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

# **Regular Meeting**

Monday, December 7, 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):** Elder Christopher McCain of People's Baptist Church, on West Avenue, offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed due to the passing of The Honorable Judge Ron Varckette, a former Ashtabula City Solicitor.

MEMBERS PRESENT: 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. John S. Roskovics (Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)

Mr. J. P. Ducro IV (President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

**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): None

WELCOME: The President welcomed the new Ward 1 Councilor, Mr. John S. Roskovics.

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

## PRESENTATION(S):

The President announced a special ceremony would take place – the swearing in of the four most recently hired Police Officers, which completes the Police Levy funding hiring. The City Manager said the process has been in motion for one year. Two Civil Service tests were given. The most recent one resulted in the last four hires, and that two officers hired from the first test have been serving. The Manager said the Police Levy funding permitted the City to be able to hire five (5)5 police officers and two (2) dispatchers. He said, in all actuality, six (6) officers have been hired due to the resignation of one who moved to the Cleveland area. The Manager turned the floor over to Police Chief Robert Stell for the ceremony.

Chief Stell said the hiring process is "a fairly tough one". He said the State of Ohio has made changes in police officer hiring practices in an effort to address what has been going on around the country (re: police officer's perceived handling of the public). The Chief said the Ashtabula Police hiring practices have, for a long time, incorporated some of the things the State is now requiring. He said the candidates present this evening went through a rigorous process, that [we] are very pleased with the hires, and then introduced them:

NAME	POSITION	2015 HIRE DATE
Ms. Della Marie Legg	Dispatcher	January 7
Ms. Kristen Fortune	Dispatcher	January 7
Mr. Mike Palinkas	Patrolmen	September 7
Mr. Don Martin	Patrolmen	July 22

The Police Chief asked the following persons to join him up front to have their oath of office, for the position of Ashtabula Patrolman, administered by the City Manager:

Mr. Eric Massi

Mr. Logan Nickles

Mr. Cody Caruso

Mr. Brandon Zukoski.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The President announced the City Manager has requested a brief Executive Session to discuss Bargaining Agreement contracts. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request. On the roll call to convene an Executive Session: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Roskovics, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea, motion CARRIED. All city officials, present during the roll call, attended the session.

**RECONVENE OPEN MEETING:** At 7:35 p.m., the President reconvened the open meeting.

**ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The President announced there to be no action to report.

## **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 following meeting minutes for Council's disposal:

- November 16, 2015 Regular Meeting
- December 1, 2015 Organizational Meeting

<u>Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections the minutes were approved as presented.</u>

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

## Union Industrial Contractors Change Order No. 2 – Point Park Stairway Project – PID 95400

The City Manager requested an ordinance to execute Change Order No. 2 for Union Industrial Contractors of 1800 East 21st Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004, for the addition of a concrete sidewalk and bike gutter for the Point Park Stairway project, in the amount not to exceed \$4,748.75. 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.

#### Adams Services, Inc. - Demolition of Blighted Structure - 307 West 50th Street

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Adams Services, Inc. of 672 Route 45 South, Austinburg, OH 44010 for the purpose of providing demolition services and abatement of a blighted structure located at 307 West 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004, in the amount not to exceed \$28,000.00. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from the 2014 CDBG Allocation Grant. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

# Transfer of Community Reinvestment Area Tax Abatement – 405 Morton Drive

The City Manager requested an ordinance to authorize the transfer of the remaining years of the Community Reinvestment Area Tax Abatement to the new owner currently known as 405 Morton Drive, Ashtabula, OH. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request,

Discussion: The City Manager reported this is the tax abatement transfer from Water Street Warehouse to Briquette's Smokehouse. The original abatement was for 50% at 10 years, with (5) years remaining. The motion CARRIED.

## **Architectural & Restoration Review Board Appointment**

The City Manager requested the appointment of Mr. Joseph Perry to the Architectural & Restoration Review Board, effective immediately with a term to expire on February 2, 2018. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

#### Yard Waste Bag Pick up

The City Manager announced this is the last week for pick up of yard waste bags, and that crews are in the Wards.

## **Questions/Comments for City Manager**

**Public Works 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift:** At the request of the Ward 2 Councilor, the City Manager reported 3<sup>rd</sup> shift crews have not yet begun. He said traditionally they have begun around December 15, and that crew members will be given a two week notice prior to their assignment.

#### CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No Report

#### FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Year End Appropriations:** The Finance Director reported year-end appropriations are being prepared, and that the ordinance will be requested at the last council meeting of the year.

#### Questions/Comments for Finance Director

The Clerk of Council asked if the request will be presented at the last meeting, or will she be asked to actually place the ordinance on the agenda. The Finance Director responded, both.

The President asked if we are hopeful we will be able to end the year within budget and not have to scramble and find additional resources. The Finance Director responded, yes.

#### CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

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

The Chair announced the committee will not meet tomorrow, as scheduled. The Parks & Recreation Board will meet tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in Pre-Council Chambers. She reported the Board will begin the process of compiling a list of future projects they would like to take on.

The President reported that at the City Council's December 1, Organizational Meeting, it was agreed upon to dispense with committee meetings in December, and commence in January.

The President reported that with the assistance of the Clerk of Council, the following new committee structure was created, presented to the City Council and agreed upon - the City Manager announced the information is also on the City's website:

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

MEETING DATE/TIME: (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday @ 4:00 p.m.) – Next Meeting: January 12

Josephine Misener – **Chair**John Roskovics – **Vice Chair**Alice Cook - Member
J.P. Ducro IV – Ex-officio member

## FINANCE & PERSONNEL - (F&P)

MEETING DATE/TIME: (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday @ 8:00 a.m.) – Next Meeting: January 15 (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday)

J.P. Ducro IV - Chair

August Pugliese – Vice Chair Christopher McClure - Member

# PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC UTILITIES/CABLE/SCHOOLS - (PW/PU/C/S)

**MEETING DATE/TIME:** (1<sup>st</sup> Friday @ 8:00 a.m.) – Next Meeting: January 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday)

August Pugliese - Chair

Christopher McClure - Vice Chair

Alice Cook – Member

Kris Hamrick – Member

J.P. Ducro IV - Ex-officio member

## **SAFETY FORCES - (SF)**

MEETING DATE/TIME: (4th Monday @ 4:00 p.m.) - Next Meeting: January 25

Kris Hamrick - Chair

Josephine Misener - Vice Chair

John Roskovics - Member

J.P. Ducro IV - Ex-officio member

## **FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUESTS**

The Clerk of Council formally introduced the following formal legislation requests:

#### **ORDINANCE**

2015-149

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO FROM JANUARY 1, 2016, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016. (Finance Director)

#### **RESOLUTION**

2015-150

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. (Finance Director)

#### ORDINANCE

2015-154

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2015-124, ENACTED ON OCTOBER 19, 2015, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SATISFYING THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE'S JOURNAL ENTRY REQUESTING THE CREATION OF A NEW POSITION TITLED "DEPUTY CLERK/COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR (PART-TIME)" IN THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT.

(Municipal Court Judge)

#### ORDINANCE

2015-155

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT. (Municipal Court Judge)

#### **ORDINANCE**

2015-156

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHARLES E. HARRIS & ASSOCIATES AND STATE AUDITOR DAVE YOST FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA'S ANNUAL AUDITS FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS. (Finance Director)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to accept the above formal legislation requests; motion CARRIED.

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

#### **Bike Gutter**

At the request of the Ward 2 Councilor, the City Manager explained Ordinance No. 2015-152 pertaining to the creation of a bike gutter along one side of the Point Park stairs. The City Manager reported the bike gutter looks like a "V" channel. "It will be along the stairs going up to Point Park to eliminate having to carry bikes up or down the stairs. With the possibility of the NorthShore Trail being extended down to Bridge Street soon, the bike gutter will allow bikes to get from Bridge Street up the hill to Point Park and then continue biking down Walnut Boulevard to Walnut Beach where it is hoped that this will be the location where the Trail will terminate. The hill up to Walnut Boulevard from Bridge Street is frequently used. Hopefully this will make the jaunt a bit easier."

The Ward 1 Councilor asked if there will be a railing. The Manager said yes, and the gutter will be on the inside of it. He reported, "The total width of the steps is about 5 feet; the rail will be about a foot off the wall. The steps are not traditional in that they have large landings in between a series of steps and there will be brick paved in there".

The City Solicitor reported that the "3<sup>rd</sup> Whereas clause" was carried over from the request to approve Change Order No. 1 for this project, and should be stricken from this request because it has nothing to do with the retaining wall or with concrete versus pavers. He said this ordinance was adapted from the previous change order legislation, but was not stricken out as it should have been.

**First Reading:** The President announced that Ordinance No. 2015-145, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING BETWEEN 10:00 P.M. AND 5:00 A.M. IN PARKING SPACES ADJACENT TO SOUTH PARK ON WEST 49<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND WEST 50<sup>TH</sup> STREET. (City Solicitor/City Manager), will receive its first reading. He said the ordinance was created to attempt to keep the neighborhood safer and make sure parking for South Park is being used by persons enjoying the park, which is closed at dark. He announced the legislation was discussed at the November 16, Regular Council meeting.

#### **LEGISLATION READING**

The President entertained a motion to dispose of the Regular Legislation Agenda in consent agenda format, with the exception of Ordinance No. 2015-145, which will be placed on its first reading to give the public an opportunity to comment, as is custom. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to approve the President's request; motion CARRIED.

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation for Council's consideration:

# 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-145, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING BETWEEN 10:00 P.M. AND 5:00 A.M. IN PARKING SPACES ADJACENT TO SOUTH PARK ON WEST 49<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND WEST 50<sup>TH</sup> STREET. (City Solicitor/City Manager) Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED. The legislation was placed on its first reading.

# **Consent Agenda Legislation**

ORDINANCE

2015-146

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 TO CONTRACT WITH UNITED SURVEY, INC., FOR THE WEST HARBOR SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,321.59.

(City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-147

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR CRACK SEALING OF STATE ROUTE 11 WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA. (City Manager)

**ORDINANCE** 

2015-149

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO FROM JANUARY 1, 2016, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016. (Finance Director)

**RESOLUTION** 

2015-150

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE

2015-151

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ADAMS SERVICES, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT GREATER THAN \$28,000, FOR DEMOLITION SERVICES TO ABATE A VACANT AND BLIGHTED STRUCTURE AT 307 WEST 50<sup>TH</sup> STREET. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-152

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO A CONTRACT WITH UNION INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,748.75, FOR THE HARBOR STREETSCAPE PROJECT, PHASE TWO - POINT PARK STAIRS. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-153

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF THE REMAINING YEARS OF COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX ABATEMENT TO THE NEW OWNER OF PREMISES CURRENTLY KNOWN AS 405 MORTON DRIVE, ASHTABULA, OHIO. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2015-154

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2015-124, ENACTED ON OCTOBER 19, 2015, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SATISFYING THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE'S JOURNAL ENTRY REQUESTING THE CREATION OF A NEW POSITION TITLED "DEPUTY CLERK/COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR (PART-TIME)" IN THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT. (Municipal Court Judge)

ORDINANCE

2015-155

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT. (Municipal Court Judge)

ORDINANCE

2015-156

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CHARLES E. HARRIS & ASSOCIATES AND STATE AUDITOR DAVE YOST FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA'S ANNUAL AUDITS FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS. (Finance Director)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Cook seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. McClure 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. Roskovics, 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. Roskovics, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Council Board Appointment:** The President presented the following reappointments for City Council's consideration:

- Lisa Fuller-Grippi to the "Local Board of Tax Review", for a two year term to expire on December 7, 2017. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to grant the President's request; motion CARRIED.
- Ms. Roberta Madar-Pruett to the "Architectural and Restoration Review Board", for a three year term to expire on December 5, 2017. The President reported Ms. Madar-Pruett has served one year of this new term but was not officially reappointed until this evening. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. McClure seconded to grant the President's request; motion CARRIED.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

None

## **GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Pat Blum, 1540 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street, commented as follows:

#### House and Removal of Tree

She thanked the City "for action on the house" located next to her. She said she remains "unsatisfied with the trees" and asked that they be removed.

# West 17<sup>th</sup> Street Parking

She issued her repeated request for employees of Lake City Plating (LCP), located at Lake Avenue & West 17<sup>th</sup> Street, to please find another place to park their vehicles. She said there was almost an accident when two vehicles were coming down West 17<sup>th</sup> Street; she was driving one of them. She said because LCP staff member's vehicles where on the road she had nowhere to go but was able to break fast enough to avoid the accident.

The President said it was determined at the last Council meeting that West 17<sup>th</sup> Street would be visited to determine exactly what parking signs exist. The City Manager said, "I believe there's no parking at all on the north side. And, then there's no parking from what would be roughly 15 feet from the corner back on the south side to the stop sign." He suggested there be no parking on the south side of West 17<sup>th</sup> Street until the first residential parcel. The other side is already no parking the length of the road.

Mrs. Blum said the street is very narrow and when cars are parked on the road it is an accident waiting to happen.

The Ward 2 Councilor asked the Manager if he, Mrs. Blum and Lake City Plating met to discuss the parking. The Manager said they have not all met together but have individually spoke.

Mrs. Blum said she called and was told by the female who answered the phone that their staff has been parking there for years.

Mrs. Blum said when her husband was alive he personally removed the snow from the end of the road so she could travel the road. She said LCP does good business and she wants them to continue to do so, but would also like them to respect others who use the road.

The Ward 2 Councilor asked Mrs. Blum if she would be willing to meet with LCP if a meeting is arranged. She said yes, definitely.

The President said the meeting may not be necessary given the Manager's request to take the no parking back to the first residential parcel – which should be far enough to prevent bottlenecking.

The Ward 2 Councilor said he it would be cordial to involve the industry, and to see if no parking would create a problem for them. He then said he sees what Mrs. Blum is talking about and witnesses it every day as he travels Lake Avenue.

Mrs. Blum reported snow pile up at the bend of the road creates the problem. The Ward 2 Councilor said employees may start parking on the side of the road where parking is permitted, which would reduce resident's parking options.

The President asked the Manager how he wanted to proceed. The Manager said he and LCP have talked. They moved the vehicles during the snow storms – sometimes not as timely as we needed them to, but I do believe because of the narrowness of that road, the 10 or 15 feet or so that it's back right now is probably not enough if two vehicles were to have to traverse the road. He said he believes moving the parking prohibition back would help, especially at the end of the intersection when two vehicles are coming in and out at the same time.

The Ward 2 Councilor suggested that perhaps the parking prohibition may be moved back "to their property line". The Manager said, "That's what I mean".

The Clerk asked for clarification in order to properly draft the legislation. The Manager said it would be "to the beginning of the first residential property – the end of their property (LCP) - the first residential property."

Mrs. Blum suggested LCP purchase 'David P.'s home, which they can get a bargain on, raze the structure and create parking.

The Ward 4 Councilor reported that because this matter has been discussed for some time now, and because what the City Manager has recommended was agreed upon, she asked if Council could move on the Manager's recommendation. The President recognized the Ward 4 Councilor's comment/inquiry as a motion, seconded by Mr. Hamrick; motion CARRIED.

Mr. Nik Tressler, 202 West 58<sup>th</sup> Street: commented on the proposed "Turn the City Blue" event scheduled to take place earlier this year, but believes it was canceled due to inclement weather. He said had he attended his presence would have implied he supports all policemen, all the time, everywhere – which he cannot do. He suggested City Council recognize and thank Police Chief Robert Stell for what he has done. Mr. Tressler then provided a history of unpleasant encounters he (a Caucasian father) and his "brown" sons have had with law enforcement. He thanked the Ashtabula Police Department for "20 years of certifying his cars were always drug-free. We had a dog go through one of my vehicles at least once a month for ten years." He said when he was a teacher his "brown" students always knew all the names of the police officers; which were good and which were not. He commented on an incident that took place the Friday after Chief Stell was sworn in as Police Chief. He said he walked into Circle K at West 58<sup>th</sup> Street and Main Avenue, saw his son, and while they begin to converse someone familiar to his son came into the store and said, "Eric, there's a cop emptying your truck".

When they exited the store they, too, saw, the same thing happening, and the contents were being placed in the police car, and his son spent the weekend in jail. While walking downtown that Saturday, Mr. Tressler said he discovered much of the contents of his son's wallet, including photographs, driver's license and vehicle registration, strewn along Main Avenue from Roy and Rays located at the far south end of Main Avenue, to the Outdoor Army/Navy Store located at the far north Main Avenue. He said, "That was then". He said he has come to learn that the minority youth at the Ashtabula Arts Center (AAC) have never met a police officer because "they've never been stopped". He said a young man who goes to the AAC, referred to as "Tank", used to be stopped all the time, has been stopped no more, and cannot remember the last time he was. Mr. Tressler said the class in which he substitute taught today begin discussing police shootings in other towns. He was pleased to learn none of the students felt threatened by the Ashtabula Police. He also learned none of them had met an Ashtabula Police officer, and that they said they feel safe. He said his son, Eric, still avoids our town, but that his son Ben lives here. Between Him, his wife, and Ben they have had five or six contacts with Ashtabula Police, all of which were pleasant and professional, and that two were incredibly helpful and nice. Mr. Tressler said he believes it would be in the City's best interest to enact a Citizen's Advisory Committee. He said while he does not like the term "Citizen's Advisory", because it implies something needs to be fixed, he has 13 grandchildren - 8 who look Caucasian - 4 of them "physically brown", and all of whom will be "hitting the highway about the time the Chief decides to retire". He suggested that in order to maintain continuity in what the Chief has been able to do would be appreciated so his grandchildren do not have to go through what his sons did. He said that while we are considered to be a crime capital, he believes the Chief should be commended for his management of the officers.

The President thanked Mr. Tressler for his comments - the Ward 3 Councilor concurred.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** RECONVENE OPEN MEETING: None

N/A

**ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:** 

N/A

#### CLOSING REMARKS

Meetings: The President announced the next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 21, at 7pm; Pre-Council at 6:00 p.m.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, the President issued a reminder to "Remember to Keep Believing in Ashtabula", and adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

ATTESTED BY:

J.P. Ducro IV. President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC/Clerk of Council