

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 21, 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.

Members Present

Ward 4 Councilor – Ms. Octavia Harris, 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

Officers Present

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

Sunshine Law

The Clerk of Council certified conformity to the Ohio Sunshine Law as modified by House Bill 404 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to suspend the Council Rules of Order for the duration of the meeting. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; Mr. Speelman voted nay; motion CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes

The Clerk of Council presented minutes from the June 7th, 2021, Public Hearing and the June 7th, 2021, Regular Meeting. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

City Manager Report and Communications

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Kusters Water with a mailing address of P.O. Box 6128 Spartanburg, SC 29304 as the most responsible bid for the WPC Mechanical Bar Screen Project in the amount not to exceed \$231,015.00. Funding for this project will be taken from the 504 fund. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

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The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Severino Construction with a mailing address of 937 West 52nd St. Ashtabula, OH 44004 as the most responsible bid for the ATB 531 Culvert Project in the amount not to exceed \$210,593.32. Funding for this project will be taken from the 412 fund. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement Bob Ross Auto Group with a mailing address of 85 Loop Road, Centerville, OH 45459 through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program for the purchase of a GMC 3500 Truck for the Water Pollution Control Department in the amount not to exceed \$37,867.00. Funding for this purchase will be taken from the 504 fund. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to authorize two agreements for educational stipends in the amount of \$12,000.00 each with persons who are on the current Civil Service list for hire by the Police Division and who are attending the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD Group with a mailing address of 100 Federal Plaza, Suite 200, Youngstown, OH 44503 to provide engineering design and construction administration for the WPC Administration Building Roof and Masonry Project in the amount not to exceed \$20,000.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the WPC 504 fund. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Greatwave Communications with a mailing address of 224 State Street, Conneaut, OH 44030 for the purpose of providing Onsite IT Services for the City of Ashtabula for a period of two (2) years at a cost of \$2,800.00 per month. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 101. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager asked for Council consent to re-appoint Janet Vettel to the City Port Authority effective immediately for a term to end on January 22, 2025, and Mark Brockway for the City Port Authority effective immediately for a term to end on April 1, 2025. The Councilors gave their consent for both re-appointments.

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Upcoming drive-thru COVID Vaccination Clinics in the Ashtabula Municipal Building parking lot:

Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 9AM – 12PM

Tuesday, June 29, 2021, 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Tuesday, July 8, 2021, 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Janssen (J&J) and Moderna for 1st & 2nd doses

In case of bad weather, clinics will be held in Council Chambers.

The Ward 5 Councilor reported speeding issues on West 58th Street and nearby streets and is requesting the City Manager to increase patrolling between 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. in the area.

The Ward 5 Councilor asked the City Manager to expand accessibility to the Walnut Beach restrooms. The City Manager explained the restrooms are open while the concession stand is open; during the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. During inclement weather, the concession stand is closed. The concessionaire is responsible for keeping the restrooms accessible and clean according to their contract. The City Manager agreed to extend the hours the restrooms are open.

City Solicitor Report and Communications

The City Solicitor announced he plans to retire his elected position with the City effective September 4th, 2021. Council must appoint a replacement according to the City Charter.

The City Solicitor requested an Executive Session prior to meeting adjournment for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters of appointment. Mrs. Foglio moved, Ms. Young seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Finance Director Report and Communications

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance to make supplemental increases to appropriations in the General, Public Health/Nursing, Special Projects, and Water Pollution Funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2021. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Clerk of Council Report and Communications

The Clerk of Council reported she recently earned six education points and has 15.6 more to earn in order to receive clerk certification. She cannot become certified until she has been a municipal clerk for two years and has earned the necessary education and experience points according to the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13th, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Finance and Personnel Committee Report and Communications

The Committee Chair gave a report from the June meeting (minutes attached).

Formal request coming out of Committee Meeting:

Mr. Roskovics moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to requesting a resolution in support of the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, also known as H. R. 842. **Discussion:** The Ward 5 Councilor referred to the City Solicitor, who suggested many statements in the original sample resolution were matters of debatable opinions. The resolution does not affect City operations. He advised Council review information about the PRO Act. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; Ms. Haines and Mr. Speelman, voted nay; motion CARRIED. The Clerk of Council will prepare and submit a resolution for the next Regular Council meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 16, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 28th, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 26th, 2021, at 8:45 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Legislation Agenda

- Formal Legislation Request(s): no additional requests came before Council.
- Form and Correctness – met per City Solicitor.
- Public Discussion (on legislation only)
- The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda.

Legislation Reading

Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to dispose of the legislation by consent agenda. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-60 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH J. SEVERINO CONSTRUCTION CO., FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING REPAIRS AND

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IMPROVEMENTS TO A LAKE ROAD/SR 531 STORM OUTFALL IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$210,593.32 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-61 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BOB ROSS AUTO GROUP FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A GMC 3500 TRUCK FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL THROUGH THE STATE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-62 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, PUBLIC HEALTH/NURSING, SPECIAL PROJECTS, AND WATER POLLUTION FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021 (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-63 AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH IEN RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 PER YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-64 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER #2 WITH A.P. O'HORO FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING QUANTITY ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS FOR WORK PERFORMED TO THE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF ZERO AND TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT PERIOD BY 724 DAYS FROM MAY 12, 2019, TO MAY 5, 2021 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-65 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO TWO (2) AGREEMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL STIPENDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,000 EACH WITH PERSONS WHO ARE ON THE CURRENT CIVIL SERVICE LIST FOR HIRE BY THE POLICE DIVISION AND WHO ARE ATTENDING THE OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING ACADEMY, UPON CERTAIN CONDITIONS (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-66 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KUSTERS WATER, A DIVISION OF KUSTER-ZIMA CORPORATION, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$231,015.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SERVICES AND MATERIALS FOR THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL MECHANICAL BAR SCREEN AND SCREENINGS WASHING AND COMPACTING EQUIPMENT PROJECT (City Manager)

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

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

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

Unfinished Business

New Business/Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 1 Councilor has fielded several complaints about fireworks. The City Solicitor explained setting off fireworks within the city limits is unlawful; a fourth degree misdemeanor.

The City Manager reminded Council the Beach Glass Festival is Saturday June 26th from 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Bridge Street will be shut down starting at 6:30 a.m. Parking restrictions for the streets north and south of Bridge Street will also be in effect.

The Ward 5 Councilor asked for volunteers to paint the railings at the Walnut Beach concession stand this Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

The Council President announced the First Presbyterian Church on Park Avenue is celebrating 200 years in Ashtabula. Also, he read an article entitled "Ten Charming Towns in Ohio". The City of Ashtabula was ranked fourth.

The Ward 4 Councilor learned an Ashtabula Lakeside graduate, Taylor Allgood, was recently showcased as a model on the website for the clothing store, Express. Juneteenth is now a federal holiday. Locally, Juneteenth was celebrated at Lakeshore Park on June 19th. The event was well attended, including many local and county officials. Local businesses graciously donated gift baskets. Lake Erie Recovery Center, Signature Health, Community Counseling Center and Community Action represented the community services. NAACP gave out awards for the "Black History and Me" poetry contest. Stacy Gancos was recognized for her involvement in the community with minority youth and the youth OPPORTUNITIES program. The Shelby family was recognized for the accomplishments of Dr. R. W. Shelby. Gus Powell awards were presented to six people in three categories; Foundation awards were given to Ira Young and LaVette Hennigan, Trailblazer awards were given to Steve Sargent and Rev. Emory Moore, and Mover and Shaker awards were given to Patrick Haywood and Sally Bradley. Playall Awards on Main Avenue made the plaques for the occasion. The Ward 4 Councilor encourages everyone to participate and support the annual celebration.

Public Discussion/Comments on General Matters

None

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Executive Session

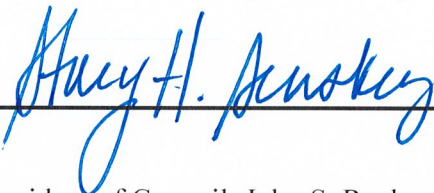
The Council President announced the executive session would convene off camera. After the executive session was over, the Council President reconvened the public portion of the meeting, with no action taken.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m. by the President of Council.

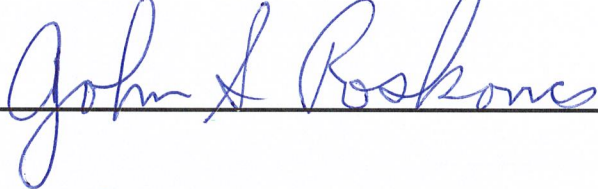
City Council will meet on Tuesday, July 6th, 2021, in Council Chambers. The Pre-Council Meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey

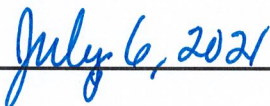


Attested by:

President of Council, John S. Roskovics



Date Approved:



Attachments:

- June Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:
Finance & Personnel (F&P)

DATE: Friday, June 18, 2021

MEETING TIME & PLACE: 8:30 a.m. – Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair/ Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio
Vice Chair/ Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines
Member/ President John Roskovics

COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION/STAFF:
Finance Director Traci Welch, City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey, Fire Chief Shawn Gruber, Chief of Police Robert Stell, Assistant Finance Director Carolyn Sheldon

SPECIAL GUESTS: Ray Gruber, Jr., President, Ashtabula County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council and Stephen Lanham, President of AFSCME Local 1197, Vice President of the Ashtabula AFL-CIO

Topic: PRO Act Resolution Request

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

PRO Act Resolution Request

Mr. Ray Gruber, Jr. asked the Finance & Personnel Committee and City Council to consider supporting an updated federal labor reform bill. The Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act passed the United States House of Representatives and has the support of President Biden. Mr. Gruber explained the PRO Act protects the rights of workers, including their rights to organize without fear of termination by their employer. Mr. Gruber explained private sector employers follow federal law, while public employers follow state law. Member, Mr. Roskovics summated by stating if Council adopts a resolution, they are supporting the PRO Act, and the rights of working people in the private sector. Fifteen cities in Ohio adopted a resolution in support of the bill. Mr. Gruber asks the bill not to be viewed as political propoganda, but as a bill supporting human rights. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to bring the topic out of the Finance & Personnel Committee; motion carried.

Finance Director’s Report

The Finance Director noted she has only one concern stemming from the monthly financial reports, income tax revenue. July was the deadline to pay income tax in 2020, this year it was May. While comparing the collection at the time of the deadline to pay, she noted a deficit of \$437,219, or 10% of this year to last. The quarterly collection of withholding taxes was included in the 2020 figure and is one reason for the difference, but the pandemic and unemployment also play a role. There is insufficient data to report an accurate amount of income tax filers who have yet to file. Determining changes to the figure will take more time and review. The City

unemployment statistics are low, and job opportunities are plentiful, but it seems a large percentage of the population left the workforce due to the pandemic. With significantly less people currently working, future withholding and income tax revenue will also likely be less. Future revenue is uncertain due to changes to collection of municipal income tax in the proposed 2021 state budget, which may include refunding some 2020 income tax revenue. The City is waiting for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund distribution and requires a formulaic determination of the lost revenue. The Finance Director processed \$1.3 million in assessments with the County Auditor. Trash assessments totaled \$424,613. Trash delinquencies under the minimum \$250 cannot be assessed on property taxes (per ORC 701.10) and approximately \$90,000 was written off due to property sales. Alternative ways to recoup the lost revenue have been suggested but most lack serious consequences.

City Manager's Report

The City Manager reported internal personnel changes within departments. Chief Stell will soon make his recommendations to hire from the eligible police officer candidates. Those receiving the Dr. Shelby Scholarship award must attend the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPATA). An entrance exam for the Fire Department is scheduled for September. Police officers controlling traffic on Lake Avenue are off-duty for the City and hired and paid by the contractor.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is Friday, July 16th, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Adjourn – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council