

**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, December 15, 2014

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, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Josephine Misener	(Ward 4 Councilor)
Mr. Richard F. Balog	(Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. August A. Pugliese	(Ward 2 Councilor)
Mrs. Alice T. Cook	(Ward 3 Councilor)
Mr. J. P. Ducro IV	(President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

Mr. Kris E. Hamrick	(Ward 5 Councilor)
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)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT:

Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC	(Clerk of Council)
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EXCUSED ABSENCE: Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to excuse the Ward 5 Councilor and the Vice President from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

SUNSHINE LAW: Sunshine Law requirements were met.

PRESENTATIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING: N/A

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Finance Director presented the November 17 and December 1, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes for disposal. 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

The Finance Director presented the following legislation for City Council's consideration:

ORDINANCE

2014-190 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY FOR A COMMUNITY ALLOCATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$85,000. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2014-191 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY (for a Bridge Street Parking Lot)
(City Manager)

RESOLUTION

2014-192 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE DONATION OF THE MAIN STREET CLOCK BY ANDERSON JEWELERS LLC, BRUCE C. ANDERSON AND DEBRA J. ANDERSON TO THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, AND EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FOR THIS GIFT. (City Manager)

Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the reading of the above Consent Agenda Legislation; motion CARRIED. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the Charter Requirement of two readings of the above Consent Agenda Legislation.

At the request of the President, the City Manager provided an explanation of the above legislation. The Manager said a few properties have been identified on Tod Avenue off of Lake Avenue and on West Avenue for demolition with the Allocation Grant funding (Ordinance No. 2014-190). Which ones are actually razed will depend on asbestos quotes. The Manager expressed his sincere appreciation to the Anderson Family for the clock donation. The City's responsibility will be to make sure the clock remains in working order. The Manager said he is going to begin putting a fundraising campaign together to help with the repairs and the clock's future needs in order to maintain the clock's legacy in the City. The Manager thanked Mr. Michael DeFina, owner of DeFina's home store on Bridge Street, who helped obtain an appraisal on the clock. The Manager also thanked the gentleman who performed the appraisal pro bono.

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

(END OF CONSENT AGENDA)

REGULAR AGENDA

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES – None

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Perram Electric Inc., Change Order No. 1 – Traffic Signal Project

The City Manager requested an ordinance to execute Change Order No. 1. With Perram Electric Inc., of 6882 Ridge Road, Wadsworth, OH 44281, for the purpose of making changes to the work resulting in a non-performance amount of \$6,451.93. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded, to grant the City Manager’s request. The Manager reported some items were substituted out for less expensive materials. Also, one of the requirements was to hire a system analyst to sink lights (\$11,500), per the Ohio Department of Development contract. However, because many of “the lights are not interconnected and are not redundant down the road”, the analyst is not needed. The motion CARRIED.

Holiday Greetings

The City Manager wished everyone happy and safe holidays; and wished enjoyable times with friends and family.

Questions/Comments for the City Manager

2014 Paving Project: The Ward 2 Councilor asked if streets will be striped now that this year’s paving is completed. The City Manager confirmed all roads that were opened for paving have been paved. He said quite a bit of paving progress was made and that he hopes it is noticeable. He reported striping is included in the contract and will be performed once the roads are dried out. He asked that motorists try and avoid going across freshly striped lanes.

Missing Urban Meyer Sign: The Ward 2 Councilor reported another sign is missing from the north section area of West 9th Street. He asked that the person(s) who ‘used it or borrowed it’ would return it. It is a sign dedicated to one of the great coaches of Ohio State University, who is a former Ashtabula County resident. He said they are expensive to replace, and pleaded for its return to the Public Works Department – no questions asked.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT - None

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Formal Legislation Request

The Finance Director formally requested ORDINANCE 2014-193 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, FOOD SERVICE, PUBLIC WORKS, INIDIGENT ALCOHOL TREATMENT, SANITATION POLICE PENSION, RECYCLING GRANT, CDBG, AND PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014. The President asked how much the budget changes throughout the year due to supplemental appropriation requests. The Finance Director explained that an increase represents a change, while a transfer is when funds are taken from one account and placed into another account. There has only been one major increase earlier in the year. Tonight's request is a substantial reduction due to the street project balance and CDBG grant funds that were not used this year, but will be part of next year's budget. So this will 'shore this up to our actuals, and is going to be an actual net increase to the General Fund. The Finance Director said the increase is for \$100,000, and is the first big increase to the General Fund this year. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the Finance Director's request; motion CARRIED.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

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

The Chair reported on the Committee's Monday, December 8 meeting, as follows:

FirstEnergy (FE) representatives Ms. Wendy Zele, and Mr. Marty Kuula discussed their company's economic development goals. One thinks of the electric company as a firm which provides and restores electricity. However, they have become a real global economic tool due to deregulation. It has changed the way they do business.

They have a PowerPoint presentation called Electricity 101 to help customers understand the nature of FE's business and what FE can do for the customer.

Another of FE's economic development tools is called FirstProspector. It is a 'sites and buildings database' used by real estate agents and consultants to help their clients' expansion efforts and location prospects. It is limited to buildings of 50,000 (plus) square feet or sites with at least 10 acres. This limits the City of Ashtabula's listings in the database.

IMPACTFactor+ is another FE economic development program. It provides a prospective client the economic impact they would have if they located in an area.

It includes taxes, real estate, utilities, income, number of persons currently employed, incentives, and the indirect impact they would have, including spin-off economic development opportunities that could develop.

Star Beacon Newspaper: Mr. Matt Hutton, the new Star Beacon Editor, shared his background. He is a graduate of Ohio University, and has been a newspaper editor in Illinois and Indiana. He pledges to produce in-depth articles, be fair, and hopes to showcase our community in a good light. He is a Ward 4 City resident.

Parks & Recreation Board Amendments: Codified Ordinance Section 174.05 states the Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month unless a majority of the Board shall vote to designate another date or time. The suggested change is 'to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at a time designated by the Board the last month of the preceding year.' It was also suggested the method of announcing meetings be changed from 'in writing' to 'via email'. Notices will continue to be given to the Clerk of Council, and will also now be given to the City Manager's Executive Assistance. The committee approved the above three (3) changes and the Chair moved to present changes to the full Council for a vote; Mr. Balog seconded; motion CARRIED.

Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA): Mr. Rick Coblitz provided an update on gathering information needed in order to submit a Main Avenue Streetscape grant application next spring. The Chair said her biggest concern is that the interest and momentum that has been generated for the Streetscape project could dwindle if the application is not submitted in the spring. However, she knows the City Manager is working with our Planning and Community Development Department to gather the necessary information.

Parks & Recreation Board: The Board met last Tuesday and discussed the following:

Clifford Kadon Presidential Park

Sale of Property: The Board Chair brought before his Board the suggestion that the My Neighborhood group be approached about purchasing the Park. The topic was discussed, but was tabled because not all the information needed to make an informed decision was provided. It was, therefore, thought not to be a good idea at this time.

Park Layout Plan: The Board Chair presented a proposed park layout plan. The Board approved it. It will be given to this committee in January.

Park Usage Survey: The Board Chair authored the survey. He will organize the results and give them to this committee by next month. Another survey will be authored and issued to the public to get their thoughts on how our parks should be funded. This committee's Chair reported none of our residents' park levy tax dollars go to Ashtabula City parks. Those tax dollars pay for Lakeshore Park and Saybrook Township Park. The new MetroParks Levy which was just passed in May is for 'metroparks', not Ashtabula City parks.

Holiday Greetings: The Chair wished everyone a Merry Christmas. She said she is proud of the tasteful light displays of East 42nd Street (east of State Road). She commended residents for doing a spectacular job, and said the displays are uplifting when she returns home after a long, hard day.

Finance and Personnel - (Mr. Ducro IV/Mr. Balog): The Chair reported on the committee's Friday, December 12 meeting, as follows:

Year-to-Date Financials: The budget is tight but in good shape entering into the end of the year.

Supplemental Appropriations: The Finance Director presented a supplemental appropriation ordinance request, which was approved during the Finance Director's report this evening.

Proposed Bed Tax Legislation: The proposed legislation was discussed and will be discussed again in January.

Commercial Dumpster Billing: The committee discussed possible modifications to commercial dumpster billing at the Sanitation Department in order to reflect a true picture of this activity. The modifications will also give customers the opportunity to change their container size to correspond with what they are billed for.

Police Levy Staffing: Additional staffing will take place the first of 2015. Three of the five police cruisers have been received. It is anticipated that in early January the five new officers will be on the road. Two new dispatchers are ready to be hired shortly. The Manager concurred with this report.

Miscellaneous Items: "There was discussion on the supplemental income tax that will affect our municipality in 2016 with a 'loss carryover' provision that will have a potential to possibly reduce our annual income tax revenues. We will continue to monitor this activity at the State level in order to plan for the 2016 budget."

Public Works/Utilities/Schools – (Mr. McClure/Mr. Pugliese): The Vice Chair reported the committee did not meet this month. A meeting is planned for Friday, January 2, at 8:00 a.m.

Safety Forces – (Mr. Balog/Mrs. Misener): The Chair reported the committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, at 4:00 p.m., in the Municipal Building 2nd floor conference room.

Work Session – No Session/No Report

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS - None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Regular Agenda Legislation Only) - None

CONSENT AGENDA DISPOSAL: N/A

LEGISLATION READING

The Finance Director presented the following legislation for Council's consideration:

ORDINANCE

2014-193 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, FOOD SERVICE, PUBLIC WORKS, INIDIGENT ALCOHOL TREATMENT, SANITATION POLICE PENSION, RECYCLING GRANT, CDBG, AND PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

MISCELLANEOUS

Holiday Greetings: The President wished everyone a happy and safe holiday, and asked that residents try and shop locally. He urged a visit to Lance CPL Kevin M. Cornelius Park to see the decorated trees. He echoed the Ward 4 Councilor's sentiments to enjoy the neighborhood lights.

The Ward 2 Councilor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and health New Year; and asked that everyone 'be careful'.

Garbage Pickup: The City Manager announced garbage pickup will not take place on Christmas or New Years Day; therefore pick up will be delayed one day for two weeks.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING: N/A

ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION: N/A

CLOSING REMARKS

Tag Line: The President asked to “Remember to Keep Believing in Ashtabula”

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to adjourn the meeting.

DATE APPROVED: January 5, 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