

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- **Formal Request** - None
- **Brief Review** – At the request of the President, the City Manager listed the items covered in this change order No. 4, for additional work at the Water Pollution Control Plant.
- **Public Discussion/Comments** - None
- **Reading**

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation on its first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-01, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 4 TO “CONTRACT B” WITH NERONE & SONS, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$96,065.70 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING FOR UNFORSEEN ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND MATERIALS AT THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT. (City Manager) Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. The Clerk announced the legislation was placed on its first reading, and that the second reading is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17.

REGULAR BUSINESS

MEETING MINUTES READING & DISPOSAL - None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

- **2017 Ashtabula County YMCA – Lifeguard Agreement**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Ashtabula County YMCA of 263 West Prospect Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004 for the purpose of providing seasonal lifeguard services with the City of Ashtabula at Walnut Beach during the 2017 Summer Season for an amount not to exceed \$24,500.00. Funds for this expenditure will be taken from Fund 233. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to grant the request. Discussion: The Manager reported there is no increase in the contract amount. The motion CARRIED.

- **Traffic Control Map and File – Parking; Hulbert Avenue Municipal Parking Lot**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to amend the Traffic Control Map and File to restrict parking hours at the Municipal Parking Lot located on Hulbert Avenue north of Bridge Street. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to grant the request. Discussion: The Manager said he was approached

by several Harbor merchants about residents who live near the parking lot and how have ample property on which to park, but that 2 to 4 vehicles end up parked in the parking lot all day and night. This impedes snow removal and lessens patron parking. The motion CARRIED.

- **Boards and Commissions**

Health District Licensing Council

The City Manager announced the following reappointments, which do not require City Council approval:

Trevor Sprague as a member of the Health District Licensing Council for Pools & Spas effective February 3, 2017 with a term to expire on February 4, 2022.

David Hoffman as a member of the Health District Licensing Council for Retail Food Establishment (RFE) Operations effective February 3, 2017 with a term to expire on February 4, 2022.

David DeGeorge as a member of the Health District Licensing Council for Food Service Operations (FSO) effective February 3, 2017 with a term to expire on February 4, 2022.

Board of Health

The City Manager announced the reappointment of David DeGeorge as a member of the Board of Health effective February 3, 2017 with a term to expire on February 4, 2022. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to approve the reappointment; motion CARRIED.

Ashtabula City Port Authority Appointments

The City Manager announced the reappointments:

Reappoint Ron Kister as Chairman of the Ashtabula City Port Authority effective immediately with a term to expire on October 22, 2020;

Reappoint Fred Leitert as Vice Chair of the Ashtabula City Port Authority effective immediately with a term to expire on November 7, 2018;

Reappoint Brian Wells as a member of the Ashtabula City Port Authority effective immediately with a term to expire on January 18, 2020;

Reappoint Joseph Varckette as a member of the Ashtabula City Port Authority effective immediately with a term to expire on January 28, 2020. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to approve the reappointments; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager requested the appointment of Joseph Craine as a member of the Ashtabula City Port Authority effective immediately with a term to expire on October 22, 2020. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to approve the appointment; motion CARRIED.

- **Christmas Trees**

Real Christmas trees may be placed on treelawns. They will be picked up by the end of this month. The compost yard will not accept decorated trees, including lights; therefore they must be removed before placing them on the treelawn.

- **Congratulations**

The City Manager congratulated the President on her appointment to fill the unexpired term of former President J. P. Ducro IV. He told her he looks forward to working with her.

(Note: she was the Ward 4 Councilor prior to the appointment).

- **Wine & Walleye Festival**

The City Manager announced that, today, he received a letter from the Lift Bridge Community Association (LBCA). He and some members of Council have been working with them to return the Festival to Bridge Street. The Manager requested permission for the LBCA to use the Wine & Walleye Festival name that the City of Ashtabula owns, and their plan is to host this event July 29 and 30, 2017. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to grant the request. Discussion: The Clerk asked if the change in date and location should be included in the motion. The Manager reiterated the event date and said the location would be within the Historic Ashtabula Harbor. The motion CARRIED.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **Congratulations**

The Solicitor congratulated the President on her appointment. He said he, too, is looking forward to working with her.

- **False Alarms**

The Solicitor reported some discussion about the problems with false alarms in the city took place at the January 3 regular council meeting, and stated the following: "False electronic alarms, which are connected to a service that contacts to our police division; our police division dispatches an officer or officers; the officers check; there's no one there; there's no sign of forced entry; the resident or business is not being robbed; it's not being vandalized; it's just an electronic glitch or problem with the system; which can be caused by any of a number of things, but it's not the responsibility of the police division to trace down what is wrong with the business or resident owner's alarm system. We have an ordinance in place that allows us, after two false alarms, to write a letter warning people that continued false alarms may be met with a civil penalty of up to \$100 per visit by the police to a false alarm. And, if it continues, in the extreme situation, the city manager can actually order the alarm system disconnected. No one wants to see that happen; we all feel the alarms are safer. But, just since the last meeting my office has had to write four letters in response to complaints from the police department about excessive alarms. We're not talking about two; we're talking about 6, 8, 10, 12 alarms in an eight to ten month period that people are accumulated. So, obviously, there's something wrong with the system; one or more of the sensors is bad and it needs to be addressed. Now, we're pursuing this vigorously and I'm working with the police division to tract these to make sure that when we get the further false alarms after writing the letter, that we go ahead and we take steps to collect the \$100 civil penalty. This is a very dangerous thing. It's not just an inconvenience to the officer; it's

an actual danger to the officer (or I should say in many instances to his fellow officers) because he's out; he's not available; he's responding to an alarm; and if another officer needs back up that officer needs then to make a judgment call about do I respond to this system that is alarming saying there's someone in this residence or in this business, right now, or do I go back up my fellow officer. And, while the officer is determining whether the alarm is false or true he's simply not available; he's not out patrolling. There are other potential dangers because, like we've all heard the story of the boy who cried wolf; well, if the alarm system cries wolf often enough the officers come to expect it will be a false alarm. Well, what if it's not. Then the officer walks unprepared into a situation. So, we are pursuing these; we are writing letters; quite a few letters have already been written just in the last couple of months; and we will be following up with action to collect those civil penalties. And, I just want to assure the residents and the businesses that have alarm systems that it's not because we or the police don't want to respond, it's because they don't want a few bad systems to create an unsafe situation for the entire city." The President reiterated the importance of guilty parties to take the Solicitor's comments under advisement.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Congratulations**

The Finance Director congratulated the President on her appointment. She said she looks forward to working with the President more closely in her new capacity.

- **Year Closing**

The department is busy closing 2016.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

(Chair/Vice Chair)

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

(Mrs. Misener/Mr. Roskovics)

- The chair announced the committee will meet on Tuesday, January 10, at 4:00 p.m., in the municipal building 2nd floor conference room.
- Codified Ordinance Section 505.01, regarding farm animals, will be discussed. She asked the City Solicitor to attend. The meeting is open to the public.
- The committee would like to forge many new relations this year. There are two new county commissioners, a new Growth Partnership of Ashtabula County director, a new Ashtabula Area City Schools superintendent, and two new council members.

- The Parks & Recreation Board will meet the same day at 6:30 p.m., in Pre Council Chambers. It, too, is open to the public.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL (F&P) - (Mr. McClure/Mr. Pugliese)

- The President announced the Vice President will now chair this committee. They will meet on Friday, January 10, at 8:00 a.m., in the municipal building 2nd floor conference room. They are scheduled to discuss bed tax legislation.

PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC UTILITIES/CABLE/SCHOOLS (PW/PU/C/S) - (Mr. Pugliese/Mr. McClure)

- The chair announced no report and the committee would not meet in January.

SAFETY FORCES (SF) - (Mr. Hamrick/Mrs. Misener)

- The Chair announced no report, that the committee has not met in a while, but will meet on Monday, January 23, at 8:00 a.m., in the municipal building 2nd floor conference room.

Work Session

- **Council Rules:** The President reported a tentative work session has been scheduled to discuss Council Rules on Monday, February 13, at 8:00 a.m., in the municipal building 2nd floor conference room. The meeting is open to the public. The meeting date and time will be firmed up once the Ward 3 and 4 seats are filled.
- **Charter:** The President announced City Council will review the Charter with the goal of placing changes on the November 2017 general ballot. The goal was to place them on the May 2017 primary ballot, but time does not permit this to happen.

LEGISLATION AGENDA - None

- **Formal Legislation Request(s) – None**
- **Public Discussion (Legislation Only) - None**
- **Reading**

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation for its first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. **2017-02**, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO RESTRICT PARKING HOURS IN THE MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE HULBERT AVENUE NORTH OF BRIDGE STREET. (City Manager) Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. The Clerk announced the legislation was placed on its first reading, and that the second reading is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

MISCELLANEOUS

The President announced the following meetings:

- **Regular Meeting:** The next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17 @ 7pm; Pre-Council @ 6pm.
- **Public Hearing:** Council will meet in a public hearing on Monday, February 6, at 5:30 p.m., to hear the request to rezone a parcel located at the corner of West 10th Street & Michigan Avenue from R-2 Single Family to C-1 Commercial.
- **Trash Pick-up:** The City Manager reported Sanitation is working on setting the 2017 trash pick-up schedule. Soon he will know if trash will be picked up on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday holiday, and it will be placed on the City's website.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- **Ms. Christine Seuffert, 6018 Hillcrest Avenue, Lift Bridge Community Association Chair:**

Wine and Walleye Festival: Ms. Seuffert thanked Council for permission to use the Festival name. There have been informal meetings to discuss how the festival should look. Many of the Festival's aspects will remain similar to when the Ashtabula Chamber Foundation organized it. For the festival to be success volunteers, money and funding is crucial. Persons interested in getting involved may visit the Historic Ashtabula Harbor facebook page and sign up.

The Arts on Bridge Street: Ms. Seuffert announced the date of this event will change from August to July 29 and 30, to coincide with the Ashtabula Chamber Foundation's "Uncorked Wine Festival" at Lakeshore Park.

Working Together: LBCA looks forward to working with the Chamber Foundation and other entities who want to be involved in any or all activities that take place in the Harbor, just as the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA) welcomes everybody to be involved uptown.

It's going to be an exciting and busy summer, which gives the community the opportunity to find things to do "right here in their own backyard".

CLOSING REMARKS

- **Art-in-the-Alley:** The President reported this ADDA event will take place the weekend after The Arts on Bridge Street. ADDA and LBCA are joining forces in order to compliment each other's art event.

- **Fireworks:** The City Manager reported fireworks are being planned for the Wine and Walleye Festival.
- **The Art of Learning:** The President reported ADDA is planning this first time event, which is a takeoff of Arts-in-the-Alley. It will take place in the downtown parking deck this spring. It will be designed towards school aged and college students.

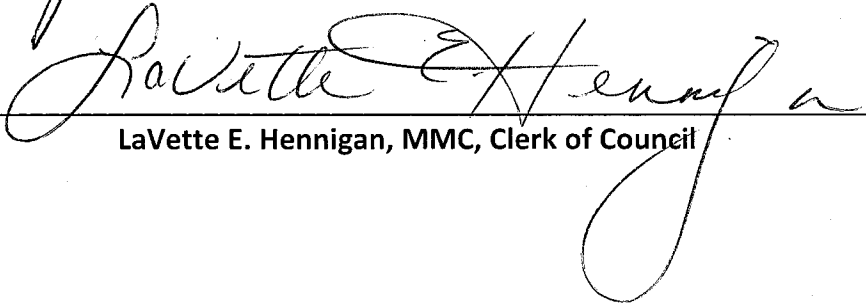
EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: January 17, 2017

ATTESTED BY: 
Josephine Misener, President of Council

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