

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., the Ward 2 Councilor offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Reginald M. Holman (Ward 3 Councilor)
Ms. Jane E. Haines (Ward 5 Councilor)
Mrs. Kym Harley (Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2 Councilor)
Mr. Michael D. Speelman (Ward 4 Councilor)
Mr. John S. Roskovics (President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)

OFFICER(S) PRESENT: Mr. James M. Timonere (City Manager)
Mrs. Dana D. Pinkert (Finance Director)
Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC (Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: Mr. Michael Franklin (City Solicitor)

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): Mr. Speelman moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to excuse the Vice President from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

AGENDA APPROVAL: None

PRESENTATION(S):

The Ward 5 Councilor presented the following resolution to Ms. Robin (Bobbie) Eastman, Ms. Denise Vanpelt and Mr. Ben Stecki:

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-01

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
TO
GOOD KARMA KITCHEN OF ASHTABULA**

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio that a very special recognition is in order; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Robin (Bobbie) Eastman, Director, Assistant Directors Ms. Denise Vanpelt and Mr. Ben Stecki and a host of wonderful volunteers are, with joy and purpose, operating **GOOD KARMA KITCHEN of ASHTABULA** from Our Lady of Peace Parish in the kitchen at St. Joseph's Church, and have been since November 30, 2013; and,

WHEREAS, the “Good Karma Kitchen” is a concept found throughout the United States that are operated by common citizens and celebrities, alike; however, Good Karma Kitchen of Ashtabula is a “soup kitchen with a twist” whose “secret’s in the sauce”, in that they prepare and serve home cooked meals, restaurant style in a dining room, accompanied by real dishes and silverware, and all meals include drinks, dessert, music, dancing, hugs, and the giving of lots of love by the volunteers to their guests, some of which include the homeless, the working poor, seniors and those who are lonely and simply desire the company of others; and,

WHEREAS, Good Karma Kitchen of Ashtabula is open every Sunday and Monday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the first week of the month, and are the only free meal service in the City of Ashtabula on Christmas Day; and,

WHEREAS, Good Karma Kitchen of Ashtabula operates solely on their love for mankind, donations from ‘whosoever will’, and the motto that everyone is welcome; no one is denied;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, hereby express our sincere appreciation to Director Eastman, Assistant Directors Vanpelt and Stecki and all the many volunteers of Good Karma Kitchen of Ashtabula for seeing a need, having a passion to help their fellow man, opening their hearts and unselfishly giving of their time to make sure people in need of a meal and a place to belong know that their doors and arms are open wide, that the tables are set and to COME AND DINE!

ATTEST:

John S. Roskovics
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED:

Christopher J. McClure
VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Kym Harley
WARD 1 COUNCILOR

August A. Pugliese
WARD 2 COUNCILOR

Reginald M. Holman
WARD 3 COUNCILOR

Michael D. Speelman
WARD 4 COUNCILOR

Jane Haines
WARD 5 COUNCILOR

James M. Timonere
CITY MANAGER

Michael Franklin
CITY SOLICITOR

Dana D. Pinkert
FINANCE DIRECTOR

Ms. Eastman asked her volunteers to rise and be recognized. She said “the secret’s not really in the sauce; the secret’s in the people. Reverend Kirby Hensley once wrote that, “With no food there is no freedom; there is only a vain struggle to survive.” So, freedom fighters, here we go.” Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to adopt the resolution; motion CARRIED.

“The Last Plastic Straw Ashtabula Campaign” Presentation (pages 11 and 12)

The presentation began with the following opening statement: My name is Camille Licate, founder of Kids for Positive Change, an educational program designed to reach, teach and inspire kids to take positive action for animals, people and the planet. I have been working with extraordinary teachers and students from Erie and Superior Intermediate, with the support of Principals Rutz and Fulton and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Melissa Watson. A key component of the program is classroom-community action campaigns. Classroom-Community Action Campaigns allow students to extend their reach beyond their classroom and into their community. In May 2017, Kids for Positive Change 4th grade students, from Superior Intermediate, began developing a campaign to remove plastic straws from local restaurants. In October 2017, 4th and 5th grade students continued to develop the campaign, which includes participation from all 4th and 5th grade classes at Superior and Erie Intermediate. I am very pleased to introduce 4th, 5th and 6th grade student representatives, from Superior Intermediate, to tell you more about The Last Plastic Straw Ashtabula Campaign, set to launch on February 3, 2018, in 10 local restaurants.”

Participating restaurants are: Rennick Meat Market, Lakeway, Harbor Perk, Halcyon Speakeasy, Tony's Dog House, Purola's Bridge Street Pizza, Mikki's Diner, Fitzgerald's Wine Bar, Martinis and Crosswinds Grille.

The following students presented information on, statistics about and encouragement for the City of Ashtabula to be the next city, along with Seattle, WA, to ban the use of plastic straws for the environment’s sake: Sadie, Chenoa, La'Ray, Jackson, Jack, Ben, Jaselle and Conner.

The campaign is providing sustainable straw options, such as: silicon, glass, bamboo and stainless steel. They may be purchased at Carlisle’s Home Store on Bridge Street. Straws may be kept in a bag or purse to use when dining out.

When the Ward 2 Councilor asked students what to do with the plastics we now have, they suggested various art projects.

The students asked City officials to sign (and they did) a pledge “promising to skip the plastic and share the knowledge learned here today”.

The President announced the City Manager will have a Proclamation drafted, endorsing the student’s campaign. The President entertained a motion that City Council participate in the February 3, kick off of the “Last Plastic Straw Campaign”. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Harley seconded; motion CARRIED.

It was standing room only and everyone very much enjoyed the student’s presentation.

The President suggested Ms. Licate and her students return once their campaign takes hold; and said perhaps the City of Ashtabula can be the 2nd city in America to end the use of plastic straws. Ms. Licate agreed to both.

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

The Clerk of Council presented the January 2, 2018, Regular Council Meeting minutes for Council's approval. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. There were no amendments to the minutes; therefore they stand as presented.

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: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER

The Manager presented the following:

MNJ Technologies – Ashtabula Police Department (APD) Computer Server

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with MNJ Technologies Direct, Inc., for the purpose of providing a new computer server and associated equipment/software for the Police Department 911 System in the amount not to exceed \$24,392.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the Permanent Improvement Fund 412. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

ID Networks – Ashtabula Police Department (APD) Software & Services

An agreement with ID Networks for the purpose of providing the software and services necessary to implement a complete replacement of APD Mobile, Records Management, and Jail Management Systems in the amount not to exceed \$89,708.00 for the initial set up and \$14,709 annual maintenance services fee. Funding for the initial set up will be taken from the permanent Improvement Fund 412

and the Annual Maintenance Service fee will be taken from the Police Operating General Fund 101. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

Health District Licensing Council

As matter of record, I will reappoint Mr. John Phelps as a member representing Campgrounds on the Health District Licensing Council effective February 5, 2018, with a term to expire February 4, 2023.

As matter of record, I will reappoint Mr. Ronald R. Kister as a member representing Marinas on the Health District Licensing Council effective February 5, 2018, with a term to expire February 4, 2023.

Parks & Recreation Board Appointment

I would like to reappoint Mr. Christopher McCain as a member of the Parks & Recreation Board effective immediately with a term to expire on May 21, 2021. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

Spectrum Cable

The Spectrum channel on which City Council meetings are viewed has changed from 1020 to 1024.

Live Streaming City Council Meetings

He sat in on a live streaming webinar demonstration by Box Cast, out of Cleveland, Ohio, in consideration of live online streaming of council meetings. The initial cost would be a little more than \$2,000, with an annual fee of \$1,600. He favors the Box Cast system because it will track viewership to determine if the cost is worth the number of persons who are actually watching. Hopefully it will be work out to be another way the public is able to watch council meetings. He will report as the process evolves.

CITY SOLICITOR

No Report

FINANCE DIRECTOR

The Finance Director reported 2017 will be closed by tomorrow. The General Fund is ending with a healthy balance due to city income tax declarations, which means our 2018 revenue estimates will have to be adjusted.

TRASH PICK

The Clerk of Council reported the City Manager announced in Pre-Council that this week's trash pick-up will not be affected by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Holiday of yesterday.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS start

(Chair/Vice Chair)

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

The Chair announced the committee met Tuesday, January 9, and reported the following:

- Continued the discussion about vacant downtown properties; the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA) is collecting addresses and information on property owners; the City's Planning & Community Development Department will send letters to the landlords of the vacant downtown buildings located on Main Avenue between West 44th Street to the railroad crossing at West 48th Street. The letters will remind them of their obligation to keep their buildings, including facades, presentable and in good shape.
- Business incubators were discussed, which ADDA will also discuss.
- Mr. Roskovics moved, to place signs throughout the City denoting Ashtabula as the birthplace of Connie Schultz, a Pulitzer Prize winning author, the recipient of the 2018 Ernie Pyle Award, a published author of several books, and is due to have another one published this year. These signs will fall in line with the ones erected for Ohio State Head Coach Urban Meyer who achieved the top rank in college football; Ms. Schultz received the top rank in literature. He noted she's a 1975 graduate of Ashtabula High School. Mr. Pugliese seconded and the motion CARRIED.
- Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to remove RESOLUTION NO. 2018-06, A RESOLUTION URGING OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH TO KEEP ITS HISTORIC BUILDINGS LOCATED IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA OPEN AND ACTIVE (Roskovics/City Council), given their recent decision not to move; motion CARRIED.
- The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, at 4:00 p.m. Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau will present a PowerPoint presentation on Ashtabula County. The chair issued a reminder that the meetings are open to the public.

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

The Vice Chair announced the committee will not meet in February.

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

The Chair announced the committee did not meet this month and will not meet in February.

SAFETY FORCES - (SF) (Speelman/Haines)

The Chair announced the committee will meet on Monday, January 22, at 8:00 a.m., in the Municipal Building 2nd floor conference room.

WORK SESSION – No report

LEGISLATION AGENDA

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

Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to dispose of the legislation in consent agenda format; motion CARRIED.

Legislation Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-02, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MNJ TECHNOLOGIES DIRECT, INC. FOR PURCHASE OF POLICE DIVISION COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-03, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN ADDENDUM TO AN EXISTING AGREEMENT WITH THE SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DISPATCHING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FIRE DEPARTMENT THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2018. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-04, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT WITH THOMAS PALLOTTA & SONS, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$14,170.87 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND MATERIALS FOR THE ODOT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT (ATB-LAKESIDE SCHOOL CAMPUS SRTS, PID 98625). (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-05, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO A CONTRACT WITH LAKE COUNTY SEWER COMPANY, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$643.00 FOR THE SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW ELIMINATION PROJECT – PHASE 1.
(City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-07, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE ASHTABULA CODIFIED ORDINANCES. (Clerk of Council/City Council)

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-08, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ID NETWORKS FOR THE PURCHASE OF POLICE DIVISION COMPUTER EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE AND SUPPORT/MAINTENANCE SERVICES. (City Manager)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to waive the reading of the ordinances; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Speelman second to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mr. Holman, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Harley, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinances: Mr. Holman, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Harley, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

The President announced the Clerk of Council will obtain clarification on the dates found on the following liquor request before Council considers it: **Liquor Permit Request – NEW**

Requestor: Donald E. Andrus, 2231 West Avenue, Ashtabula, OH

Permit Types: C1/C2

C1 Beer only in original sealed containers for carry-out only until 1:00 a.m.

C2 Wine & certain prepackaged mixed drinks in sealed containers for carry out only until 1:00 a.m.

“Tell Us Something We Don’t Know” Segment

This is a segment under New Business recently suggested by the President to give persons on the dais the opportunity to tell something about Ashtabula we may not know.

1. City Manager
 - a. The Collins Boulevard lighting project is completed; the LEDs give off lots of light; FirstEnergy installed a new transformer because “we were sending 480 volts through the lines; now only 120 volts to power all the lights. This should also be a substantial decrease in the electric bill for these lights. The goal is to determine if there are other areas in the City (such as Main Avenue) where LED lights can replace the current “energy hog” lights.
2. Ward 4 Councilor
 - a. The Collins Boulevard lights are “awesome”.
 - b. Last week Catholic Charities gave another presentation on homelessness in Ashtabula County. There is a homeless population in the City. Know that these folks are out there. If there is something you are able to do to help; please do so.
 - c. The school week of January 22-26, is Ashtabula Area City Schools’ (AACS) “Kindness Week”. The students are doing a “Great Kindness Challenge”. It is an initiative to encourage kindness and compassion, and to teach students to do so, so they, too, may pass it on. AACS Superintendent, Dr. Watson, would like the public to volunteer to read to students or tell stories about kindness and compassion.
 - d. He said he became frustrated while watching the Golden Globe Awards because “those people have an audience to talk to. It is frustrating to me that some folks that shouldn’t be idolized are getting idolized. This is my platform, so maybe I can reach 50 people. We put the wrong people on a pedestal, idolize them and call them heroes when such titles should not be attributed to them. Encourage young people and adults to idolize folks who should be, such as: police, firefighters, public servants, teachers and those close to home. Look at yourself and see if you are a role model. Hopefully the children who were here earlier this evening could look at the folks on the dais and be inspired.”
3. President
 - a. An excellent article on Rennick Meat Market is in the recent edition of Ohio Magazine.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters)

Ms. Jennifer Farley, Resident of the Presidential Area, Ashtabula, OH:

- Asked the City Manager if Housing Inspector John Artuso is being investigated internal or external.
- The Manager said it is a joint effort headed up by an outside agency.
- Ms. Farley asked if an update is able to be given to the public.
- The Manager responded, “No, not during the on-going investigation.”
- Ms. Farley commented on newspaper reports about the Ward 3 Councilor’s drug test results; asked if the public is going to hear from the Councilor; said the public deserves to know what is

going on; and commented that the children who made presentations this evening are unable to look to the Councilor as a role model if he is not going to own up to his responsibility in this matter.

- The President said, "This is an ongoing situation; that, that thing is being handled by an outside agency. Mr. Holman's situation will be handled in a fashion that is germane to what he feels is best at this time. As you know – I'm sure you've read, the City has no policy concerning this matter. So, if that's something that we want to talk about down the road, or discuss down the road, of adopting a policy, then that might be a more appropriate time to ask such a question."
- Ms. Farley said the Councilor should keep residents updated on what he plans to do.
- The President said, "Keep in mind Mr. Holman does not have to answer such a question."
- The Ward 3 Councilor said, "I'm not ready to say I'm not ready to respect accountability, I'm just not ready to discuss it with you right now."
- Ms. Farley asked if a policy is put in place would it retroactively affect the Councilor.
- The President reiterated that City Council has no policy concerning such a matter; until one is adopted or constructed it really is an issue he feels should not be discussed. "City Council has not discussed the matter; and until Council does, even if they do discuss this matter, matters regarding how it would affect the Ward 3 Councilor are premature."
- The Ward 3 Councilor said, "We are working on it and I'm working on me, so that's the best I can tell you."
- The Ward 2 Councilor suggested the discussion should not be prolonged because, "This is under investigation and as in all cases there's no decision on anything until the investigation is completed. And, as we know, the City Solicitor is involved, the County Prosecutor is involved and until we get direction about what needs to be done, we will do it. But, at this time it's under investigation, so I don't think we should answer anymore questions until... it's going to make it cloudy if we say anything. So, until we get the direction as to what should be done, I think we should wait for that time to be here. There's no reason to keep discussing this."
- Ms. Farley said, "I'm just asking for transparency and understanding."
- The Manager stated, "We have been looking into a lot of different things with this. One of the things we've uncovered is this municipality is one of the only municipalities that tests our elected officials, in the County. I know at the County level none of the elected officials are tested; most of the townships, I don't believe, are tested either. We have done this because it's part of our Drug Free Workplace Policy. And, the theory here is, if there is a paycheck or any kind of benefits paid by the City to anyone then they should follow the same protocol as the employees. State law, and I also believe federal law, disagrees with us on that. We had a, or now what it seems as a positive result, but there is nothing as far as this body or myself can do to remedy that. That is something internally with the individual that has to be taken up, because, even if there was a policy, from what I'm understanding it still would be the individual's right to either abide by it or stay in the position. So, even having a policy is a sketchy thing. I am not saying that we shouldn't - I think there should be some clear perimeters with it. But, I know the focus is on the City right now, but I think it should be noted that we are one of the only areas that does test elected officials."
- The Ward 4 Councilor said, "Good for you to come up here and hold our feet to the fire. We're beholden to the public and if someone's not coming up here and calling us out on our bs, then

we could do whatever we want. So, good for you. I know you didn't get any answers. If I'm screwing up I expect to get called out on the carpet too, so, good for you."

Mr. J.P. Ducro IV, 430 West Prospect, Ashtabula, OH:

- Welcomed the new Ward 1 Councilor as a member of City Council
- Offered the assistance of the County Commissioners if they are able to help in any way
- Said if there are projects the City would like to see the Commissioners focus on, to not hesitate to reach out
- He continues to keep in contact with Ms. Janet Switzer, of the Ashtabula County Solid Waste District, in an effort to get an answer as to when the curbside recycling bins will be distributed to the residents in Wards 1 and 2 (which is where the recycling program will begin) – he apologized for it taking so long, and said he is interested in getting the contract in place to get the bins distributed; and hopes everything will be ready to go this spring.

Building Destroyed

The Ward 2 Councilor asked if part of the former Carlisle's building, which has been vacant for years, came off. The Manager said not that he is aware of, but that the City lost a building at our West Avenue (former ODOT) facility. One of the out barns/storage areas collapsed under the weight of ice and snow. No equipment or salt was in the structure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m. noting the next Regular Council Meeting will be Tuesday, January 16.

DATE APPROVED: February 5, 2018

ATTESTED BY: John S. Roskovics
John S. Roskovics
President of Council

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

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Student #1:

Hello my name is: **Sadie Drozd**

Plastic Straws can harm animals and the environment because they are not biodegradable. Plastic straws are in landfills, on our beaches, in Lake Erie and the ocean. They are eaten by fish, birds and endangered sea turtles. Some plastic straws get stuck up sea turtle nostrils making it hard for them to breathe!

Student #2:

Hello my name is: **Chenoa Stevenson**

During International Coastal Cleanup Day, in September, 2017, 496 plastic straws were picked up off Walnut Beach in under two hours! Plastic Straws from Walnut Beach can travel to the Atlantic Ocean by way of the St. Lawrence River. Fish in Lake Erie, like Perch and Walleye can eat bits of plastic straws. Bald Eagles eat the fish and humans eat fish! If you are eating fish from Lake Erie or the ocean you are probably eating plastic too!

Student #3:

Hello my name is: **La'Ray Hall**

According to World Wildlife Fund Organization and The Last Plastic Straw.org: website, each day we go through 500 million plastic straws in the United States. That's enough plastic straws to fill over 46,000 school buses in one year! That's enough plastic straws to fill Yankee Stadium 9 times a year! That's enough plastic straws to wrap around the earth's circumference 2.5 times a day!

Student #4:

Hello my name is: **Jackson Hill**

In addition to plastic straws, did you know there are 5.72 trillion pieces of plastic in our oceans? We can help! We can use reusable bags and bottles AND We can Skip the straw!

Student #5:

Hello my name is: **Jack Varkette**

As Kids for Positive Change we are launching "The Last Plastic Straw Ashtabula" Campaign! Our campaign will educate Ashtabula residents about plastic straws and how they can help animals and the environment simply by skipping the straw or using a sustainable alternative. (Glass straws, paper straws or stainless steel straws)

We began our campaign by inviting local restaurant owners to a presentation like this one, in November 2017. We asked local restaurants to join our campaign to help us share our knowledge with the Ashtabula Community. We partnered with LEADERShip Ashtabula County. LEADERShip Ashtabula County will provide FDA approved paper straws to restaurant owners, participating in the Last Plastic Straw Ashtabula campaign. Customers will have the choice to Skip the Straw or use a paper straw alternative.

Student #6:

Hello my name is: **Sadie Drozd**

We are happy to announce 10 local restaurants are participating in our campaign!

These are the participating restaurants:

1. Lakeway:
2. Mikki's Diner:
3. Tony's Dog House:

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4. Halcyon:
5. Harbor Perk:
6. Rennick Meat Market:
7. Purola Brothers
8. Martinis
9. Fitzgerald's Wine Bar
10. Crosswinds Grille

Student #7:

Hello my name is: **Ben Keener**

Starting Saturday, February 3, 2018 participating restaurants will ask customers to skip the plastic straw. If customers want a straw, they will be given a paper straw. Carlisle's Home Store (address) will have stainless steel or silicone straws for sale like these! 4th and 5th graders, from Superior and Erie Intermediate, are making flyers, posters and table tents, for participating restaurants, with information about how skipping the Straw is good for animals and the environment.

Student #8:

Hello my name is: **Jaselle Kreniski**

It's important to remember, that you can ALWAYS Skip the Straw! Even if you are at a restaurant that is not part of our campaign, you can always tell your server you do not want a plastic straw in your drink. Together we can create positive change!

Student #9:

Hello my name is: **Conner Hansel**

Starting in July 2018, the city of Seattle, in Washington State, will ban plastic straws from city restaurants. Let's make the city of Ashtabula the next city to ban plastic straws, from our restaurants, and offer sustainable options!

We have a pledge for City Council. If you choose, please sign our pledge! By doing so, you promise to skip the plastic straw and share knowledge you learned here today!

Thank you!

Kids for Positive Change Students from Erie & Superior Intermediate Schools

Artwork Credit: Avery, 5th Grade