITION OF MUNICIPALITIES RETAINING SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE PURPOSE OF INITIATING LITIGATION TO CHALLENGE THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 718 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE RELATING TO MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-126, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC. THROUGH STATE OF OHIO COOPEATIVE PURCHASING FOR CITY OF ASHTABULA DIVISION OF POLICE BODY CAMERAS. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-127, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NORTHEASTERN COMMUNICATIONS FOR CITY OF ASHTABULA, DIVISION OF POLICE DISPATCH ROOM REMODEL. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-129, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A RESIDENTIAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$600,000 FROM THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT. (City Manager)

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

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Announcements

- The President announced the next Pre-Council and Regular Council Meetings are scheduled to take place on Monday, November 6, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., respectively. Both meetings are always open to the public.
- Council will meet in a Public Hearing on Monday, November 6, at 5:30p, to hear (2) requests to vacate alleys. Public attendance is encouraged.
- The President thanked the Ward 5 Councilor for noticing that one of the proposed Charter Change explanations was the first proposed change agreed upon, which was amended. The change that will appear on the November ballot will be:

Section 11 Penalty for Absences

- REPEAL: Absent from 3 consecutive regular meetings of Council shall operate to vacate the seat of a member unless the absence is excused by a majority vote of Council and entered upon the Journal. For each excused absence of a member of Council from a regular meeting of the Council in excess of 3 in a 12 month period, there shall be deducted a sum equal to 2% of the annual salary of such member.
- ADD: Nothing

Make-A-Difference Day: The Ward 4 Councilor announced that on Saturday, October 28, from 9:00 a.m. until Noon, the Ashtabula Area City Schools (AACS) will host a Make-a-Difference Day. AACS students will participate in several community involvement projects. Volunteers are welcomed and should meet at the Ashtabula County District Library (West 44th Street). The projects will consist of picking up garbage, making cards and yard clean-up for the elderly.

Parks & Recreation Levy Funds

- The Ward 4 Councilor shared that he and his wife took their daughter and some of her friends to Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Cornelius Park to take Edgewood High School homecoming pictures; and said the park looked “awesome”.
- The President asked the Manager for the status on the Lance Cpl. Kevin M. Cornelius Park gazebo renovation. The Manager responded that contracts have been sent to the contractor, and will be done once the contractor schedules it. The President asked if it was going to be this year; the Manager responded, “Yes”.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Dennis DeGennaro, 1716 West 5th Street

Mr. DeGennaro reported the heavy winds late yesterday afternoon caused a tree to split in half, which landed on he and his neighbor’s property. He called the Ward 2 Councilor to have it cleaned up. Today by 11:00 a.m., the tree and debris were gone. He complimented City crews. The Manager reported a tree came down on McCreery & West 58th Street due to those same wind gusts that were clocked at 57 miles per hour.

Mr. Steve Arnold, 1812 Pleasantview Avenue

Reported he was before this body politic twice this year about the unacceptable condition of the City’s West Avenue facility (formerly the ODOT facility) where road salt is housed. He expressed his displeasure with being told the property would be cleaned up by the summer, has not been cleaned but has only gotten worse. He said he has contacted state and news agencies to get involved in order to get the property cleaned up. He said the property abuts the back yard of his friend. He said it has affected his friend’s quality of life in that she is no longer able to use her backyard and now she now has a medical condition. The Ward 2 Councilor, City Manager and Council Vice President commented. The Manager confirmed the piles were to be gone by now, and said the project was pushed back. He said the equipped that is on the property today will be used to begin removing the piles this week. He said, “In addition to that we have been in discussion with a local business about possibly taking over that property; just the property part, not the buildings.” ODOT gave us the property plans so we could find out where the storm drains were and were looking for them last week when [we] were on the property. The Manager said the contractor told him that over half of the piles will be removed. The Manager said the rest of the piles the City will “distribute around and stage better in order to still have access to the salt dooms. The Manager said the property was given to the City for \$1.00. He said when he first became City Manager and realized nothing would be done with the structure that was just getting worse, he looked at the deed which said the property could be given back.


He called ODOT District 4 to return the property but their legal department said they did not want it and told the City to do whatever we wanted. Since then we have been trying to attract a company to occupy it. The Manager said ultimately he would love to have a salt dome on our Public Works property to make our operations more efficient, rather than having trucks leave Public Works and travel to another location to salt up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: November 6, 2017

ATTESTED BY: 
Josephine Misener
President of Council

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

EXHIBIT A

**Ashtabula City Council
October 16, 2017
Delivered By Rachel Truelsch, Director of Regional Services**

Good Evening President Misener, Vice President McClure, and members of council. It is my pleasure to speak with you today about Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and the work that we do. First let me introduce myself, I am Rachel Truelsch, Director of Regional Services in Ashtabula County. I work out of our office here and am responsible for oversight of service quality and operations support in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula Counties. I am also a Licensed Social Worker, and Trauma Therapist, and provide counseling to some of our clients.

As a little bit of background on Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, for those of you who don't know us, our mission is to support survivors of rape and sexual abuse, promote healing and prevention and advocate for social change. We were founded in 1974 by a small group of volunteers and have grown to a full-service agency that provides services for survivors of rape and sexual abuse, including counseling, victim assistance, and education and prevention programs. We have more than 65 employees and over 100 volunteers that work across our four county service region, which includes Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula Counties.

With help from the Ashtabula Community, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office, we have been able to open a new, standalone space for survivors of rape and sexual abuse in Ashtabula County, to receive our specialized services close to home.

You may be asking what does CRCC's presence here, mean for my community? Well please allow me to tell you.

We know that rape and sexual abuse know no geographic boundaries and our experiences tell us that like most communities, Ashtabula is certainly not immune to the epidemic of sexual violence.

Sexual violence happens in large urban cities, suburbs and small rural towns alike, across both our state and nation. The best research available comes from the CDC and tells us that 1 in 5 women in Ohio, and 1 in 71 men in Ohio, will be raped in their lifetime. We also know that children are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence. Yet, as prevalent in our communities as this is, rape is one of the most under-reported crimes, with 2/3rds of incidents never being reported to authorities.

Sexual violence not only impacts the individual survivor, but also our families, and entire community networks who care for the survivor. We know that survivors of sexual assault and sexual abuse are:

- 4 x more likely to suffer from depression or anxiety
- 13 x more likely to contemplate suicide
- 26 x more likely to abuse alcohol or drugs – a statistic of particular concern given the opioid epidemic in Ohio

Although the statistics bear out a grim picture, I have a message of hope to share with you tonight. Recovery is possible. This community is very fortunate to have a tightly knit group of caring leaders and providers that are already working to help survivors. They have warmly welcomed us into the support network here, starting all the way back in 2014, when we were invited into the community by our partners at HomeSafe. Sherri Price, Executive Director, recognized the need for rape crisis services and the gap regarding those services, in the

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social service structure at the time. In 2014, we began quietly providing part-time, therapeutic service, out of the shelter. And our therapist's schedule was full.

In 2016 we took the opportunity to assess the extent of the need for rape crisis services in Ashtabula County, as our anecdotal experience was telling us we were only scratching the surface. We worked with the Center for Community Solutions, a regional nonpartisan think tank focused on identifying solutions to health, social and economic issues, to tap into the knowledge and expertise of the leaders and providers, often one in the same, in Ashtabula. We surveyed Ashtabula County residents and we utilized focus groups to get input from the clients we had already served in this community. While we have stats from the CDC on the frequency of rape, we wanted to hear from the actual residents – was this happening here?

Our gut feelings were confirmed, there was and is great need. The results of the assessment also indicated that our previous location in Ashtabula was a barrier to being aware of and accessing healing services for survivors of sexual assault.

Survivors already face huge barriers to reporting what happened to them. Some feel ashamed. Some are afraid they will not be believed. Some are afraid of their perpetrator retaliating, or like in many cases of sexual violence the perpetrator is someone who provides for their basic needs, they know them, they trusted them. Considering these obstacles, geographic location should not be one of those barriers.

And as of July, 2017, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center Ashtabula is now highly visible, and more readily accessible, at 5021 State Road, two doors down from the Lunch Box.

Out of this space, my amazing colleagues, and our mighty force of volunteer advocates, work 24/7 to reduce barriers for survivors getting help. We work, with fearlessness, and dogged persistence, to reduce the stigma associated with rape and sexual abuse. We train our first responders on trauma-informed techniques, and we challenge ourselves to stay on the cutting edge of what is known about trauma and trauma treatment. This philosophy of empowerment and growth informs all of our service; legal advocacy to help survivor's navigate their legal options and the justice system if that is what they choose, therapy to support safety and holistic healing and 24 hours services, so that at any time of day, any day of the week, there is someone there to take the call, the text or accept a chat online when a survivor needs someone to speak to.

In our meetings with other Ashtabula providers, we have found a wealth of energy and collaborative excitement. Ashtabulans care deeply for their neighbors and clients, and have built an amazing foundation of nurturing for CRCC to grow from.

It takes incredible courage for someone to face the feelings and fears that come from surviving sexual trauma, to walk through our door and say "I need help." We are grateful to each and every person that trusts us with this very personal care. Survivors deserve our best. No matter how long ago you were harmed, At Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, we welcome you. Many of the clients that make it through our door experienced assault decades ago. We want all survivors to know: you are not alone, and you can recover and lead a healthy and happy life.

Please know that our doors are always open to questions and or suggestions about how to meet the needs of the people of Ashtabula. If you did not have the opportunity to join us for our Open House event in September, I invite you to come visit us! Come see our space, and learn more about the work our team is doing with the support of Ashtabula's caretakers, and of course survivors themselves.

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I would like to close by saying say thank you, to President Misener, Vice President McClure, the members of City Council, and the, members of the Ashtabula community, for inviting me here tonight and for joining us in the fight against sexual violence, and for the health and happiness of our neighbors, our loved ones.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

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