

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, July 6, 2015

The City Council met in a **PUBLIC HEARING**. The President of Council called the hearing to order at 5:53 p.m.

Member(s) Present: Mr. Richard F. Balog (Ward 1)
Mrs. Alice T. Cook (Ward 3)
Mrs. Josephine Misener (Ward 4)
Mr. J. P. Ducro IV (Council President)

Member(s) Absent: Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2)
Mr. Kris E. Hamrick (Ward 5)
Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)

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

Officer(s) Absent: None

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

PURPOSE: The President of Council announced the purpose of this Public Hearing was to present the 2016 Ashtabula City Tax Budget.

WELCOME: The Council President welcomed visitors.

DISCUSSION

The Finance Director reported:

- * In accordance with the Ohio Revised Code, an annual tax budget is required to be submitted to the Ashtabula County Auditor.
- * The tax budget is a municipality's way of requesting property tax revenues based on our valuation.
- * Specific sections of the tax budget were detailed.

- * The Senior Center and Police Levy monies are in separate accounts.
- * Our General Fund's projected unencumbered balance for the end of 2016 is \$13,000. "That tells me that when we do our actual budget appropriations we're probably going to have to make some changes and decrease expenditures, if we don't have a projection of more revenues. So, that's something for Council to use as a guide when they look at the budget we present in October."
- * The County also requires a breakdown of the funds which do not get any of the property tax revenue (e.g., Special Revenue, Debt Service, Capital, Special Assessments, Enterprise, Internal Service, and Trust and Agency Funds). They use this information to breakdown our annual revenue estimates.
- * Projected Permanent Improvements and our Debt Schedule is also a part of the tax budget.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATION QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS

The Ward 4 Councilor asked if the projected General Fund ending balance can translate into layoffs. The Finance Director said she would not say so at this time.

The Ward 4 Councilor asked if Police Levy revenues are on target. The Finance Director responded the projected balance is more than we started with this year because not all hires are on board. As the revenue comes in they are placed in the Police Levy Fund and remain there until expended on approved expenses.

The Ward 4 Councilor asked if the Police Levy hires have been filled. The City Manager reported:

(2) dispatches were hired

(1) officer was hired

(1) officer made it through the academy, and we are waiting for him to take the state test for certification, then he can be hired.

The City Manager reported the initial Civil Service Commission list was exhausted. Another test was just administered. Twenty-eight (28) signed up to take the test; twenty (22) showed up; eighteen (18) passed, and now have to take the physical agility test. After the interview process, we will be able to hire off the new Civil Service Commission list. If candidates are able to be hired from the list, they can be on staff 'in the next few months'. The City Manager said applicants who just sat for the test had to already be enrolled in an academy, which saves the City time and money.

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PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS - None

CLOSING REMARKS

The President announced that, by law, no formal action may be taken at a public hearing. The ordinance enacting the tax budget will be placed on a Regular Council meeting agenda for consideration.

ADJOURN: The Council President adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m.; motion CARRIED.

DATE APPROVED: August 3, 2015

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

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