

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ASHTABULA – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 21, 2017

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Kristy L. Hosken (Ward 3 Councilor)
Mr. Kris E. Hamrick (Ward 5 Councilor)
Mr. John S. Roskovics (Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. Michael D. Speelman (Ward 4 Councilor)
Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)
Mrs. Josephine Misener (President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2 Councilor)

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): Mr. Speelman moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to excuse the Ward 2 Councilor from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

AGENDA APPROVAL: Mr. Speelman moved, Mrs. Hosken seconded to approve tonight's meeting agenda; motion CARRIED.

PRESENTATION(S): None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES: None

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- **Formal Legislation Request(s):** None

- **Form and Correctness:** None

- **Legislation Overview:** None
- **Public Discussion** (Legislation Portion Only): None
- **Legislation Reading:** None

REGULAR BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES

The Clerk of Council presented the August 7, 2017 Regular Council Meeting minutes for Council's approval. Mr. Speelman moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes stood approved as presented.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER

Liability Insurance Renewal – USI Insurance

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with USI Insurance with a mailing address of 10100 Innovation Dr., Suite 220, Dayton, OH 45342, as the most responsible bid in the amount not to exceed \$162,038.00, for comprehensive liability insurance coverage for the City of Ashtabula, for a period of three years, in accordance with the bid. This expenditure will be taken from Funds 101, 225, and 503, accordingly. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to approve the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Road Rock Salt – Morton Salt

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Morton Salt, Inc. with a mailing address of 444 West Lake St., Suite 3000, Chicago, IL 60606, as the most responsible bid for the purchase of road rock salt, in the amount not to exceed \$32.98 per ton/per dump, \$36.48 per ton piler and \$32.50 per ton/picked up. This expenditure will be taken from funds 206, 209 and 219, accordingly. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to approve the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Storm Sewer Repair Hulbert Avenue & West 8th Street – Roto Rooter

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Roto-Rooter with a mailing address of P.O. Box 524, Ashtabula, OH 44005-0524, as the most responsible bid in the amount not to exceed \$11,650.00, for the install/repair of the Storm Sewer located at Hulbert Avenue and West 8th Street. This expenditure will be taken from the 412 Fund. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

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Ohio EPA – Walnut Beach Ecological Restoration Plan Implementation

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Ohio EPA, Natural Resources Damages Fund for the purpose of Walnut Beach Ecological Restoration. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the Manager’s request; motion CARRIED.

Specialized Construction , Inc. – Change Order No. 1

The City Manager requested an ordinance to execute Change Order No. 1 with Specialized Construction, Inc., with a mailing address of 711 Harvard Avenue, Cuyahoga Heights, OH 44105, reducing the 2017 paving contract amount by \$61,103.53, and for an extension of time, with a completion date of August 29, 2017. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the Manager’s request; motion CARRIED.

Questions/Comments for City Manager

- **Holiday Trash Pick-up Schedule:** At the request of the President, the City Manager announced trash pick-up will be delayed one day the week of Labor Day.
- **Safe Routes to Schools Project:** At the request of the Vice President the Manager announced the project construction has commenced.

CITY SOLICITOR’S REPORT – No Report

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Finance Director announced that the 2018 City budget process has begun. Department Heads have been asked to submit their budget requests by Friday.

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 is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, September 12, at 4:00 p.m., in the Municipal Building 2nd floor conference room.

The Chair announced the Ashtabula City Parks & Recreation Board is also scheduled to meet Tuesday, September 12, at 6:30 p.m., in Pre-Council Chambers.

Mrs. Misener moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to repeal and replace Ordinance No. 2017-36, as codified at Section 505.011(c)(3), for the purpose of removing the words “or fowl”; motion CARRIED.

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

At the request of the Chair, a brief overview was provided by members of Council and the City Manager who were present at the Friday, August 11, at 8:00 a.m. meeting with State Representative

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John Patterson, who has been a champion for our City. The meeting was scheduled to permit a question and answer period regarding the recently enacted state budget. Some following are the highlights:

- The Ward 5 Councilor reported he stressed that it seems like a lot of money is being spent at the State level but not in the right places. While small municipalities are struggling, the State's "rainy day fund" seems to be growing – "it is raining here but we're not getting any of the money".
- The Manager reported Representative Patterson said there are some portions of the budget that may be vetoed going forward, but nothing significant to our area. He said Representative Patterson and Senator Sean O'Brien are pushing for our ability to continue to certify delinquent trash bills. He said without the ability to certify we are going to hurt by the end of the year. We have support from other communities, on this issue, as well. He said Patterson has been a "great champion in trying to get local government funds released and school funding redone."
- The President said residents wonder what we are doing with their money, while being unaware of how drastically the State has cut funding to local governments. She said Representative Patterson reported the lack of revenue is due to decreased tax collections and incremental sales taxes being down. She said the State Legislature passed tax breaks for S Corporations (*ordinary business corporations [or, in some cases, limited liability companies or even partnerships] that elect to pass corporate income, losses, deductions and credit through to their shareholders for federal tax purposes.*). This has caused a loss of billions of dollars, annually. She said usually when corporate taxes are cut, hiring occurs, but this has not happened. She said she believes the tax break was not thoroughly thought through. The President reported the State has over one billion dollars in their "rainy day fund", and she asked if there are plans to spend the funds. She suggested the release of some of those funds to address the opiate epidemic, locally.
- The Ward 5 Councilor commented that Fire Chief Shawn Gruber had a persuasive agreement for releasing the funds for the local fight against the opiate epidemic; which he believed the Representative seemed receptive and he told us he would take our request back to Columbus.
- The Clerk of Council reported detox facilities are the first line of defense in fighting the epidemic, none of which are in our community.
- The Finance Director reported local government funds were reduced to create a fund to combat opioid addiction. She said for the City of Ashtabula the reduction is about \$20,000 annually. She said her hope is that some of the funds are released "so we can have our own fight."
- The Manager announced the State's "rainy day fund" is just over two billion dollars. He said they just placed another \$29.5 million into what they call the Budget Stabilization Fund.
- The President suggested talks continue.

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Meeting Cancellation: The Chair announced the Friday, September 8, committee meeting is cancelled, due to the lack of information to come before the committee.

PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC UTILITIES/CABLE/SCHOOLS (PW/PU/C/S) - (Mr. Pugliese/Mr. Hamrick)
The President announced the committee's Friday, September 1, meeting is cancelled.

SAFETY FORCES (SF) - (Mr. Hamrick/Mr. Roskovics)

The Chair announced the committee's Monday, August 28, meeting is cancelled due to the lack of items for the committee's consideration.

WORK SESSION – No report

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- **Formal Legislation Request(s):** None
- **Form and Correctness:** The Clerk of Council certified conformity to Council Rule 21.
- **Legislation Overview:** The President provided a brief overview of the legislation agenda.
- **Public Discussion (Legislation Portion Only):** None

Consent Agenda: Mr. Speelman moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to dispose of the regular business legislation in a consent agenda format. Discussion: At the request of the Ward 1 Councilor, the City Manager provided an explanation of Ordinance No. 2017-108. He said a certain amount of money is set aside for catch basin, manhole and sidewalk egress repairs. When such work does not have to be performed funds are recouped. He said some of the work was done in-house and some did not have to be done per the bid. The motion CARRIED.

Legislation Reading

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-102, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MORTON SALT, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROCK SALT FOR WINTER ROAD DE-ICING PURPOSES.
(City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-103, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ROTO-ROOTER FOR REPAIRS TO A STORM SEWER ON HULBERT AVENUE. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-104, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH USI INSURANCE TO PROVIDE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS AT A COST OF \$162,038 PER YEAR. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-105, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO EPA FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WALNUT BEACH ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PLAN

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INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF NATIVE PLANTS/TREES/SHRUBS, A FENCED WALKING TRAIL AND VIEWING PLATFORM. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-106, AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$16,000.00 FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS INTO THE CODE ENFORCEMENT ACCOUNT TO COVER THE ADDITIONAL COST OF TWO (2) DEMOLITIONS. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-107, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ADAMS SERVICES, INC. FOR THE DEMOLITION AND ASBESTOS ABATEMENT OF TWO STRUCTURES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 48,600.00. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-108, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT WITH SPECIALIZED CONSTRUCTION, INC., FOR CITY STREET PAVING, RESULTING IN A NET REDUCTION OF \$61,103.53 TO THE CONTRACT PRICE AND A NEW COMPLETION DATE OF AUGUST 29, 2017. (City Manager).

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

NEW BUSINESS

- **EV (Electrical Vehicle) Charging Stations:** The Vice President suggested the City look into the installation of an EV charging station given our direction is towards tourism, coupled with the recent completion of a hotel feasibility study and the possible construction of a hotel on Bridge Street. He said EVs are popular and are only going to increase in popularity. He said the closest station to our City is at the Hampton Inn on Route 45 and The Lodge at Geneva on the Lake. The Manager said there is one at a local business, but it is not for public use. He said he has not received a request for such a facility; he suggested we wait until the demand is higher. The Vice President said he believes it is time we look into offering one because if such a station was available in the City, electric vehicle owners might stay longer when they visit for our events.
- **Meetings**
 - The President announced the next Regular Council Meeting will be Tuesday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m.; Pre-Council will be at 6:00 p.m.
 - The President announced Council will meet in a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 5, at 5:30 p.m., to hear requests for the vacation of alleys off West 13th and East 18th Streets.

- **Events – The President announced the following:**
 - “TABS” (The Arts on Bridge Street), is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - The 2nd Annual “Art in the Alley” will take place Saturday, September 2, from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., in the alley adjacent to Dublin Downs Irish Pub and Eatery.
 - The Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA) will host a Meet and Greet, Wednesday, August 23, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at a new Main Avenue business, “Framed on Main”, owned by Mr. Chris DiGiacomo, located in the former Anderson Jewelers building.
- **Back to School:** The Manager asked motorists to exercise caution now that students are returning to school. He wished students and faculty a successful school year and said “we’re looking forward to great things.”

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Chris Raab, 1588 West 8th Street: announced TABS will have 30+ artists, 8 bands, a gallery, a small film fest, a pig roast at Halcyon Speakeasy, wine pairing & wine bottle painting at Fitzgerald’s and the Farmer’s Market on Sunday. Mr. Raab is the 2016 and 2017 event organizer. The event also took place in 2013 and 2104.

Ms. Jennifer Farley, Presidential Neighborhood: announced a Neighborhood Watch (NHW) clean up, Wednesday, August 30, at Noon and Saturday, September 2, at Noon. Their next NHW meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 9, at Lance Cpl Kevin Cornelius Park, at 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Farley obtained permission to address Police Chief Robert Stell and then reported that on Saturday, August 12, at 3:16 p.m., she permitted a gentleman to use her phone to call the Ashtabula Police Department. She said, “I was in the park for three hours after and not one officer arrived.” She said it was a low priority call but that it meant something to the caller and that someone should have arrived. She said she heard rumors that calls were going unanswered and brushed it off until she witnessed it firsthand. The Chief said he has to research the incident before commenting.

Uncorked WineFest: The Vice President said, “In the spirit of cooperation, and the fact that the Ashtabula Chamber is a Main Avenue business and supports and works with many of our businesses, I would be remiss if we didn’t say that the Ashtabula Uncorked will occur this weekend at Lakeshore Park.” He encouraged attendance at TABS and Uncorked. He said the Jolly Trolley will transport back and forth from the festival to Bridge Street; bringing guests both ways.

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He also announced the Lift Bridge Community Association (LBCA) will have a booth at Uncorked to display what is happening on Bridge Street. He said he hopes Uncorked has as much success as we had with our Wine and Walleye Festival.

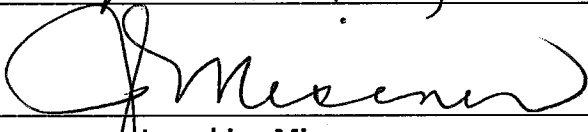
TABS: The Ward 5 Councilor said Mr. Raab is a humble man and will not talk much about what he is doing on Bridge Street. He said Mr. Raab does a lot of good things with children and encouraged attendance at TABS this weekend.

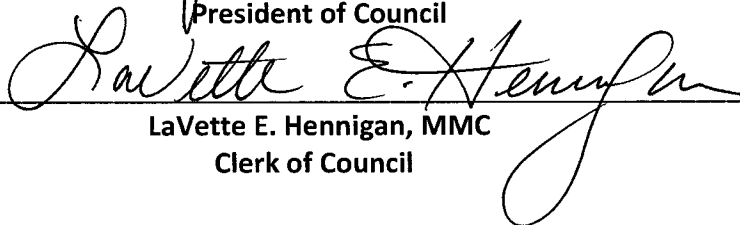
EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: September 5, 2017

ATTESTED BY: 
Josephine Misener
President of Council

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