

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

Regular Meeting

Monday, December 19, 2016

Council met in a **REGULAR MEETING**. The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Reverend Christopher McCain of Second Congregational Church offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mr. August A. Pugliese	(Ward 2 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:	Mrs. Alice T. Cook	(Ward 3 Councilor)
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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
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EXCUSED ABSENCE(S):	None
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SUNSHINE LAW:	The Clerk of Council certified conformity to the Sunshine Law.
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PRESENTATION(S):	None
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EXECUTIVE SESSION:	None
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CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is a means whereby Council is able to efficiently conduct business by grouping routine items for consideration and disposal by one motion, one second and one vote.

MEETING MINUTES READING & DISPOSAL

The Clerk of Council presented the following Meeting Minutes for Council's disposal:

- November 21, 2016 Regular Meeting
- December 05, 2016 Regular Meeting
- December 14, 2016 Public Hearing

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

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- **Formal Request**

ORDINANCE

2016-157 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, INC., FOR UPDGRADED ACCOUNTING, PAYROLL, BILLING, ASSET MANAGEMENT AND PURCHASING SOFTWARE FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO FINANCE DIVISION. (Finance Director)

Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

- **Brief Review** – The President provided a brief review of the legislation reading.
- **Public Discussion/Comments** - None
- **Reading**

ORDINANCE

2016-157 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS, INC., FOR UPDGRADED ACCOUNTING, PAYROLL, BILLING, ASSET MANAGEMENT AND PURCHASING SOFTWARE FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO FINANCE DIVISION. (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE

2016-158 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS WITH CAREWORKS GROUP FOR WORKER'S COMPENSATION CONSULTING SERVICES. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2016-159 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WARREN FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC., FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN INFRARED CAMERA AND COMMERCIAL BRACKET IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$13,160. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2016-160 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2016-161 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO REQUEST A WAIVER FROM THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY TO USE \$6,000 FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND IN ORDER TO CONDUCT A HOTEL FEASIBILITY STUDY, AND TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY AGREEMENTS. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE

2016-162 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED EQUIPMENT, ITEMS AND/OR MATERIALS. (City Manager)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the reading of the ordinances; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Roskovics, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinances: Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. Roskovics, Mr. McClure, Mr. Ducro IV voted yea; motion CARRIED.

REGULAR BUSINESS

MEETING MINUTES READING & DISPOSAL

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Nerone & Sons, Inc. – Change Order No. 4, Contract B, Electrical – Water Pollution Control (WPC) Plant

The City Manager requested an ordinance to execute Change Order No. 4 with Nerone & Sons, Inc. of 19501 South Miles Road, Warrensville Heights, OH 44128, for additional work at the Water Pollution Control Plant Project, Contract "B", to furnish and install Diffusers for tanks 1 & 2, replacement of diffusers in tanks 3 & 4, install mag meter displays, install communication cables to Administration Building, and Plug Valve for #4 RAS Pump, in an amount not to exceed \$96,065.70, for a total contract price of \$759,545.55. Funding for this expenditure will come from the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) loan through the WPC Capital Fund. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to grant the City Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Garbage Pick Up

The City Manager announced garbage pick-up will remain on schedule the week of December 25. The schedule for the week of January 1, will be out this week.

Holiday Greetings

The City Manager wished everyone a safe and happy holiday, Merry Christmas, and to celebrate New Year's safely.

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- No Report

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Supplemental Appropriation**

The Finance Director reported a tentative request for supplemental appropriations for final 2016 appropriations has been submitted. That legislation will be presented at the Wednesday, December 28, 8:00 a.m., special meeting.

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 reported on the committee's December 13, meeting, as follows:

- **Assigning Street Addresses to City Parks:** The Manager told the committee that a parcel has to have a structure on it with utilities before an address is assigned. The concern with our City parks not having addresses is the inability for visitors to locate them through various GPS locating devices, such as, On Star. The Manager told them there are several programs and sites a person may log into using the park name, and be directed to the location.
- **Ashtabula Area City Schools (AACS) and the Arts:** Last year an attempt was made to use AACS art student's skills downtown. Since the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA) is involved with the arts, this item will be redirected to the ADDA Design Committee.
- **Community and Economic Outreach:** The committee discussed keeping in touch with various entities throughout the year, such as Ashtabula County Medical Center, Ashtabula City Planning and Community Development Department for updates on demolitions, inspections, complaints, etc.; collaborating with ADDA and the Lift Bridge Association (LBCA) in trying to spur economic development. The committee chair would like to meet with the Ashtabula County Board of Realtors in spring 2017 to keep tabs on housing sales, challenges, and to determine if "things are looking up for us". It was suggested that the Public Work/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools Committee meet with the new AACS superintendent. The hope is meeting with the Ashtabula County Commissioners (ACC) since two new members were elected in November. The committee will invite the new Growth Partnership of Ashtabula County director. It is important to share information and

work together on projects. The first meeting to take place sometime in January is with the ACC and County Engineering Department to begin working on a manual that will outline how to open a business in the City of Ashtabula.

- **2017 Happenings:** The committee asked the City Manager to touch on some things he has planned for 2017. The Manager said the City will work with the LBCA on the Wine & Walleye Festival. LBCA's thoughts on what the festival could/would look like will be coming shortly. Spending the money to have a hotel feasibility study as suggested by the Manager, will be voted on this evening. Future development will be happening sooner than we think with the possibility of two projects to begin shortly. The Manager told the committee a comprehensive zoning plan is needed so construction will conform to the way in which we would like our City to look.
- **Codified Ordinance 505.01:** A few months ago our committee was asked to review Codified Ordinance 505.01 concerning what animals are permitted in the City. We were asked if the ordinance should be amended to permit horses within the City limits. At the same time an issue with chickens surfaced. The committee met and voted to recommend to the full council that Codified Ordinance 505.01 should remain as it. The full Council backed the committee's decision with a vote. The chickens were removed once the owner was notified; however, the horse issue has persisted. On November 30, Council received a letter from the City Solicitor which stated further scrutiny or action from Council was needed to identify if miniature horses are included as a banned animal. At our committee meeting we said they should be banned. So, tonight, I'm bringing it to full Council, for a vote, that horses, no matter the size - a horse is a horse, and they, according to our ordinance should be banned - and that this is in the form of a motion; Mr. Roskovics seconded.

Discussion

Solicitor: If I understand correctly, the committee wishes to stand on the language that currently exists within the ordinance, based upon the committee's opinion (and I'm going to use that word deliberately) that it is sufficiently well defined to use the term horse and no further definition is necessary. Understanding that a court could come to a different opinion and the court's opinion would win, if that's the way it goes. Are you asking for a vote of Council to concur with your opinion or are you asking for Council to not amend the ordinance. I'm asking what you're asking - I don't fully understand what you're asking Council to do.

Chair: That we would uphold the ordinance, as written; that we wouldn't amend it.

Solicitor: So, it's a vote not to amend an ordinance.

Chair: Correct.

Solicitor: Okay.

Chair: And, understanding, though, when we discussed this at pre-council, there was some information that you had given us since we've (my committee) meet, obviously. But I wanted to

bring out what we had decided at our committee meeting and let the vote fall where it may. We probably should take a roll call vote on this and then proceed from there. Because, you had, at pre-council, your own thoughts and hesitation about the ordinance that's presently on the books.

Solicitor: Yes, I do.

Chair: Right.

Solicitor: And, those will persist until and unless it is amended.

Ward 1 Councilor: As a member of the committee that voted to recommend it, I don't think we were interested (I don't want to speak for Mrs. Misener - she'll correct me if I'm wrong), we weren't interested in defining what a horse is. The ordinance says horse and so we said that, in our opinion, a horse is a horse regardless of size, breeds - are there breeds of horses - I'm assuming there are - and all that. So, in that vein, we decided to uphold the ordinance, as it is written.

Solicitor: Okay, just to go to that for Council's benefit... it may seem that I'm nick picking when I say is a miniature horse a horse within the meaning of this ordinance. It is a concern to me because this city, like any city, can't just tell people what they can and can't do on their property, at a whim. Obviously there have to be valid public policy, public health, public good reasons that support the legislation. And, in a city with typically small lot sizes, houses rather close to each other, certainly it doesn't take too much thought to come up with some ideas about why large draft animals or cattle, and so on and so forth, are inappropriate and probably unhelpful to be located in the City. The research I did suggested to me that many of those concerns would not apply to a horse that - it's a horse but it's 30 - 32 inches high at the shoulder. It's a very small horse. It's not a draft animal or a load carrying animal. And, while it has all the natural functions a horse has, we're talking about much smaller quantities of manure and urine and so on and so forth. And, based upon the recommendations that I saw on some of the online sources, a lot less land is needed to keep them safely and healthfully. So, I said I'm not sure these miniature breeds are within the purview of an ordinance written quite a few years ago, in all fairness, that just said you can't keep horses, sheep, cattle, so on and so forth, in the City. And, the further concern I have is, again, the ordinance is showing its age - it was written at a time when it was common for cities to prohibit things by list - you can't to this, you can't to that - you can't do the other thing. Times change, people's interest change, people's hobbies change, people's pets change. And, now for example we have an ordinance that says you can't keep a horse, no matter how small, but there's no mention of a Lama, or a Vicuna, or an Alpaca. And, so arguably you could keep any of those animals on your 40 by 80 foot lot in the City, unless, of course, the Health Department came in and said you really can't do that healthfully here. So, the question arises as to whether the ordinance is now what the law refers to as arbitrary - not in the sense that it's intended to pick on one person or another, but it's arbitrary in the sense that if applied expressly, according to its language, you could have a very unequal result for very similar circumstances. So, I just want to express to the committee I remain extremely uncomfortable and extremely reluctant about attempting to enforce the ordinance according to its terms when it comes to these miniature animals that have been the subject of repeated complaints by a resident of the City. And, I would strongly urge Council to take up the question of amending the ordinance to flip the coin over and so what is

permitted – here are the circumstances under which you can keep an animal such as a horse. You have to have 5, 7, 10 acres. You have to be 100 feet away from a property line; 200 feet away from a residence – whatever perimeters Council feels are appropriate for the City of Ashtabula. That sort of legislation is very simple to defend against a claim of unconstitutionality because clearly we are not saying you can't use your land. We just saying for the benefit of the community as a whole here's some perimeters that we have determined, based upon our research, will balance between your freedom to use your land the way you want and the rights of your neighbors to a healthful and a nuisance free environment. So, I still do urge that the legislation be revisited and I hope Council will consider that.

Chair: I understand what Mr. Franklin said very well. And, there were a lot of things that I learned tonight concerning his misgivings about the present ordinance. But, to me it's an ordinance, it's on the book, it should be enforced. If it is a bad ordinance mostly certainly we will be revisiting it. But, I wish we had been informed of his uncomfortableness years ago so that we could have looked at it and perhaps avoided what's going on right now. But, be that as it may, my vote will reflect, tonight, upholding an ordinance that is on the books.

Members of Council sought clarification regarding the motion to determine how they would vote. The Clerk of Council reported she attended the meeting where the ordinance was discussed; that the committee voted not to amend Ordinance No. 505.01; that it was the committee's intention to bring to the full council that vote so that they, too, could vote on whether to amend or not amend the ordinance, and that the motion should be "to leave the ordinance as is".

After much discussion, and with the understanding that Council could vote NO on the committee's motion, and that the ordinance could go back to committee for further consideration given more information has been obtained tonight, the vote to amend or not amend the ordinance does not remove the ordinance from the books tonight. It was also noted that while the ordinance is on the books it should be enforced.

Mrs. Misener moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded, that Codified Ordinance No. 505.01 remain as is. On the roll call: Mr. Pugliese (nay), Mrs. Misener (nay), Mr. Hamrick (nay), Mr. Roskovics (yes), Mr. McClure (nay), Mr. Ducro IV (nay). The motion to leave the ordinance as it failed by a 1 to 5 vote.

The Clerk announced the failed vote. The Clerk reported that given this evening's conversation, it is her understanding that the matter is referred back to committee. The Solicitor confirmed the ordinance remains on the books because it was not repealed or replaced. And that there has been an expression of Council to look at alternative legislation. The Chair said the enforcement of Ordinance No. 505.01 prohibiting horses, still exists. The Solicitor confirmed this to be true and that it is "his problem".

The Vice President asked that it be placed in this committee. He further said he is not going to request the legislation be repealed and replaced until the recommendations are brought forth and discussed.

Parks & Recreation Board: The Chair reported on the Board's December 13, 6:30 p.m., as follows:

- A Smith Field Dog Park Association representative presented the Association's request to erect a pergola at the park, at their expense. They were instructed to check with the proper county officials and then check back with the City because their request may have to go through the Ashtabula City Planning Commission.
- P&R Board Chairman, Earl Tucker, assigned each board member a park. They are to visit the park and "establish what needs to be accomplished", due to the passage of a Parks & Recreation Levy. The lists will be reviewed by the board and presented to the City Manager.

Questions/Comments for CD/ED/P&R Committee

- **Wine and Walleye Festival:** The Manager reported LBCA Chair, Christine Seuffert, was at the meeting to talk about "the City's Wine and Walleye Festival". He said he thought it was important to know "that is out there and that's a live entity that hopefully we'll learn more about". The Manager said he attends the weekly meetings that are taking place to discuss the festival. He said, "I am confident in saying the LBCA does want to take this on. They haven't given the official word yet, or the official 'ask' of Council." He said at this point we are determining what events should take place and the date. We hope to make the decision within the next two weeks. He believes LBCA will ask Council's permission to use the trademarked names "and then we all better get on board to help them." The President said the festival date is established by the ordinance and asked if the ordinance would have to be amended in order to change the date. The Manager said there are strong feelings in the "committee" that having two of the same festivals at the same time would not do anyone justice. So, there is discussion about moving W&W to a different date, at which time the ordinance would have to be amended.
- **P&R Board Meeting Time:** The Clerk of Council asked if the Board changed their meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., as requested by a few members during the Parks & Recreation Levy committee meetings. The chair responded no because a few members found it difficult to attend any earlier.

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

The President reported on the committee's Monday, December 12, meeting, as follows:

Year-to-Date November Financials

- There are no big surprises
- Income Tax revenues are higher than budgeted which saved our 2016 budget
- The Street Light Assessment reduced the City's lighting bill so that this year the General Fund supplement will only be \$165,000; and
- Efforts to renew the Police Levy should begin next year.

Supplemental Appropriations

- A \$26,000 supplemental appropriation request from the General Fund will be presented at the last council meeting of the year.

Finance Software

- The Finance Director made a request to purchase updated. The request is on this evening's agenda.

Municipal Court

- Judge DiGiacomo and Court Administrator Tonya Amato presented a report and requests for the court.

2017 Budget

- The Manager gave a review of many of the things that have been done, since he took office, to try and stabilize City finances – he said:
- We are at a place where not much more is able to be cut
- We are facing a very dangerous projected balance budget carryover for 2017; and
- We will continue to try and work on solidifying the budget and doing everything possible not to end the year below \$200,000 carryover.

- Council meet in a public hearing
- The Budget was placed on display; and
- The Appropriation Ordinance will be voted on at City Council's Special Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 28, at 8:00 a.m.

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

- The chair announced the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 6, at 8:00 a.m.
- Within the next month or so he will invite the new AACS superintendent to this committee's meeting.

Questions/Comments for PW/PU/C/S Committee

- **No Parking Sign Request:** The Ward 4 Councilor reported receiving a request for no parking signs to be placed in the alley next to Federated Auto on Main Avenue. The tenants in the rental located next to the alley are parking in the alley. After discussion regarding whether the request is required to go to committee for discussion and recommendation, the Chair asked the City Manager to have the Police Department conduct a study of the area and make a recommendation regarding the request.

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

- The Chair announced the committee's next meeting is scheduled near the end of January 2017.

Questions/Comments for Safety Forces Committee

- **Police Blotter Report:** The Ward 4 Councilor recalled a time when there was a false alarm problem in the City. She said during her review of the recent blotter reports she noticed a large number of false alarm calls – 60 in a three week period and over 80 in the previous

month. She asked if they are repeats, noting there is an ordinance addressing false alarms, which activity takes a lot of law enforcement's time. The Manager said false alarms are constant. When they are brought to the Solicitor's attention a letter is drafted letting them know the alarm needs to be fixed or fines will be imposed to future false alarms. The President asked if false alarm fines have been issued. The Solicitor said it is not a fine, but rather a civil penalty. "We've sent out letters, but to enforce the penalty I literally have to file a small claims action against the homeowners. I've not done that yet. We do send out the letters and at least temporarily there appears to be some correction. No one wants to pay \$100 for every false alarm drop. We sent out three just this past two weeks. The Chief and I have been talking about putting together a protocol for follow-ups so that we can continue to put pressure on these people. In most cases they neither want false alarms and they fully understand the City's frustration when they have repeated false alarms. But, we do have a few absentee owners that just don't seem to care. And, we're coming up with a procedure to try and take action against some of those people - publicize it to the point where it creates a disincentive for other people to ignore repeated false alarm drops. Cause if we're getting call - if we're getting notified that there's an alarm in this structure, then supposedly and hopefully they're getting the same call. And, I would think most people would find that annoying. But, it doesn't appear to be that way. One letter I sent out - we've had - it's been languishing a little while, but in the last six months we've been there like 13 times. It's ridiculous." The Ward 4 Councilor asked if most of them are residential. The Solicitor said it is a mixture of commercial and residential. He said most of them are unoccupied temporarily or permanently and an alarm system has been installed to prevent vandalism. The Councilor asked how many times is someone contacted before being fined. The Solicitor said, technically after the second false alarm, within a one year period, we're permitted to write a letter, but it's usually more like 3, 4, or 5. The President asked if the vacated Park Haven facility is one of locations. The Solicitor and Manager commented. The President asked if there has been any word from the owners of the facility. The Manager had no comment.

LEGISLATION AGENDA - None

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

MISCELLANEOUS

The Ward 4 Councilor commented as follows:

- **Holiday Greetings:** Merry Christmas to all.

- **Parking Deck:**

- Mr. Clint owner of Dublin Down Irish Pub & Eatery and Larry Fargo owner of Fargo Machine, lit the top of the deck with wreaths and a Merry Christmas sign. She said it is nice to see something on the parking deck, and that a lot more is to come due to the efforts of the Ashtabula Downtown Development and a few merchants.
- **The Art of Learning:** This is a new event scheduled to be held this spring at the parking deck.
- **Mural:** Next Spring, a mural is planned for the parking deck. Hopefully it, too, will be lit.
- The Councilor thanked everyone for their efforts.

Resignation: President Ducro read the following resignation letter:

It has been a pleasure to serve five years as your Ashtabula City Council President. It has also been my pleasure to work with all of you, our administration, our staff, and our residential and business communities. Because of this, it is with a heavy heart I must resign from my position as Council President effective Friday, December 23, 2016, in order to prepare to assume my responsibilities as Ashtabula County Commissioner beginning January 2, 2017. My resignation also permits the responsible persons to select someone to act quickly to fill my unexpired term, so as not to hinder the business of the city of Ashtabula.

I chose to seek a City Council-at-Large position for the same reason I sought the position I will soon assume. Simply put, it is because of the place I have called home all my life – Ashtabula City – and wanting to see it be a better place for our families and future generations. I honestly believe the needle of progress is pointed in the right direction and we have a tremendous opportunity to reach our vast untapped potential. Likewise, I look forward to the opportunity to serve as an Ashtabula County Commissioner so that I may bring a voice for the city of Ashtabula to the county, which has been missing for over 20 years.

Please know I will remain visible in the city. I will strive to be an informed resource in order to assist the city and county in continuing to move the needle of progress forward, and I will help the city in any way that I am able.

Please Remember to Keep Believing in Ashtabula.

Standing ovation and applause.

Comments:

The City Manager said “Thank you for all you have done as Council President for this body and specifically for my administration. As most of you know, Mr. Ducro and I probably talk to each other more than we talk to anybody else. That’s been from the very beginning since we took office. It was our goal to come in here and stay off the front of the paper –with all the bad news –

and I think we've done a pretty good job of that. Your leadership on this Council has definitely turned the tide and the reputation that this Council used to have and also has affected the way that my administration operates, as well. It has been a pleasure to not only work with you and know you as a colleague, but know you as a friend. And, although I am extremely disappointed to lose you as our Council President, we're excited for those opportunities that you're going to bring to the City being a County Commissioner. We're expecting you to do big and great things for us being a County Commissioner from the City of Ashtabula that we have not had in quite some time. And, although we are on different sides of the aisle, politically, I think what we have shown through your leadership is that at this level that really doesn't matter anymore. And, I think the work that we have all done is a testament to that leadership. And, the way that we've been able to remain civil and walk out of this council chambers, even after some of the divisive talks that we've had or disagreements, that we have always been able to remain cordial with each other and be able to remain friends throughout it all. So, we wish you the best of luck.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- **Mr. Nelson Morrison:** Wished the President "good luck" in his new position as an Ashtabula County Commissioner. He asked for sidewalks to be shoveled for people who have to walk. He asked that everyone watch out for ice. And, he asked the Solicitor why Wal-Mart shoplifters pay fines instead of put in jail. The Solicitor told Mr. Morrison the jail issue is one of space reserved for very serious violent persons.

CLOSING REMARKS

- The Ward 2 Councilor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.
- The Clerk of Council said because the President's resignation is effective December 23, he will not be present at the Special Meeting scheduled for December 28 to vote on the 2017 Appropriations. She said in order for the legislation to be enacted that day, 5 members are required to be present. The five remaining members said they would be present.
- The Clerk of Council said, "I thoroughly enjoyed working for and with the President. He's an absolute pleasure and a ball of energy. I understand why he's leaving given that we haven't had representation at the County level in 20 years, but it's still bittersweet. There's always something about your job that is challenging. One of the challenges for a Clerk of Council is the turnover of Council members, especially when it happens outside of the normal time. His leaving will create a snowball effect of changes this year and next. But, we'll make it work. Mr. President, thank you; you're a blessing to me - the way you father, the type of husband you are, your care for your mother, the way you operate your businesses, and your care for the City, has not gone unnoticed."
- The President thanked the member of Council who were present when he first took office but have since moved on. He told the Clerk, "You have been the biggest constant during my time as President. I am so grateful to have had you for these five years. And, I know the City is incredibly grateful to have had you for the time that you've been here. You're a wonderful asset. You represent us well, not only locally, but certainly at the state and

beyond, as a Clerk. It's going to be hard not having you to call on every day to help solve my challenges. So, thank you, as well."

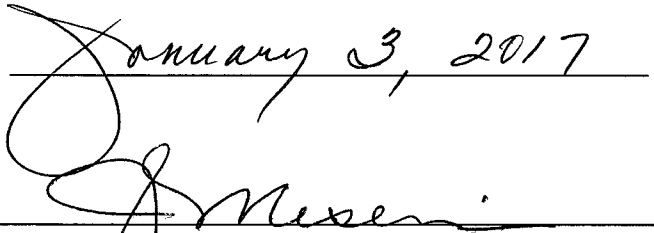
- The Vice President said, "I don't know what I've done right on Council or what I've done wrong, but the best thing I've done is to talk this guy into doing it. Good stuff, man. And, I think I talked him into going to Jefferson; that's kinda of the bad part of it. Good Luck, J.P."
- The President issued holiday greetings to all.

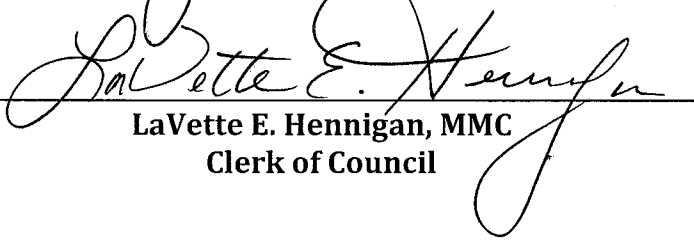
EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President issued a reminder to "Remember to Keep Believing in Ashtabula", and adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: January 3, 2017

ATTESTED BY: 
President of Council

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