

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 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. on January 19, 2021 by the Council President. The Ward 1 Councilor offered the opening prayer; and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present

Ward 3 Councilor - Ms. Laydean Young, Ward 4 Councilor – Ms. Octavia V. Harris, Ward 5 Councilor – Ms. Jane E. Haines, Ward 1 Councilor – Mrs. Kym A. Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor – Mr. Calvin Crawford, Council President – Mr. John S. Roskovics

Member(s) Absent

Council Vice President – Mr. Michael D. Speelman

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) Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to excuse the Council Vice President from this meeting. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, 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. 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, and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes

The Clerk of Council presented the minutes from the January 4, 2021 Regular Meeting. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, 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 formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Xylem Water Solutions U.S.A., Inc. with a mailing address of 4828 Parkway Plaza Blvd., Suite 200, Charlette, NC 28217 as sole supplier for the purchase of ultraviolet lamps and related parts for servicing of the ultraviolet wastewater treatment system at the WPC Plant in the amount not to exceed \$55,286. Funding for this purchase will be taken from fund 504. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. This request was added to the evening's Legislative Agenda.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with NOPEC with a mailing address of 31360 Solon Road, Suite 33, Solon, OH 44139 for the purpose of accepting the 2021 NOPEC Energized Community (NEC) grant in the amount of \$32,211. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into a CRA with William Webb for the purpose of a tax abatement at 100% for seven years for new construction of a residential dwelling known as 4113 West Avenue, Permanent Parcel NO. 05-308-00-016-00. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager noted it has been one year this week since the first coronavirus cases were discovered in the United States. The most recent COVID-19 statistics from Ashtabula County include 5,128 cumulative positive cases which is an increase of 240 since last Tuesday. There are currently 21 people hospitalized with COVID-19, and a cumulative total of 425. There have been four deaths since last Tuesday, reaching 104 cumulative deaths. There are 303 current active cases while 3,275 cases have been resolved. Ashtabula City Health Department reported 1,058 cumulative positive cases. Three people are currently hospitalized, for a cumulative total of 72. Nineteen City residents have passed away from COVID-19. There are 87 active cases and 940 cases have been resolved. Testing done January 12 through January 19 resulted in a 15.8% positivity rate, an increase from the previous week's positivity rate of 13.1%. Cases coming from congregate living account for 10.9% while community spread makes up 89.1% of those cases. High levels of the non-infectious RNA (ribonucleic acid) were reported from the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant, which indicates higher positivity rates within the community for the next four to five days. A vaccine hot-line, (440) 992-7188, was published and is receiving extremely high call volumes. The hot-line is actively monitored between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday but

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residents can call any time. The voicemail feature allows residents to leave a message with their first and last name, telephone number, and date of birth. At some point, staff will return your call and collect the necessary medical information to determine eligibility, but the City Manager reminded everyone to remain patient due to the overwhelming amount of phone calls and messages. The City has not received the vaccine quickly or consistently from the State of Ohio, making it difficult for the City Health Department to schedule appointments, however, no vaccines are being held back or wasted. The local health departments are seeking medical professionals for administering vaccines. It is important for residents to remain patient and understanding, as all the local health departments are working under extreme amounts of pressure and staff shortages. Vaccine information for City residents and others can be found on the City's website. Persons who reside anywhere except the City of Ashtabula or the City of Conneaut who wish to receive the vaccine should contact the Ashtabula County Health Department. The Ward 1 Councilor observed the Ashtabula City Health Department staff while scheduling and vaccinating residents. She admires the preparation, hard work and kindness they exhibit during this most difficult time.

Much attention has been directed to the Norfolk Southern property on the east and west side of the Ashtabula River north of the Lift Bridge. Norfolk Southern is dismantling structures along both sides of the river and is rumored to be doing the same with the iconic coal conveyor belt. The City Manager scheduled a meeting with representatives from Norfolk Southern to discuss future plans for their property and appeal to allow the coal conveyor belt to remain a feature of the Harbor skyline. Members of Council and of the community support keeping the structure intact.

The third shift Public Works crew is scheduled and ready for snow. There is a parking ban in effect for snowfall over three inches. Cars will be reported to the police department for possible tickets.

There was a structure fire in an unoccupied Main Avenue building. Thanks to the efforts of many local fire departments, the fire did not significantly damage the surrounding nine buildings. The fire remains under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ashtabula Fire or Police Department. Clean-up of alleys and sidewalks has been completed.

Director of Finance Report and Communications

The City ended year 2020 with positive fund balances overall and more than a \$2.385 million unencumbered carryover into 2021 in the General Fund. The large carryover balance is due to receiving over \$1.921 million from the Cares Act, allowing the reallocation of a large portion of the Fire department salaries from the general fund. The Health department also received \$308,766 in Covid Relief grant money, allowing the

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reallocation of most of the Health department salaries from the General Fund. Although this is a larger than normal carryover in the General Fund going into 2021, income tax revenue was down by \$354,588 as compared to what was collected in 2019. Since the ramifications of the pandemic are still unknown, the City has postponed contract negotiations with its three unions until 2022.

The General Fund supplemented several other funds to eliminate fund deficits. The 2020 transfers from the General Fund to other funds include:

- 201 Police Levy - \$115,000
- 202 Street Lighting Assessment - \$142,071
- 204 Food Service - \$39,637
- 214 Probation - \$51,753
- 291 Housing Code Enforcement - \$75,082
- 231 Fire Pension - \$130,000
- 232 Police Pension - \$186,000

The Finance Director explained these funds typically need supplemented every year because by nature, they are special revenue funds and are not self-sufficient.

The Park Levy Fund carried over \$158,458 for improvements in 2021.

The Paving Levy Fund carried over \$449,542 for road resurfacing in 2021.

Funds 225 – Sanitation, 503 Wastewater (WPC) and 504 – WPC Capital are funded through user fees. All ended the year with healthy year end balances consisting of \$378,552, \$1.749 million, and \$1.420 million, respectively.

The City Manager added if it hadn't been for the CARES Act and additional Health Department funding, along with budgetary cuts that included lay-offs, furloughs, and decreased salaries, the carry-over in the General Fund would have only been \$155,000. At minimum, the Finance Director and City Manager strive to start each year with \$300,000 or more on hand. Predictions of short-falls in income tax were accurate and had it not been for the cooperation of the unions and City employees, the City would have been in a position of deficit spending, had it not been for the additional CARES Act and Health Department funding.

Clerk of Council Report and Communications

The Clerk of Council formally requested an ordinance to approve current replacement pages to the Ashtabula codified ordinances. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request. **Discussion:** Updates include: the list of City Officials, applicable pages in the General Index and Comparative Section Table, changes to State law including:

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- 331.43 Wearing Earplugs or Earphones Prohibited. (Amended)
- 335.09 Display of License Plates or Validation Stickers; Temporary License Placard. (Amended)
- 335.091 Operating Without Dealer or Manufacturer License Plates. (Added)
- 505.04 Abandoning Animals. (Amended)
- 513.01 Drug Abuse Control Definitions. (Amended)
- 537.17 Reserved. (Previously “Criminal Child Enticement”)

The Council’s approved changes included Street Vacation Procedure Chapter 919, Sewer Use Code Chapter 933.12 Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Enforcement, Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Chapter 951.03 Rates, Collections and Disposal, and Historic Preservation Districts and Landmarks Chapter 1187.08 Appeals.

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

The Clerk of Council formally requested a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis. Ms. Harris moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. These two requests were added to the evening’s Legislative Agenda.

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

The Ward 5 Councilor reported about the Committee’s January meeting (minutes attached). The next meeting is February 9th, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. and will be held virtually.

Finance and Personnel Committee Report and Communications

The next meeting is Friday, February 19th, 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, January 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. and will be held virtually.

Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications

The next meeting is Monday, January 25, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. and will be held virtually.

The City Manager added the Council Chambers are being used for the COVID vaccination clinics, so they are unavailable for any Council meetings at this time.

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; Mr. Crawford seconded to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Legislation Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-06 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DESIGN ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE 2021 PAVING PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$85,000 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-07 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DESIGN ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LAKE AVENUE RESURFACING PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-08 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, FOR ADMINISTRATION OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-09 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH XYLEM WATER SOLUTIONS U.S.A. INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,286 FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING ULTRAVIOLET LAMPS AND RELATED SUPPLIES AND SERVICES FOR THE CITY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-10 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE ASHTABULA CODIFIED ORDINANCES (Clerk of Council)

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-11 A RESOLUTION DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS (Council President)

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

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

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

New Business/Tell Us Something We Don't Know

The Council President requested a moment of silence for the 400,000 COVID deaths that have occurred in the United States.

The Ward 2 Councilor announced Hilmak's enjoyed a great holiday season, but they did shut down for deep cleaning. It has since opened back up and they are ready to serve the public. He thanked everyone for shopping local and supporting local businesses. He noticed many businesses are hiring at this time. The Council President added Wade Pastabilities moved near the Lake Avenue Plaza and a Brighter Horizons Family Restaurant opened in the West Avenue Plaza.

The Ward 3 Councilor organized a food drive (flyer attached) called The Charity Faith Love Project at the Peoples Missionary Baptist Church parking lot on Saturday, February 20th 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

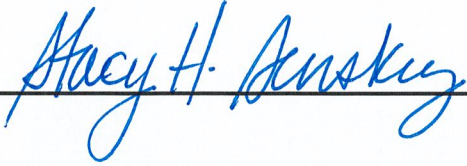
none

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by the President of Council. The next Pre-Council Meeting will be held virtually at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2021 and will be followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

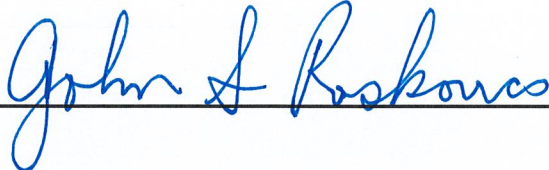
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Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey

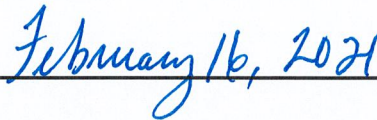


Attested by:

President of Council, John S. Roskovics



Date Approved:



Attachments: January 12, 2021 CD/ED/P&R Committee Meeting Minutes – 2 pages
Charity Love Faith Project Flyer February 20th – 1 page

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:

Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation (CD/ED/P&R)

DATE: Tuesday, January 12, 2021

MEETING TIME & PLACE: 4:00 p.m. – Zoom Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair/ Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines, Vice Chair/Ward 4 Councilor Octavia Harris, Council President/ Member John Roskovics

COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION/STAFF:

Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio, City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

VISITORS: Parks and Recreation Chair Earl Tucker

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

Report from Station Avenue/Shelby Avenue Online Discussion

Ms. Harris moderated a virtual online discussion with over 20 participants and viewers. The discussion was hosted by Pastor Emory Moore of New Hope Church of God in Christ. Guests included Steve Sargent and Patrick Haywood, who initially brought the proposal before the CD/ED/P&R Committee last November. They shared the original thoughts behind the request and after respectful debate decided to change the proposal. Past and current residents offered alternatives to honoring Dr. Shelby, including the possibilities of renaming Rodgers Place, the road next to Ashtabula County Medical Center and an honorary naming of a portion of Lake Avenue in front of the hospital. All agreed they want to see the Station Avenue area thrive again. Ms. Harris noted a diverse crowd of participants and viewers were involved with the event. Further research is needed on the Rodgers Place location.

Parks & Recreation (P&R) Board Report

Mr. Earl Tucker reported from the P&R Board’s January meeting. The board members present welcomed Margaret Distler as Council’s appointment to the P&R Board. Wards 3 and 4 are underrepresented on the P&R Board and they hope to fill the final vacancy soon. The board members want to contact A-Tech about building a new lifeguard structure for Walnut Beach. Mr. Tucker reported the listing of bricks left from the Mariner Memorial Park project. He is looking for design input and installation. Ken Vanyo will chair the Parks Renewal Levy Committee.

Further discussion of Proposed Lakefront Residential Zone

Samples of Lakefront Zoning were added to the meeting agenda and reviewed. The City Manager is asking for Council input for things such as the level of City and Planning Commission oversight, accepted uses, conditional uses, and starting a review committee for modifications of current structures. He and the Planning Department can put the zoning language together. Planning

Commission would review and recommend, then suggest the zoning change. The suggested changes are presented to the public for thirty days before they can be presented to Council. The Committee is considering setting a deadline to send suggestions to the City Manager and will announce such at the next Regular Council Meeting January 19, 2021.

City Manager's Report

The City is preparing to get the COVID vaccine out to the public. The vaccine on hand is being steadily distributed in four clinics each day. The scheduling is in groups of ten because there are ten vaccines within each vial. A larger shipment is expected next week when the Phase 1B Vaccination Program begins. The City Manager plans to release a public notice by the end of the week and is setting up a vaccine scheduling hot-line.

The Petmin paving project is finished and the contractor did a tremendous job. The State of Ohio sent reimbursements for the project before the end of the year.

Spring planning has commenced for the Riverbend Hotel and Carlisle Building. A Main Avenue building was the scene of a large fire Sunday night and into Monday morning. The Ashtabula Fire Department coordinated their efforts with fire departments from Ashtabula Township, Geneva, Saybrook, and Conneaut expending 800,000 gallons of water to successfully contain the blaze and keep adjoining buildings from suffering excessive damage.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjourn – The Chair adjourned meeting at 4:25 p.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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