

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO

4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Regular Meeting

Monday, September 21, 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:

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. August A. Pugliese	(Ward 2 Councilor)
Mr. Christopher J. McClure	(Vice President)
Mr. J. P. Ducro IV	(President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

OFFICER(S) PRESENT:

Mr. Michael Franklin	(City Solicitor)
Mrs. Dana D. Pinkert	(Finance Director)
Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC	(Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: Mr. James M. Timonere (City Manager)

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): None

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

PRESENTATION(S):

The President entertained a motion to adopt the following resolution and then presented it to Pastor Doug Wright. Mr. McClure moved, Mrs. Cook seconded the adoption, motion CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-109

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND CONGRATULATIONS
TO
PASTOR DOUGLAS L. WRIGHT**

WHEREAS, it is with honor that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio give special recognition to Pastor Douglas L. Wright; and,

WHEREAS, Pastor Wright is retiring after serving 11 years as pastor of First Baptist Church, located at 4353 Park Avenue, in Downtown Ashtabula, Ohio; and,

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WHEREAS, Pastor Wright has been active in the Ashtabula community with membership on the Ashtabula County Medical Center (A.C.M.C.) Community Advisory Board and the Samaritan House Board of Directors. He also assisted Council President J.P. Ducro IV, and others, in organizing 9/11 Remembrance Walks and hosted the ten (10) year anniversary of 9/11, at First Baptist Church; and,

WHEREAS, Pastor Wright has been a frequent audience member at the Ashtabula City Regular Council meetings, and for the past few years has lead the City Council, City Administration, visitors, and television viewing audience in the opening prayer at the said meeting; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, show our deep appreciation to Pastor Douglas L. Wright for being a friend of the Ashtabula City community. We sincerely congratulate him on reaching one of life's milestones - a retirement, and bid him "Godspeed".

ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST: _____

J.P. Ducro IV
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____

Christopher J. McClure
VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Richard F. Balog
WARD 1 COUNCILOR

August A. Pugliese
WARD 2 COUNCILOR

Alice T. Cook
WARD 3 COUNCILOR

Josephine Misener
WARD 4 COUNCILOR

Kris E. Hamrick
WARD 5 COUNCILOR

James M. Timonere
CITY MANAGER

Michael Franklin
CITY SOLICITOR

Dana P. Pinkert
FINANCE DIRECTOR

Pastor Wright commented, "First I thank all my church members for being here. They wanted to hear part 2 of yesterday's sermon, I think. I appreciate this very much. I've always, as a pastor, encouraged my church members to pray for the leaders – national, state, and local. A few years ago I was kind of convicted and said what am I personally doing on that behalf. And, that's what motivated me to come here. It's been an honor to sit here and meet with you, and pray for you, and lift you up, and pray for our city too. And, it's a reminder that God does care for Ashtabula and He cares for every one of you. I appreciate this honor. And, I was just thinking, as I look at these names, they represent officers of our

church and city council members, but to me they represent friends. And, so I thank you very much for this”.

Mrs. Julie Lattimer, 1115 Walnut Boulevard, former Ward 4 Councilor and church member commented, “I just want to say that being on city council I really appreciated having somebody there to pray for us during the meetings and to be a spiritual leader and guidance for us as we make decisions for the city and the residents. So, I want to thank pastor. I thanked him, but I want to thank him publically”.

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:

- September 8, 2015 Public Hearing
- September 8, 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

On the City Manager’s behalf, the Council President presented the following requests:

Union Industrial Contractors CO No. 1 – Point Park Stairway Project – PID 95400

A request for an ordinance to execute Change Order No. 1 for Union Industrial Contractors of 1800 East 21st Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004 for the purpose of a revised retaining wall design for the Point Park Stairway project in the amount not to exceed \$9,120.00. Funds for this expenditure will be taken from Fund 412. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager’s request; motion CARRIED.

United Survey CO No. 2 – West Harbor Sewer Improvement Project Phase II

A request for an ordinance to execute Change Order No. 2 for United Survey of 25145 Broadway, Cleveland, OH 44146 for the purpose of providing additional siphon underwater repair in the amount not to exceed \$73,105.74. Funds for this expenditure will be paid as part of the current Ohio Public Works Commission funding Round 29. The City portion of this will be taken from Fund 503. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager’s request; motion CARRIED.

Cleveland Industrial Recycling Inc. – Demolition and Asbestos Abatement

A request for an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Cleveland Industrial Recycling Inc., of 3325 Middle Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004 for the demolition and asbestos abatement of two structures in the amount not to exceed \$48,000. Funds for this expenditure will be taken from Fund 290; 2014 CDBG Allocation grant. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager’s request; motion CARRIED.

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Waiver Request

A request for legislation to submit a waiver request to the Ohio Development Services Agency for the use of Economic Development Revolving Loan Funds in the amount of \$15,000.00 to cover costs associated with the Point Park Stair project as part of the City’s contribution for the funding. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager’s request; motion CARRIED.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Round 30 Application

A request for an ordinance to file an application with and execute documents for the OPWC Round 30 funding application in the amount not to exceed \$300,400.00 of which is a 51/49 split between the City and OPWC. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager’s request; motion CARRIED.

Administrative Board Appointment

Mr. James Trisket is hereby appointed to the Administrative Board effective immediately with a term to expire on December 7, 2019. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded, to approve the City Manager’s appointment; motion CARRIED.

Ashtabula Lions Club Rose Sale - Temporary Store Fee Waiver

A request for a waiver of the Temporary Stores fee for the Ashtabula Lions Club for their annual rose sale. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager’s request; motion CARRIED.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT - No Report

Questions and Comments for the City Solicitor

The President asked the Solicitor to report on last week's Municipal Court Amnesty Day. The Solicitor reported it was held on Wednesday, September 16, from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. He said while he is unsure of the number of persons that were seen he believes the turnout and the revenue garnered was consistent with previous such days. The President asked the Solicitor if he would provide more details at the next regular council meeting. He said he would ask Judge DiGiacomo if someone in her office may do so.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – No Report

Questions and Comments for the Finance Director

Budget: The President asked how the 2016 City Budget process is going. The Director responded, the departments were issued their budget packets, which are due to the City Manager by mid-October.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

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

The Chair reported on the committee's September 9, meeting, as follows:

Proposed Legislation

Donation Bins: The committee was ready to bring legislation to the floor, this evening, for a vote. However, this evening's Pre-Council meeting discussion resulted in the legislation being referred to the City Solicitor in order to changes in the way in which the permits will be handled.

The Chair moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to "formally request" the donation bin legislation; motion CARRIED.

The Chair moved, Mr. Balog seconded to remove the donation bin legislation from this evening's agenda, for the purpose of modifying the language; motion CARRIED.

Zoning Fees: Early in the year former Planning and Community Development Department Director Luciana Ratermann presented the committee with suggested fee changes, which have not been acted upon. *(The Director's employment with the City ended prior to her submission of adjusted fee changes for the committee's review.)* The Clerk of Council provided the committee with the City of Powell's fee schedule pamphlet. It is user-friendly, and puts all their services and associated fees in one place.

Because the City Manager does not believe new fees need to be enacted right away, and because he and the committee would like to see a fee pamphlet created, this project has been placed on hold. In early spring the Clerk of Council would like to update the City's codification and would like the new fee schedule included.

New Year's Lift Bridge Drop: The City Manager expressed a concern with having a large number of people in a small area due to the adverse affect some Bridge Street merchants believe it would have on their business. The City Manager will schedule a second meeting with the persons who first met, including Mr. Bill Harpst who pitched the idea, to determine if the event should take place.

Main Avenue Clock: The City Manager told the committee a New York clock company will be in town to look at the clock that was given to the City by the owners of the former Andersen Jewelers. The company will see what is needed to restore the clock and to move it to the southern part of Main Avenue.

Parks & Recreation Board

The Chair reported on the Board's Wednesday, September 9, meeting as follows:

Picnic Tables: The city has acquired picnic tables that need to be refurbished. Board member Richard Quaranta has a contact at Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus (A-Tech) and will see if they are able to assist with this need, after the City Manager provides the table's dimensions.

Service Awards: The Board would like to hand out service awards to folks who have worked hard in our parks. They will be presented to Council for approval.

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

The Chair reported on the committee's Friday, September 11, meeting, as follows:

Financials: The property tax (PT) revenue, year-to-date, was lower than expected, and is expected to come in lower than estimated. Our income tax revenue is slightly higher than projected, and we are confident it will make up for the PT shortfall.

Street Lighting Assessments: We will inquiry why the County is charging to collect street lighting assessment fees.

Legislation Requests

Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance Request: The Chair reported the committee approved the Finance Director's request for legislation authorizing supplemental appropriations in the General and Sanitation Funds. He presented the request to the full council for consideration. Mr. Balog moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the supplemental appropriation request; motion CARRIED. At the request of the Chair the Finance Director provided a brief description of the changes.

Purchasing Card Agreement: The Finance Director requested the committee have legislation drafted to authorize the purchase card agreement. The Chair entertained a motion to implement a City purchasing card program. Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Balog seconded to grant the request. The Finance Director reported the motion should be to designate Huntington Bank as the provider for the purchasing card program for the City. Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Balog seconded to grant the request, as amended. The Vice President asked if signature cards need to be updated in light of the Finance Department personnel changes. The Finance Director reported it has been taken care of. The President said the purchasing card program is not dependent upon nor has any correlation with our depository institution – they just happen to be two local banks. The Finance Director concurred. The motion CARRIED.

Personnel: Last Friday was Assistant Finance Director Traci Welch’s last day with the City in order to become the Finance Director for the City of Geneva. “We were very sad to see her go, but very happy that she had a great opportunity. We certainly wish Traci well in her future endeavors and thank her for all the years of service that she gave to the City of Ashtabula. We appreciate it very much, Traci, and good luck to you.”

Planning & Community Development Department: The City Manager spoke a bit about having to make some final decisions on what is going to happen in this department with the departure of the department’s director. There are a couple different directions this could go and the Manager is weighing his options. The department has a lot of grant administration to do for the year ahead and want to be prepared in order to keep up.

Engineering Needs: The Ward 2 Councilor said the City’s ‘engineering’ needs seriously need to be addressed. He said we should look into returning some of the ‘engineering’ functions to the City from the County and hiring more ‘engineering’ help in the Planning and Community Development Department. The City Manager told the committee he would give it consideration.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Shawn Gruber told the committee he has been in the Chief’s position for six months, and that they are, again, fully staffed.

Questions and Comments for Finance & Personnel Committee

Property Tax Revenue: The Ward 4 Councilor asked if property tax revenue has come in lower than projected because payments are not being made. The Finance Director responded, “Our valuation went down”. The Councilor noted a revaluation was just conducted the Finance Director confirmed this to be correct. She said she was unaware of it during budget time, was not expecting it, and that once the valuation was completed she expected property tax revenue to come in less but had to wait until August to determine just how much less.

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

The Chair announced he has reviewed the committee's agenda items roster, and if it is Council's pleasure he will hold the meeting, but did not see a need to do so.

West 51st Street "No Parking" Request: The Chair asked the Ward 5 Councilor if he was able to speak with the resident who requested no parking on West 51st Street, as he agreed to do. The Chair then noted that because there has been no report back, coupled with Police Chief Robert Stell's review of the request and recommendation not to grant it, he believes it is a dead issue, at this time. The Ward 5 Councilor agreed, said he has made several trips to the area, and that he believes the only issue is "they are not used to the heavy truck traffic", which is not constant. The President asked who will notify the resident who made the initial request. The Ward 5 Councilor agreed to do so.

Dunsmore Avenue Unrepaired Street Cut: The Chair reported the Manager was going to speak with Aqua OH regarding the unrepaired street cut. Having received no response, to date, he will follow up with the Manager tomorrow.

Meeting Cancellation: The Chair notified the Clerk of Council the committee will not meet on Friday, October 2, at 8:00 a.m.

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 2nd Floor Conference Room, however he continues to seek agenda items to discuss. If no items are presented he will instruct the Clerk of Council to cancel the meeting.

Questions and Comments for Safety Forces Committee

Police Officer Hires (with Police Levy Revenues): The President reported there was a nice article in the Star Beacon newspaper regarding the process for hiring additional police officers. Background checks and evaluations of the candidates are being conducted. He asked if there are four positions still to hire; the committee chair believes that to be the correct number. There has been three new hires, so far, one of which has already left the City's employ.

Work Session - None

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS

The President entertained a motion to formally request A RESOLUTION OF CONGRATULATIONS TO MOTHER OF SORROWS CHURCH (125TH year anniversary). Mr. Balog moved, Mr. McClure seconded the request; motion CARRIED.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Regular Agenda Legislation Only)

The President announced the legislation for Council's consideration 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. Balog moved, Mr. McClure seconded to grant the request; motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING

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

RESOLUTION

2015-110A RESOLUTION OF CONGRATULATIONS TO MOTHER OF SORROWS CHURCH.
(125th year anniversary). (Council President)

ORDINANCE

2015-111 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT WITH UNION INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$9,120, FOR THE HARBOR STREETScape PROJECT PHASE TWO – POINT PARK STAIRS. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-112 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL AND SANITATION 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, Mr. McClure seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED. Mr. Balog moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Balog, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mother of Sorrows Church 125th Year Anniversary: The President announced the celebration is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, that the church is now a part of the newly formed Our Lady of Peace Parish, and that the event will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Community Center. Tickets are available through the Parish office at 992-0330. Father McQueen will be speaking.

St John Football Venue: The Ward 2 Councilor reported he attended a football game at Edgewood Warriors Stadium, and noted his wife attended Edgewood High School. He said it brought back memories of the crowds we used to have at City school football games, and how that people are missing the opportunity to attend such games in the City today. He suggested that perhaps St. John could move their football games from Spire Institute in Geneva to Wenner Field, realizing the owner of the field would have to authorize its use, and that there might be at a cost. The Councilor said "I think that we would have a great turnout. I think the people of Ashtabula City are really missing the Friday night football games in the City's limits. I think it would be something that would bring the people back together within our City. Maybe it's something we could possibly look into to see if anything could be done." He said he could not believe the people that were two and three rows deep around the field. The Vice President, whose son is the St. John kicker, said this year they are contracted with Spire Institute, other than that there is no connection, other than that it is a great facility. He said he will speak with St. John's Athletic Director and Coach Dominic Iarocci (retired City employee). The Vice President also said, "The boys practice there all the time (Wenner Field), so it's not like it's not getting used. But, I agreed with you, Augie, I think it would be great to have a Friday night game, on regular grass, in the City. I'm kind of an old school guy too."

City Boards & Commissions: The President issued a reminder that Applications of Interest to serve on a City Board or Commission are due by Wednesday, September 30, and should be submit to the Clerk of Council. Applications will be accepted after the deadline; however preference will be given to those received by the deadline. The application may be downloaded from the city's website (www.cityofashtabula.com), as well as the roster of Boards & Commissions.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Leonard Deneen, 5021 Crystal Avenue:

Mr. Deneen: On the United Survey Change Order No. 2, the West Harbor Street Improvement Project, I looked through the pamphlet (*agenda packet*) and couldn't find anything. What does this cover? I thought there was a Jefferson company hired to do the sealing of the cast iron pipe.

President: This was for the divers.

Vice President: The company out of Jefferson provided the divers.

Mr. Deneen: The change order is an additional \$73,000. The divers were supposed to cost \$9,000.

President: I know they had exceptional complications.

Finance Director: The \$9,000 was the legislation for tonight. The \$73,000 change order is for the repair. As far as the vendor, that I'm not clear on; I'm assuming it was bid out.

Mr. Deneen: The divers were supposed to clean the pipe, patch the pipe, and that should have taken care of the siphon. Unless this is for the insert that goes into the pipe and it's going to be sealed.

Vice President: I think it is.

Mr. Deneen: Are they just going to just go down and weld a patch on there, or are they going to seal the inside of the pipe.

President: What they thought was going to take a few hours, took several days. This is my understanding in talking with the Manager. This evening is the first time I've seen the figure, which is a very large figure; and I appreciate your concern. What all materials they ended up having to replace or fix, or how the final repair got done, I'm not certain – that's something the Manager would have to address. And, as far as this particular company doing something different than what the actual divers did, I don't know specifically what that is. This is a request for legislation, so I don't have the legislation in front of me that would have all the details. This is a request from the Manager to prepare the legislation for us to vote on at the next meeting.

Mr. Deneen: That's the reason I questioned it. I wanted to know if it's just going to be for other divers to go down and weld another patch, because that's what the original one was for, was to seal the pipe on the outside – not to seal the inside because they're going to put a liner in it and seal the inside. I just wanted to know if they're going to go down and weld another patch upon a patch.

Vice President: No, I'm pretty sure it's the lining.

Solicitor: I'm not directly involved, but I've had some conversation with the Manager. Mr. Deneen, it was a lot more than just going down and welding a patch. Several days spent locating the siphon...

Mr. Deneen: Yes, they had to clean everything out.

Solicitor: ... where it was over a dozen feet of sediment. And, then locating it, locating the place that needed to be repaired, repairing it properly – because you know it's a siphon - it's under kind of reverse pressure.

Mr. Deneen: Yes, it was sucking the water in.

Vice President: Correct.

Solicitor: So, I think the original contract was based upon the estimate of what it would take. And, it just turned out the estimate was way, way wrong.

Mr. Deneen: Right! And, whoever did that estimate should be eating the cost, because if the contractor makes a deal he is suppose to take care of that, or his insurance company should be taking care of it. But, it's not even the same company; that's what I was questioning - because the divers were out of Jefferson.

Vice President: I think there are two things going on here. I do think there was a dive and there may have been a survey, and the cost of that was \$9,000; and there might have been a slight repair at that time. The change order is for (???) and replace pipe. That amount does not alarm me because if they were going to do what this company does, which is...

(two persons speaking at once – comments undecipherable)

Vice President: So, that is substantial. So, my thought is (without the Manager being here) the dive assessed it and said this repair is got to be a (???) - it's got to go the length of the line. This is what I think.

Mr. Deneen: The Manager is not here tonight so I can't ask him. But I thought I would ask about it because if you vote on it and approve it, then it's too late.

Vice President: We haven't voted. The legislation is being requested for preparation - correct.

President: Yes; there's no vote on the legislation. We voted to allow the legislation to be drafted for Council to review, and approve or reject.

Ward 2 Councilor: Mr. Deneen, back in 1959, a repair had to be made. A diver went down through the ice. It was a very, very tough underwater repair. I don't recall the estimate or cost (perhaps \$40,000 or \$50,000) but it was very substantial – and that was in 1959. When you run into an unusual repair, you may think it's a small hole you can patch with bubble gum, but when you get down there you find out otherwise. And, that's just what happened in this case. It was something that was really beyond the estimate that had to be taken care of. So, they had to get a specialty company to do the work.

Mr. Deneen: Yes, I understand. I was a welder (not an underwater welder), but I know how the procedure goes. But, the thing is when a company takes a bid and they say they're going to repair it and they don't, and they cast it off to another company... that's all I'm questioning... is this going to be for the insert or is this going to be for another dive to weld another patch.

President: I would feel much more comfortable having Mr. Timonere answer that, or to get directly back to you. But, I'll make sure he knows you asked the question and to be prepared with a detailed explanation.

Mr. Deneen: Alright, thank you.

Mrs. Patricia Blum, 1540 West 17th Street:

West 17th Street during winter: The City Manager said he was going to prohibit parking the full length of West 17th Street. She said one sign reading "No Parking Beyond This Sign" was placed by Lake City Plating. She said when West 17th becomes packed with snow motorists cannot get through the street.

Maruba Avenue: Nothing has been done regarding her report on behalf of Maruba Avenue residents that the road needs to be addressed. She said residents are upset and are considering the placement of their property taxes in escrow until something is done.

High Grass: A property near her home has high grass and the backyard needs to be cleaned up. The grass at Drs. Nag and Rag's former office property (Carpenter Road), which is for sale, "is getting out of hand".

Ashtabula Iron and Metal (AIM) Property: The former AIM property "looks like the devil". Who is responsible for cleaning it up.

The Solicitor said, "Typically, my understanding of the City mowing program is there is an attempt to knock back the high grass in residential areas where animal or rodent or snake infestation could cause difficulties to the residents. In my experience we have not done extensive or brush cutting on industrial properties, which is what AIM is. As a resident of the City I would not like to see my tax dollars spent maintaining someone else's property, of such a type."

Mrs. Blum asked who is responsible for the property.

The Solicitor responded, "As far as I know the owner of the company has not changed. The receiver (when the operator of the business went out of business), did not assume ownership of the land. The land, I believe, is still Hercules Steel, a defunct company. As I understand it, it is wholly owned by one person described to me as an elderly woman who lives in Cleveland. I don't know anything more at this time. Now, another thing about that property is while it has been cleaned up and is clear of environmental hazards, I'm not sure it's clear of all hazards. I would hate to see our people go on that property because there are still piles of rusted metal, glass, and I think other items there, I think could be a real hazard if they attempted to pick up brush without spending a lot of time checking out the land.

Mrs. Blum said she believes the building is ready to collapse.

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, October 5, at 7:00 p.m.; Pre-Council at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

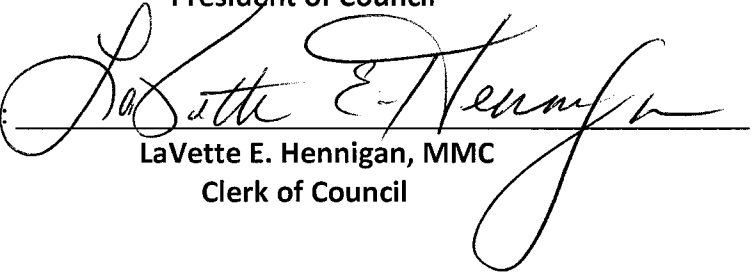
Hearing no further business to come before Council, the President adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Ashtabula City Regular Council Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2015

DATE APPROVED: October 5, 2015

ATTESTED BY: 

J.P. Ducro IV
President of Council

ATTESTED BY: 

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
Clerk of Council