

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

**Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 8, 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):** The Ward 1 Councilor offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	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. Richard F. Balog	(Ward 1 Councilor)
	Mr. Christopher J. McClure	(Vice President)
	Mr. J. P. Ducro IV	(President)

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** None

<b>OFFICER(S) PRESENT:</b>	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):** None

**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** - None

**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**

The Clerk of Council presented the August 3, 2015, Regular Council 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.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **2015 Rock Salt**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Compass Minerals America, Inc., of 9900 West 109<sup>th</sup> Street, Overland Park, KS 66210, for the purchase of rock salt in the amount not to exceed \$64.95/ton per dump, \$68.95/ton per piler deliver, or \$62.65 per pick up, for a period of one year. Funding for this expenditure is authorized to be taken from fund numbers 206, 209, and 219. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

#### **Natural Gas Supplier for City Accounts**

The City Manager requested permission to enter into an agreement with Interstate Gas Supply, Inc., 6100 Emerald Parkway, Dublin, OH 43016-3248, for the City of Ashtabula's natural gas supply for the period of September 2015 through August 2016, at a rate not to exceed \$2.99 per million cubic feet delivered at burner tip. Payment is authorized to be paid from those accounts currently utilized for payment of utilities supplied to City buildings and uses. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

#### **Parks & Recreation Board**

The City Manager reappointed Mr. Earl Tucker to the City's Parks & Recreation Board for a term to expire on May 21, 2018. Mrs. Misener moved, Mrs. Cook seconded the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

### **Garbage Pick Up**

The City Manager announced that due to yesterday's observance of the Labor Day Holiday, garbage pickup will be delayed one day this week. Friday's pick up will take place Saturday.

### **Projects**

The City Manager reported that Paving and Traffic Signalization projects are in the wrap-up stage. The Waste Water Treatment Plant project is on-going. The Hulbert Hill rebricking project is completed and looks great. The new Bridge Street parking lot is getting much use. The Point Park Stairs Project will begin shortly.

### **Questions and Comments for the City Manager**

**Handicapped Parking – Bridge Street Parking Lot:** The President asked if there is a timeline for increasing the handicapped parking in the new Bridge Street parking lot. The City Manager replied that no timeframe has been set, and that it is simply a matter of getting them painted.

**Paving:** The President asked if Harbor Avenue, by the Country Club Retirement Center, will be paved this year. The Manager said yes, that the contractor is waiting to fit it into their schedule.

**Yard Waste Bag Pickup:** The Ward 4 Councilor said she sees yard waste bags on treelawns and asked when the City's yard waste bag pickup will commence. The Manager said October 5, and that pick up will begin in the Harbor.

**Tree Trimming:** The President reported receiving a call about the trees hanging low and impeding motorist visibility on the northwest corner of West 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Ohio Avenue.

### **CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT - No Report**

### **Questions and Comments for the City Solicitor - None**

### **FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Personnel:** The Finance Director reported two key employees will be leaving her office. One is retiring; the other is taking another position.

**Budget:** The Finance Director announced that the 2016 budget process has begun.

### **Questions and Comments for the Finance Director**

**Personnel:** The President said Mrs. Tina Kray's many years of service in our Income Tax Department are "very much appreciated". He thanked Mrs. Traci Welch for her service to the City, especially the Finance Department, and "wished her well in her future opportunities".

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

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

The Chair announced the committee will meet tomorrow at 4:00 p.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

**Parks & Recreation:** The Chair announced the Parks & Recreation Board will also meet tomorrow at 6:30 p.m., in the Pre Council Chambers

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room. Topics will include the 2016 City budget, projected 2015 year end budget, and Finance Department personnel.

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

The Chair announced the committee will meet on Friday, October 2, at 8:00 a.m. in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

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

The Chair announced the committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, September 28, at 4:00 p.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

**Questions and Comments for Safety Forces Committee**

**Police Entrance Examination:** The President asked for an update on police hires with Police Levy funds. The Manager reported the Civil Service Commission certified the list of applicants at their last meeting, and that background checks are presently being conducted.

**Work Session** - None

**FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS**

The President entertained a motion to formally request AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CONTRACT WITH SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP, OHIO, KNOWN AS "SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP JEDD II". Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Balog seconded the request; motion CARRIED.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** (Regular Agenda Legislation Only)

The President announced the legislation to be considered this evening. There were no public comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA DISPOSAL**

The President entertained a motion to dispose of the regular business agenda in a consent agenda format. Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Balog seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

**LEGISLATION READING**

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

ORDINANCE

2015-104 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO THE JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CONTRACT WITH SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP, OHIO, KNOWN AS "SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP JEDD II".  
(City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-105 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH INTERSTATE GAS SUPPLY (IGS), INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THE CITY OF ASHTABULA WITH NATURAL GAS THROUGH AUGUST, 2016.  
(City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-106 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA, INC. FOR PURCHASE OF ROCK SALT FOR WINTER ROAD DE-ICING PURPOSES. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-107 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 501.99 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING AMENDED PENALTIES AND SENTENCING GUIDELINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA CODIFIED ORDINANCES. (City Solicitor)

ORDINANCE

2015-108 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 501.99 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AMENDED PENALTIES AND SENTENCING GUIDELINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA CODIFIED ORDINANCES.  
(City Solicitor)

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. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution:** The President requested a resolution of appreciation for Pastor Doug Wright, of First Baptist, located on Park Avenue in Downtown Ashtabula. He is retiring and moving away from the area. He has been an avid City and Council supporter, and has offered the prayer at Regular Council Meetings for a few years. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded the request; motion CARRIED.

**City Boards & Commissions:** The President announced there are vacancies on the City's Boards and Commissions. He asked that the Star Beacon and Gazette newspapers help get the word out of said vacancies, and said that anyone interested in serving may complete a Notice of Interest to Serve Application, which may be found on the City's website ([www.cityofashtabula.com](http://www.cityofashtabula.com)). Also on the website is the Boards & Commission Roster. It lists all the committees, the appointing authority, the term limits, the current members, and the current vacancies. The President said submitting an application does not automatically constitute an appointment. If an applicant is not appointed their application will remain on file and may be considered at a later time. The President invited interested persons to contact the Clerk of Council for assistance.

The Vice President noted that City Council and the City Manager have separate appointments, that applications will be reviewed by the appointing authority, but that all applications should be submitted to the Clerk of Council who will forward them to the appropriate person(s).

The Ward 4 Councilor suggested placing a deadline on application submissions. The President set a deadline of September 30. The Clerk of Council reported the applications are kept on file, noted that the ones presently on file are 2 years or older, suggested that the information on those applications may have changed, and urged past applicants to an updated application. She lastly noted that the applications do have a retention period and may be destroyed after approval to do so is granted.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Ward 5 Neighborhood Watch:** The President congratulated the Ward 5 Neighborhood Watch group for having a nice, well attended event this weekend at Clifford Kadon President Park (CKPP). He thanked those who participated, which included the Ashtabula City Fire and Police Departments, the Legion Motorcycle Riders, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations, and the City's Finance Director and Accounting Clerk, Trisha Patton, who volunteered to have cream pies thrown in their face, for a good cause. (Note: The President was a 'pie in the face' recipient also). The President said it was fun, and nice to see the neighborhood come together, and thanked the Ward 5 Councilor for his part.

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

**Mr. Ed Drum, 5025 Dunsmore Avenue:** reported he has called the City Manager and has spoken with the City Solicitor and Council President regarding an Aqua Ohio water company road cut which has left a huge speed bump in the road, which children are using as "a motorcycle jump ramp". He said Dunsmore Avenue residents would like to know when the road will be repaired.

He said buses are slowing to a crawl in order to traverse the road cut. Mr. Drum said he visited Aqua's office on North Bend Road in Saybrook and found they no longer occupy the facility.

The President reported they moved to the City's Route 11 Industrial Park, that he has not received an update from Aqua about the road, but knows it has been reported.

The City Manager said the last report he received from Aqua was on August 7, when they were going to the site to assess the cut. He has not heard anything since but will, "again", try to follow up tomorrow.

The Public Works/Utilities/Schools Committee Chair asked the Clerk of Council to place this citizen concern on his October 2 committee agenda.

**Mrs. Patricia Blum, 1540 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street:** reported another empty house is on her road. She asked what is planned for the vacant structure and offered to purchase the property and personally have it razed.

Mrs. Blum asked how many roads are partly located in the City of Ashtabula and partly in a township, such as Maruba Avenue (by Lakeshore Park). She reported receiving that the road is in bad shape. The City Manager said there are not many, but do exist on the outskirts of all City wards. She asked who plows them. The Manager said the municipality in which the road is located is responsible for the road. The President reported recently receiving a complaint from a Maruba Avenue resident that the road has not been touched, patched, or paved for a long time – and that it is the only road in the Lakeshore Park area that has not received attention. He said the resident believes the 'hang up' is the fact that the road is in two political subdivisions. The President said the City Manager spoke of alternatives to addressing roads that are less travelled, and believes by working with Ashtabula Township may be accomplished "in the next year or so". He noted it was his intention to report the call he received to the City Manager, and thanked Mrs. Blum for addressing it.

Mrs. Blum reported receiving a call from a West 40<sup>th</sup> Street neighbor who reported he found a seven foot boa constrictor snake loose in the neighborhood. She asked if there is an ordinance prohibiting such animals. The City Solicitor reported the City's Codified Ordinance Section 505.15 titled, Dangerous and Exotic Animals, prohibits such type snakes from being housed in the City.

Mrs. Blum reiterated that she would like the City to enforce the snow parking ban, this winter, when snow exceeds 3 inches, as it relates to Lake City Plating's parking habits during the ban.

**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 Monday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m.; Pre-Council at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: September 21, 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