

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 15, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

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: Ms. Jane E. Haines (Ward 5 Councilor)
Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2 Councilor)
Mr. Richard A. Quaranta (Ward 3 Councilor)
Mr. Michael D. Speelman (Ward 4 Councilor)
Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)
Mr. John S. Roskovics (President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Mrs. Kym A. Foglio (Ward 1 Councilor)

OFFICER(S) PRESENT: Mr. James M. Timonere (City Manager)
Mr. Michael Franklin (City Solicitor)
Ms. Traci R. Welch (Director of Finance)
Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC (Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: None

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to excuse the Ward 1 Councilor from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

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: None

- Formal Legislation Request(s): None
- Form and Correctness: None
- Legislation Overview: None
- Public Discussion (on legislation only): None

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES

The Clerk of Council presented the April 1, 2019 Regular City Council meeting minutes. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager presented the following requests:

Legislation Requests

Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulation Change

A formal request for Ordinance No. 2019-44, an Ordinance repealing, in its entirety, Ordinance No. 2014-180, for the purpose of repealing the Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Commission of the City of Ashtabula, revised November, 2014, for the purpose of enacting a revision eliminating a requirement that the Chairman of the Commission be an attorney at law. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

A formal request for Ordinance No. 2019-45, an Ordinance enacting new Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Commission of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

Entrance Flooring – Municipal Building

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Carpet Mart of 2001 West Prospect Road, Ashtabula as the lowest and best bid to replace the tile flooring on the front and rear entrances of City Hall in an amount not to exceed \$11,108.00. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from Permanent Improvement Account, 412. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

Commercial Tax Abatement - 4726 Main Avenue, LLC

An ordinance to approve a Commercial Tax Abatement for 4726 Main Avenue, LLC. The abatement would be for 10 years at 50%. Renovations to the 5th floor will be done to allow Signature Health to expand their practice. The expansion is expected to create 15 new full time jobs within two years of renovation completion. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve the request. The President reported this to be an investment of over \$1 million. The motion CARRIED.

Residential Tax Abatement – 3420 Brooke Lane (Mareddy Estates)

An ordinance to approve a Residential Tax Abatement for the property known as 3420 Brooke Lane. The abatement would be for seven years at 100%. This is for new residential construction. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. McClure seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

Curbside Yard Waste Bag Pickup

Pickup began this week in the Wards. The Harbor Route pickup will begin next week. The Harbor Route consists of Walnut Boulevard, south to W. 19th Street, and from the Ashtabula River west to the City Limits. The Ward Routes are any streets outside the Harbor Route area. Bags should be placed at curbside on Mondays and will be picked up sometime during the week. Please remember yard waste must be placed in biodegradable bags. Sticks and branches must be bundled no longer than three feet and no more than 20 lbs. Yard waste bags may be taken directly to Public Works. Abusing the program by the placement of illegal materials in bags has been noticed. The Manager cautioned that the easiest thing to do would be to do away with the program, but he would rather not have to. The Manager asked that the City be alerted to illegal dumping.

Questions / Comments for City Manager

Mareddy Estates – 3420 Brooke Lane: The Vice President commented on ditch work needed on the properties to the east of 3420 Brooke Lane, otherwise the pipe the owner of 3420 Brooke Lane plans to lay in the ditch, will not do him any good. The Vice President said, “The good news is it will have a good egress. The bad thing is, everything east of there sits pretty plugged and it’s almost getting to the road level, on both sides.” He believes some of the pipes by the fire hydrants are pretty plugged, causing it to back up.

Point Park: The Ward 2 Councilor reported receiving a call about activity at the park after 11:00 p.m. Sunday night and that the lights are burned out. He reported the Manager told him the lights are on order and are expensive.

Executive Session: None

CITY SOLICITOR

No Report

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The Finance Director presented the following:

Sewer and Trash Billing Backlog: The Department is on target to get the catch-up sewer bills out this week. The Department is working with and reaching out to customers who have their payments automatically deducted from an account, to ensure the customer’s desires as to how much should be electronically deducted, is carried out.

Income Tax Deadline Extension: Today is the Federal, State and local income tax payment deadline to avoid penalty and interest. Anyone 18 years and older is required to file a City income tax form regardless of their income. The Director asked Council for a one day extension to permit income taxes to be paid without penalty. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to allow April 16, as a penalty-free day for filing taxes. The Ward 5 Councilor issued a reminder that U.S. Post Offices are open on April 15, until midnight, to permit income taxes to

be mailed. At the request of the Ward 3 Councilor, the Director announced the Finance Department customer service window is open 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The Clerk asked if taxes will be penalty and interest free if postmarked by April 16, as well. The Director responded yes. The motion CARRIED. The President announced the voice vote to be 4 to 2, and the extra day to file taxes is approved.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

The Clerk of Council announced that in the absence of the City Solicitor, the City Council must vote to waive Ashtabula City Council Rule of Order, No. 18. The rule requires legislation to be signed by the City Solicitor acknowledging “form and correctness” prior to the legislation’s consideration by City Council. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive Rule 18; motion CARRIED.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

All Council committees meet in the Municipal Building 2nd Floor Conference Room
(Chair/Vice Chair)

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

The Chair reported on the Committee’s Tuesday, April 9, meeting, as follows:

Legislation

The Committee voted to present, to the full Council, the repeal of the current and enactment a new Codified Ordinance Section 1361.07 titled, Inspection Certificate of Occupancy, Fees. The Manager explained the changes. The Chair reported the goal is to improve our housing stock. Ms. Haines moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to have legislation drafted to repeal current and enact a new Codified Ordinance Section 1361.07; motion CARRIED.

River Bend Hotel and Suites

Tonight, The City Manager announced the hotel’s construction is scheduled to begin soon. The number of sleeping rooms is going to be more than the eight first reported. The Manager explained that during the plan and design review meeting it was determined that some redesign is required to comply with fire and building codes. Because of the extra cost to comply with said codes, the developers elected to take advantage of the change and add a few more rooms than originally announced, along with “another surprise on the roof top”. He Manager said he will let the developers make the announcement once they break ground.

Former Ponderosa Building (Route 20, due west of Lake Avenue)

A new private practice urgent care will be constructed at this location.

Proposed Walnut Beach Concept

Mr. Ryan Humphrey presented a PowerPoint presentation to show what changes could be made to Walnut Beach Concession Stand to make it visually appealing. The concept included adding dining and libations. The concept will not take away from the beach goer who just wants a hot dog, pop and ice cream. The Chair liked the vision and said, "Walnut Beach is Ashtabula's crown jewel and the idea of expanding the structure to go beyond the immediate needs of the beach crowd is a game-changer for tourism."

5g Small Cell Towers

The City Solicitor gave a report about this topic, focusing on right-of-ways. It was decided that he would reach out to the Mentor, Ohio Law Director who wrote their legislation. The Solicitor feels that because this is such new technology we may need to hire a consultant to tell us what this all means for our community and what positive and adverse affect it will have.

Next Meeting

The committee's next meeting topic will be Homelessness, on Tuesday, May 14, at 3:30 p.m.

Questions/Comments for CD ED P&R Committee

The President expressed the enjoyment he gets from attending this committee's meeting, which he said are so informative.

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

The President announced the committee did not meet.

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

The Chair reported on the committee's Friday, April 5, meeting, as follows:

2019 Paving Program & Pot Holes

The City will be pave West Avenue from the south side of the overpass to West 34th Street - (\$34,000).

The City and Aqua Ohio will share the cost of paving West Avenue from West 34th Street through the Route 20/Prospect Road intersection. Aqua agreed to pay 60% of the cost due to the number of road openings they made. The total cost for this portion of the road is about \$219,000.

City Council's road paving "wish list" was reviewed. The City Manager told the committee after paving West Avenue we will be lucky if we have \$100,000 to \$150,000 remaining to address other roads. Lake Avenue from the Lake Avenue/West 19th Street/West Avenue intersection to West 9th Street sorely needs to be addressed. However, the West Avenue project is going to take most of the allotted paving dollars. He said the hope is residents will vote YES on the Ashtabula City Paving Levy that will appear on the Tuesday, November 5, Ashtabula County General Election ballot. Local governments [may] receive more paving dollars from the newly enacted State gas tax increase. These funds coupled with our allotted paving funds might net

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us about \$1 million, for the next four years, to address roads. The Chair said he does not like to increase taxes to residents, but that this one is absolutely necessary! The residents, not Council, have the opportunity to say yes or no to more paving dollars.

Potholes may be called into the Pothole Hotline at 992.7100.

Equipment

The City Manager told the committee he will soon advertise for the purchase of a Public Works truck and a few Police vehicles.

SAFETY FORCES - (SF) (Speelman/Harley)

The Chair announced the committee will meet Monday, April 22, at 8:00 a.m.

WORK SESSION - None

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- Formal Legislation Request(s): None
- Form and Correctness: Due to the City Solicitor's absence, the Clerk announced Ashtabula City Council Rules of Order No. 18, is required to be waived. It is the rule requiring the City Solicitor's signature on all legislation signifying "form and correctness" prior to Council's consideration. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to waive Council Rule 18; motion CARRIED
- Overview: The Clerk of Council provided
- Public Discussion (Legislation Only): None
- Consent Agenda Format: Mr. Pugliese moved, Ms. Haines seconded to dispose of the regular business legislation by consent agenda; motion CARRIED.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-43, A RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2019, THE QUESTION OF THE LEVY OF AN ADDITIONAL FOUR (4.0) MILL TAX FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF STREETS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA. (City Council)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-44, AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN THEIR ENTIRETY, ORDINANCE NO. 2014-180, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPEALING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, REVISED NOVEMBER, 2014, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING A REVISION ELIMINATING A REQUIREMENT THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION BE AN ATTORNEY AT LAW. (City Manager for Civil Service Commission)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-45, AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO.
(City Manager for Civil Service Commission)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Ms. Haines, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Quaranta, Mr. Speelman, Mr. McClure, Mr. Roskovics voted aye; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Ms. Haines, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Quaranta, Mr. Speelman, Mr. McClure, Mr. Roskovics voted aye; motion CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Purchase Card Transaction and Quarterly Audit

Mr. McClure moved, Mr. Pugliese second to approve the February and March 2019 Purchasing Card Detail Transactions and the March 31, 2019 Purchasing Cards Quarterly Audit; motion CARRIED.

Civil Service Commission - Member Resignation

The President announced Mr. Brett Cimorell recently resigned as the Ashtabula City Civil Service Commission Chair and member, a position he has held for almost three decades. Mr. Roskovics moved, Ms. Haines seconded to present Mr. Cimorell with a resolution of appreciation for his service; motion CARRIED.

Boards and Commissions

The President announced the Clerk of Council issued notice through the Star Beacon and, Gazette newspapers and through email notices that there are vacancies on some of our boards and commissions. Persons interested in serving may download a "Notice of Interest to Serve" application from the City's website and submit the completed form to the Clerk of Council. The Boards and Commissions Roster is on the City's website. The roster documents the Ohio Revised Code, Charter or Codified Ordinance section to learn details about each body. Applications will be taken through the end of April.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

President

- He participated in Lakeside High School's "Rocking" fundraiser, in honor of a former student who passed away about 10 years ago. Friday afternoon they raised over \$4,000 He complimented the students and said "what a nice group". Donations go to the Cleveland Clinic Research Department.

Ward 3 Councilor

- The Kiwanis Club is hosting an Ohio Avenue Extension cleanup, Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m. until Noon - Grabbers are needed for debris pickup. The Ward 2 Councilor

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reported Ohio Avenue will be closed during the clean-up. The President wholeheartedly agreed with closing the road for safety due to a blind curve. He said he was in one of the most improvised nations in North America, last week, and it looked a lot like Ohio Avenue Extension, which is not saying much for the trash that is regularly dumped on that road. The Ward 4 Councilor said our roads remind him of Afghanistan. The President thanked the Kiwanis Club for tackling this project and said they do great work in the community.

Ward 4 Councilor

- Sunday, April 28, he will present a City resolution to the Auxiliary to the VFW (Veterans of Foreign War) Post 943 in recognition of their 85th year anniversary celebration at their Main Avenue location. The event begins with social hour from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; the program will begin at 3:00 p.m.; and dinner will follow. Folks interested in attending my purchase a \$10 ticket and learn more about the event by calling Mrs. Vicki Krug at 964-9726.

Ward 5 Councilor

- Tuesday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m., the community group “I’m in Amazing Ashtabula” will meet at the Ashtabula County District Library. This is an open community group open to anyone who wants to get involved in community projects.
- Saturday, April 20, the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA) will host the annual Eggstravaganza in Cornelius Park from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. until Noon, Harbor Yak is hosting a Harbor clean-up. Meet at the Yak.
- Friday, May 3, ADDA will host the annual Downtown Laughs at Martini’s Restaurant.
- Friday and Saturday (May 3 and 4), ADDA will host the annual Chocolate Walk. Twenty-two businesses are participating. Tickets may be purchased at Ultimate Appearance hair salon on Main Avenue.
- Saturday, May 4, My Neighborhood Collaborative will host their first Reverse Raffle. Tickets may be purchased at Ultimate Appearance hair salon on Main Avenue.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters) - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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DATE APPROVED: MAY 6, 2019

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

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