

## ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 1, 2021

### Opening

The regular meeting of the ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL was held virtually via Zoom and viewed on the City of Ashtabula website and Facebook page as well as Spectrum channel 1024. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Council President. The Ward 1 Councilor offered the opening prayer; and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed for Linda Dragon and Ronald Ovak, former City employees who recently passed.

### Members Present

Ward 5 Councilor – Ms. Jane E. Haines, Ward 1 Councilor – Mrs. Kym A. Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor – Mr. Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor – Ms. Laydean Young, Council Vice President – Mr. Michael D. Speelman, Council President – Mr. John S. Roskovics

### Member(s) Absent

Ward 4 Councilor – Ms. Octavia V. Harris

### Officers Present

City Manager – Mr. James M. Timonere, City Solicitor – Mr. Michael Franklin, Director of Finance – Ms. Traci R. Welch, Clerk of Council – Mrs. Stacy H. Senskey

**Excused Absence(s)** Ms. Haines moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to excuse the Ward 4 Councilor from this meeting. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

### Sunshine Law

The Clerk of Council certified conformity to the Ohio Sunshine Law as modified, due to the stay-at-home order imposed by Governor DeWine. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to suspend the Council Rules of Order for the duration of the meeting. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

### Community Cat Coalition of Ashtabula County (CCCAC) Report– presented by special guests, Dr. Irene Fiala and Kim Fedler

Dr. Fiala thanked the community, volunteers, other agencies, and City Council for supporting CCCAC's efforts, whether it was through fund-raising, or locating cat colonies and spreading the word. She proceeded to give a report of the statistics.

## Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, February 1, 2021

CCCAC fixed 510 cats, 272 (53%) were within the City of Ashtabula. They held 52 spay-neuter clinic dates from March to December, using five different clinic locations across four counties. At these clinics, the average Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) cost for one cat was \$33.80. One coalition member on her own trapped 22 cats at no charge. 289 of the 510 (57%) cats were female. In one year, that means CCCAC's efforts prevented 3,468 kitten births. 209 (41%) cats were male, and twelve cats were previously neutered. The breakdown of cats fixed by Ward is as follows: Ward 1 – 50 (18%), Ward 2 – 32 (11%), Ward 3 – 92 (34%), Ward 4 – 64 (24%), Ward 5 – 36 (13%). In November of 2019, Animal Control Officer Steve Lanham provided a list of trouble areas to the group including West 34<sup>th</sup> and West 36<sup>th</sup> Streets, Woodman Trailer Park, Wilbur (Lakeshore Park) and Thayer Avenue out of which 104 cats were TNR'd. The highest number of cats TNR'd from one location was 31 at West 43 Street. The un-audited CCCAC income for the year was \$17,596.75 from donations and expenses were \$17,443.25, from neuter surgery and fundraising costs. The group also provided 100 winter shelters for community cats. Start-up money is needed to proceed with upcoming activities and donations are welcome. The group identified one of the biggest challenges besides raising funds is the need for a permanent structure to for the cats both pre- and post-operations, store traps, food, and other essential supplies. Ideally, the structure would have heat and air conditioning. Ms. Fedler noted the group temporarily used a structure owned by her brother, which is no longer available. A community member who volunteered with the group shared the remarkable organizational efforts and compassion for the cats displayed by Ms. Fedler. Animal Control Officer, Steve Lanham, submitted a letter thanking the CCCAC. Because of their efforts, feline calls to his office were reduced. They provided him with valuable resources such as emergency care, temporary housing for hoarding cases, and assistance with transport, trapping and rehoming. He routinely checks on the cat colonies throughout the City of Ashtabula, noting the cats are living peacefully and look much healthier. Another unintended benefit was the reduction of disputes between neighbors. He appreciates the groups humane approach to the City's problem and is glad for the support of the City Manager and City Council.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Clerk of Council presented the minutes from the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

### **City Manager Report and Communications**

The City Manager reported the latest COVID statistics for the City of Ashtabula. The cumulative positive cases are 1,101. The Health Department is currently monitoring twenty-nine active cases which is down from previous weeks. Cumulatively, there have

**Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, February 1, 2021**

been 74 patients hospitalized in the City, currently there are two patients hospitalized and there have been 20 deaths. 1,025 patients with symptoms have been resolved. Vaccine and appointment information can be found on the City's website, [www.cityofashtabula.com](http://www.cityofashtabula.com). The City is following the State of Ohio's guidelines for vaccination. Phase 1B started today which means Ohioans 70 years and older and employees of Kindergarten through grade 12 schools wanting to return to the classroom are able to be vaccinated. The City Health Department has given out 930 doses of the vaccine, which includes first and some second doses and is scheduled for 450 through the end of the current week. Feedback to the City Manager and Councilors about how the City Health Department staff is coordinating vaccine clinics, explaining about the vaccine, and comforting the recipients has been positive and encouraging. For Phase 1B City of Ashtabula residents to get on the vaccine schedule with the City Health Department, call 440-992-7188. The phones are monitored from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. but the line is extremely busy. It may be necessary to leave a message which should include name, date of birth, and a working phone number. Expect to wait for a call back since scheduling cannot take place until the vaccine is in hand. Only people qualified should call to get scheduled. Vaccines are also being administered by the Ashtabula County Health Department, City of Conneaut Health Department, Giant Eagle at the Ashtabula and Geneva locations, Discount Drug Mart at the Ashtabula and Jefferson locations, Ashtabula County Medical Center and Signature Health. Because the health departments are overwhelmed, contract tracing has become the responsibility of the COVID positive patient. It is important to receive the second dose from the same place as the first, as second doses are distributed according to the first dose administration. Ashtabula County Emergency Management Agency is exploring ways to utilize volunteer vaccine administrators and the City has contracted some Registered Nurses. Members of the Fire Department may also be able to administer the vaccines at some point. A variant of COVID has been reported in Ohio and much is still being learned about the virus. Best practice even after receiving the vaccine is to continue to mask and social distance until further notice.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Famous Supply of Ashtabula with a mailing address of 4625 Foster Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004 for the purpose of purchasing two (2) boilers for the Municipal Building heating system at \$14,689.12 each for a price not to exceed \$29,378.24. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 412. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Ziegler Heating Company with a mailing address of 5223 North Ridge West, Ashtabula, OH 44004 for the purpose of installation of two boilers for the heating system at the Municipal

**Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, February 1, 2021**

Building in the amount not to exceed \$22,030.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 412. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance for authorization to execute CO# 1 with Perk Company, Inc. with a mailing address of 8100 Grand Avenue, Suite 300, Cleveland, OH 44104 for the purpose of additional work needed as well as non-performance of other items for an amount not to exceed \$41,972.89. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 412. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request **Discussion:** There were deductions of items not performed and paving repairs and resurfacing from Parkgate to Route 11. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested ordinances to enter into a CRA with County Seat Properties LTD for the purpose of a tax abatement at 100% for seven years for new construction of a residential dwelling known as 1417 Bridge Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004, Permanent Parcel No. 68-409-10-012-01 and Tiffany Salinas for the purpose of a tax abatement at 100% for seven years for new construction of a residential dwelling known as 1419 Bridge Street, Ashtabula, OH 44004, Permanent Parcel No. 68-409-10-012-02. **Discussion:** These dwellings are two of the townhouses on Bridge Street. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The Council President remarked about the Star Beacon article reporting Amtrak possibly having a stop in Ashtabula. He urged residents county-wide and other elected officials to encourage federal representatives to support the endeavor.

**Director of Finance Report and Communications**

The Director of Finance formally requested Ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations in the General, Local Coronavirus Relief, Permanent Improvement, and Court Special Projects Funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2021. Mr. Roskovics moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. This request was added to the evening's Legislative Agenda.

### **Clerk of Council Report and Communications**

The Clerk of Council attended a virtual Thank You presentation put on by Media and Partnership Specialist Susan Licate along with a small group of Ashtabula County residents. She reported the 2020 Decennial Census data is still being processed and Ms. Licate will continue to share information as more data is released. The Census Bureau accounted for 99.98% of addresses nationwide and 80% of the responses came through via Internet self-response across the country. The response rates shown online at census.gov reflect only self-response rates and does not include responses gathered through the mobile questionnaire assistance events that were held between August – October, or when Census Takers visited households that had not yet responded. The City of Ashtabula's self-response rate was 62%; that means that the Census Takers needed to visit 38% of households in the City to ensure everyone was reached with an opportunity to respond. The Census Bureau will be holding Data Summits later this spring that will show how to extract data pertinent to a communities needs using various data tools. The Census Bureau is non-partisan, is the nation's largest statistical agency and seeks to keep the partnership strong so people recognize the importance of participating in Census Bureau surveys and how the City and its residents will benefit by using high quality data to make key decisions.

### **Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Report and Communications**

The next meeting is February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. and will be held virtually. The guest speaker is David Thomas, Ashtabula County Auditor.

### **Finance and Personnel Committee Report and Communications**

The next meeting is Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. and will be held virtually.

### **Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/School Committee Report and Communications**

The next meeting is Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. and will be held virtually.

### **Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications**

The Committee Chair reported on the January meeting (minutes attached). The next meeting is Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. and will be held virtually.

### **Legislation Agenda**

- Formal Legislation Request(s): no additional requests came before Council
- Form and Correctness – met per City Solicitor
- Public Discussion (on legislation only) – none
- Legislation Overview –  
The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda.
- Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Ms. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda.

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, February 1, 2021

On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

**Legislation Reading**

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-12 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT A NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-13 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH WILLIAM WEBB FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS AT RESIDENTIAL PREMISES KNOWN AS 4113 WEST AVENUE (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-14 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1363.08 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENACTING REPLACEMENT LEGISLATION REQUIRING FIRE AND CASUALTY INSURANCE FOR RENTAL STRUCTURES (Planning and Community Development Department)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-15 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 1363.08 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REQUIRING FIRE AND CASUALTY INSURANCE FOR RENTAL STRUCTURES (Planning and Community Development Department)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-16 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, LOCAL CORONAVIRUS RELIEF, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT, AND COURT SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021 (Director of Finance)

Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to waive the reading of the legislation. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

**New Business**

The Councilors present are not requesting a hearing on the advisability of issuing a liquor permit to East Side Drive Thru LLC located at 4135 State Road located in Ward 4.

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, February 1, 2021

The Ward 5 Councilor formally requested a resolution to honor Gloekler Chiropractic on its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of business in the City of Ashtabula. Ms. Haines moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded the request. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

**Tell Us Something We Don't Know**

The Ward 3 Councilor organized a drive-thru of food and household supplies (flyer attached) called The Charity Faith Love Project at the Peoples Missionary Baptist Church parking lot on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:00 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering or giving needed items can contact Ms. Young by calling 440-637-4846.

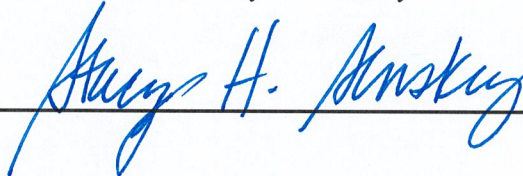
**Public Discussion/Comments on General Matters**

none

**Adjournment**

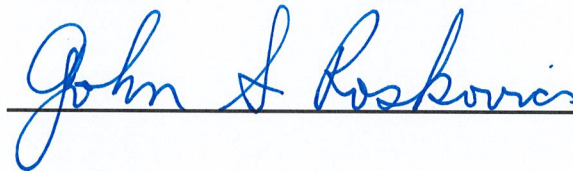
Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. by the President of Council. The next Pre-Council Meeting will be held virtually at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will be followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey

  
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Attested by:

President of Council, John S. Roskovics

  
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Date Approved:

  
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Attachments: January 25, 2021 Safety Forces Committee Meeting Minutes – 2 pages  
Charity Love Faith Project Flyer February 20<sup>th</sup> – 1 page

**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT**

NAME OF COMMITTEE:  
**Safety Forces (SF)**

DATE: Monday, January 25, 2021

MEETING TIME & PLACE: 8:30 a.m. – Zoom Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair/ Vice President Michael Speelman, Vice Chair/ Ward 1  
Councilor Kym Foglio, Member/ Ward 3 Councilor Laydean Young

COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION/STAFF:  
City Manager James Timonere, Chief of Police Robert Stell, Fire Chief  
Shawn Gruber, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

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**REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED**

**Ashtabula Police Department**

Chief Stell submitted statistics for the month of December and for the entire year. The statistics are consistent with past years and there was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

**Ashtabula Fire Department**

Chief Gruber reported on general statistics for the past three years. The EMS calls are noticeably down due to layoffs from COVID and people were hesitant to call for emergency services because of COVID. Also, the amount of structure fires went down, and the dollar amount of loss was down. He is now seeing more mental health issues, presumably due to COVID as well.

**Parking Issue of East 16<sup>th</sup> Street**

Based on Chief Stell’s observations, he recommends designating the entire length of the section of roadway as “No Parking” on the South side of the street. The next step is to send letters out to see if the neighborhood agrees. Mr. Speelman moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to request Chief Stell to complete the further investigation necessary to resolve the parking issue for East 16th street between the creek and Columbus Avenue. Mr. Speelman, Mrs. Foglio and Ms. Young were in agreement; motion CARRIED.

**Parking Problem on Hamlin Drive**

Chief Stell did not see anything out of the ordinary while in the area. Chief Stell does not recommend any changes to the current “No Parking” areas. This issue can be removed from Committee business.



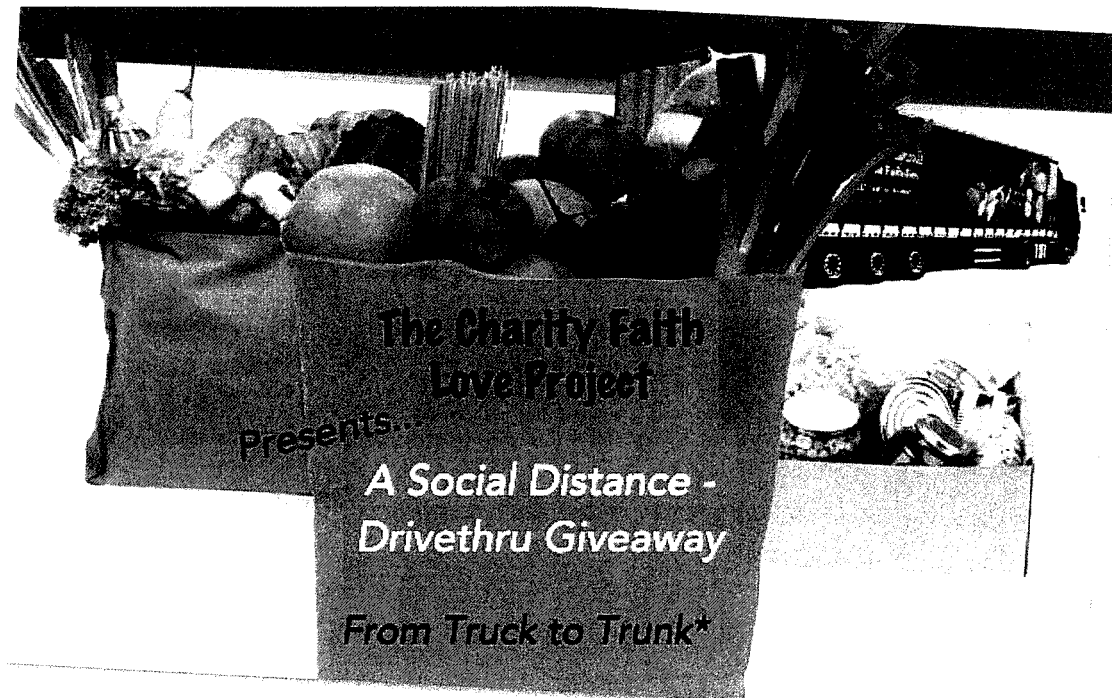
## **New Business**

- Status of 4611 Main Avenue structure fire  
Chief Gruber said the investigation is ongoing. The building can come down and the local owner will tear it down. There were nine buildings total in the area, but 4611 Main Avenue was the only structure significantly damaged.
- Petition about Ashtabula County Metroparks North Shore Trail bike lanes on West Avenue  
The City Manager asked Chief Stell to gather statistics about accidents there. 2019 was accident prone and a cyclist was hit in the area. In 2020, there were no reported accidents while it was being constructed or since the lane opened. There are two sets of rumble strips, signage, and painted sections on the roadways demonstrating where the bike lane is. What is being seen are people intentionally driving in the bike lane, exhibited by a Facebook video. The City Manager intends to share the name of the person as well as the video with Chief Stell. The design came from the Metroparks and Ohio Department of Transportation approved that design. In 2016 - 17 three public meetings were held but not well attended. There were plenty of other opportunities for people to voice their concerns. The bike lane needs to be given a chance this spring and summer. As far as the actual petition, it created a discussion, one that's been held before. The petition should be presented to the Metroparks. The Ward 3 Councilor commented the bike lane is an asset and a hindrance to Ward 3. She believes there is confusion about traffic laws between cyclist and motorists. Chief Stell said the vehicle has to yield the right of way to the cyclist. Motorists should treat the bike lane like a sidewalk; waiting for a pedestrian or cyclist to pass before crossing the bike lane. The whole stretch is plowed.
- Resident complaint about the traffic signal on West 9<sup>th</sup> and Lake Avenue  
Motorists driving southbound are using the right turn only lane to drive straight through the intersection. The issue has been discussed in the past. There is current signage and paint on the road, the consensus is the intersection is appropriately marked.
- Resident complaint about parking on Cleveland Avenue  
The City Manager asked Chief Stell to take a look into this issue. Chief Stell sent a letter to the residents and has received eight responses. Many who responded are not in favor of no parking on both sides of the street.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting is Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

**Adjourn** – The Chair adjourned meeting at 8:59 a.m.

Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council



*Food • Personal Goods • Household Goods*

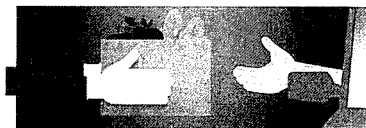
**Peoples Missionary Baptist Church (Parking Lot)**

*3837 West Avenue Ashtabula Ohio 44004*

**Saturday February 20th 12noon to 2:00pm**

In support of a healthy and enriched Community we have partnered with Country Neighbor Program Inc along with many local sponsors to distribute this help to those in need.

FMI: Contact Ward-3 City Councilwoman Laydean Young 4406374846



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*\*PLEASE have space cleared in trunk for items to be placed.*