

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

**Special Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 28, 2016**

Council met in a **SPECIAL MEETING**. The Vice President of Council called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room and offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

<b>Member(s) Present:</b>	Mr. John S. Roskovics	(Ward 1 Councilor)
	Mr. August A. Pugliese	(Ward 2 Councilor)
	Mrs. Josephine Misener	(Ward 4 Councilor)
	Mr. Kris E. Hamrick	(Ward 5 Councilor)
	Mr. Christopher J. McClure	(Vice President)

<b>Member(s) Absent:</b>	Seat Vacated 12/21/2016	(Ward 3 Councilor)
	Seat Vacated 12/23/2016	(President)

<b>Officer(s) Present:</b>	Mr. James M. Timonere	(City Manager)
	Mrs. Dana D. Pinkert	(Finance Director)
	Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC	(Clerk of Council)

<b>Officer(s) Absent:</b>	Michael Franklin	(City Solicitor)
	(Attendance not required)	

**SUNSHINE LAW CERTIFICATION**

The Clerk of Council certified conformity to the Sunshine Law.

**PURPOSE**

The Vice President announced the purpose of this Special Meeting was to permit City Council to vote on the 2017 Appropriations and legislation pertinent to 2016 operations of the City.

**WELCOME**

The Vice President welcomed four visitors.

**LEGISLATION**

- **Formal Request**

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-163, AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016. (Finance Director). Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to formally request the legislation.

Discussion: The Finance Director announce changes were made after the December 19 regular council meeting. The total increase to the General Fund is \$149,475.00. Not as much in transfers were needed for pensions and there was a larger savings in income tax refunds than anticipated. There will be a net increase of \$46,800 to the General Fund. The expected carryover is at about \$215,000. The Ward 1 Councilor asked if a five year forecast

is required as it is of school districts. The Finance Director said no, but she wished it was. After a few more questions; the motion to formally request this legislation, CARRIED.

- **Reading**

ORDINANCE

2016-156 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO FROM JANUARY 1, 2017, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017. (City Council)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. Discussion: The Manager reported:

- He and the Finance Director are concerned with the low carryover amount of \$126,000
- The only contractual item that is open and being discussed at the present time is health insurance. He was told the City may bid health insurance out for more than one year, which might result in savings. Our health insurance contract is scheduled to be renewed in June 2017, so the savings would only be for a half of a year, if any.
- The unions were approached about permitting the City to pay half of the Sick-Time Buyout benefit this year and pay the remainder either at the end of this year or defer it to 2018. The unions have not yet replied. He and the Finance Director believe they should just pay the benefit because it is an obligation the City agreed to; and
- It is going to be a tight year.

Questions regarding the City's Pay-to-Stay (PTS) Program and the Law Enforcement Trust Fund (LETF) were fielded. The Finance Director reported that this year the PTS brought in about \$10,000 and the LETF about \$40,000.

It was reported that our Permanent Improvement Fund keeps a healthy balance.

The Ward 4 Councilor asked what the \$20,000 in the Police Grant line item is for. The Finance Director reported it is for the boat the Police Department uses for Homeland Security activities and the Drug Prevention Grant that pays for the officer that is at one of the schools. The Finance Director reported nothing has been budgeted for the boat in 2017 because 2016's collections have not yet been seen. So the \$20,000 budgeted is strictly for the Drug Prevention Officer, right now.

The Vice President asked about the proposed Curbside Recycling Program. The Finance Director reported a portion of the City's match from the first Curbside Recycling grant we received is in the budget. She said the fund is being left open thinking that we will probably get some type of grant funds to complete the program. If not, the match will be returned to the Permanent Improvement Fund.

In response to the Vice President's inquiry, the Finance Director reported the Parks & Recreation Levy revenue will be placed in Fund 233. They are estimated at \$277,000.

The Finance Director reported the 2017 Budget Estimate has the details for the 2017 Appropriations and may be viewed online.

The Vice President called for the roll. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. McClure voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. McClure voted yea; motion CARRIED.

#### ORDINANCE

2016-163 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016. (Finance Director)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the reading of the ordinance; 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. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. McClure voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mr. Roskovics, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Misener, Mr. Hamrick, Mr. McClure voted yea; motion CARRIED.

#### Public Comment

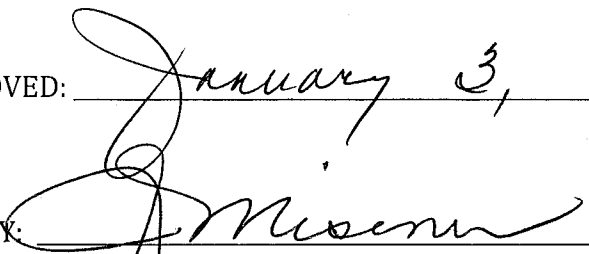
The Vice President apologized for neglecting to permit the public to comment, and did so at this time.

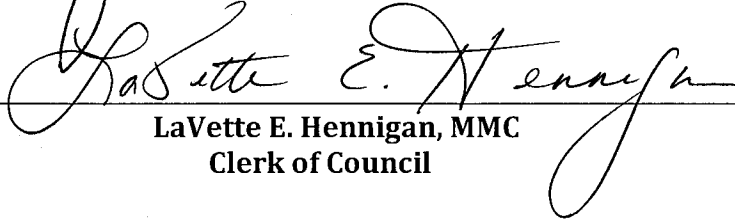
**Mr. Edward Drum, 5025 Dunsmore Avenue:** Asked where the funds are kept that would be used to keep the City of Ashtabula ADA compliant. He said he believes the doors to the Municipal Building and the City Hall Annex are not ADA compliant. The Manager said this type activity would be covered with Permanent Improvement funds. He then said unless modifications are made to an existing structure no ADA modifications have to be made until such time building modifications are made. He said ADA and weatherization items have been discussed for the Municipal Building. The Vice President said when City operations moved from an old structure that was far outside ADA rules and regulations to an improved structure, ADA compliance was being addressed. He further stated the City has upgraded some of its infrastructure with the inclusion of ADA ramps on many of our roads and with the installation of hearing impaired traffic signalization. The Manager and Vice President strongly disagreed with Mr. Drum's assertion. Mr. Drum said he agrees the City is ADA compliant with sidewalks, but disagrees when it comes to the doors. He said he had talks with the United States Attorney's office, who told him, "If that's the case they will investigate and fine the City. I'm trying to avoid the federal government coming in and fining the City." The Vice President said he does not believe there is a basis for the statement, given the law. He said he would not want to comment further without the City Solicitor being present.

Ashtabula City Special Council Meeting  
Wednesday, December 28, 2016

**ADJOURN:** The President adjourned the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

DATE APPROVED: January 3, 2017

ATTESTED BY:   
**President of Council**

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