

**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 20, 2021

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL was held in Council Chambers 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 3 Councilor offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was observed for Joseph N. Foglio, who passed away recently. Mr. Foglio retired from the Ashtabula Police Department after many years of service.

**Members Present**

**Ward 4 Councilor – Ms. Octavia Harris, 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**

**Members Absent**

Ward 5 Councilor – Ms. Jane E. Haines

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to excuse the Ward 5 Councilor from the meeting; motion CARRIED.

**Officers Present**

City Manager – Mr. James M. Timonere, City Solicitor – Mike 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.

**Executive Session**

The Council President announced the City Manager’s request for an Executive Session prior to the adjournment of the Regular Council Meeting. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to convene an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or sale of property. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

## **Presentations**

### **Oath of Office – Appointed City Solicitor Cecilia M. Cooper**

Mr. Franklin administered the oath of office to Ms. Cooper. She brought her son's bible held by Mrs. Senskey. Ms. Cooper thanked Council for the opportunity Council gave her by appointing her as City Solicitor upon Mr. Franklin's retirement.

### **Retirement – City Solicitor Franklin**

Mrs. Foglio and Mr. Speelman presented City Solicitor Franklin with a plaque commemorating his years of valued service to the City of Ashtabula and City Council. Mrs. Foglio invited Mrs. Franklin to be a part of the presentation. On behalf of all the Councilors, she thanked Mr. Franklin for his years of dedication to the City of Ashtabula and wished for them both "the very best" during retirement. Mr. Franklin accepted the plaque from Mr. Speelman and thanked Council for the opportunity to work with Council.

Police Chief Stell gave Mr. Franklin the "Award of Distinguished Service in Law Enforcement." This award is the highest honor the Ashtabula Police Department gives to any person. As a show of appreciation, a procession of officers shook Mr. Franklin's hand.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Clerk of Council presented minutes from the September 7, 2021, Regular Meeting. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

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

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Statewide Ford/Lincoln, with a mailing address of 1108 W. Main St. Van Wert, OH 45891 for the purchase of twelve 2022 Ford Utility Interceptors for the Police Department through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program in the amount not to exceed \$554,088.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the 412 Permanent Improvement Fund. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Speelman seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

Leaf bags can be placed curbside beginning the week of September 27. Crews will begin picking up the bags on the Harbor Route (Walnut Boulevard south to West 19<sup>th</sup> Street and from the Ashtabula River west to the City limits) starting Monday through Friday. Leaf bag pick up for the remaining areas of the City will start the week of October 4.

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The City Manager expressed his gratitude to Mr. Franklin for his guidance, encouragement, and loyal service to the City of Ashtabula.

**City Solicitor Report and Communications**

Mr. Franklin expressed his heartfelt appreciation to all who honored him during the meeting and humbly explained, “The time to leave is when people still want you to stay.”

**Finance Director Report and Communications**

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations in the General, Street Lighting Assessments, Paving Levy, Sanitation, Fire Pension, Police Pension, Parks & Rec Levy, Voted Bond/Debt Retirement, Permanent Improvement, and Water Pollution Control 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; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

**Clerk of Council Report and Communications**

The Clerk of Council discussed a recent educational class she attended in Hilliard, Ohio and how it related to excellence in public service.

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

The Committee Vice Chair gave a report from the September meeting, attached. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Finance and Personnel Committee Report and Communications**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 15, 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, September 27, at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 27, 2021, at 8:45 a.m. in Council Chambers.

## Legislation Agenda

Formal Legislation Request(s): The Council President requested a resolution declaring the City of Ashtabula's support for local control of The Lodge at Geneva-On-The-Lake, a continued funding source for maintenance of The Lodge at Geneva-On-The-Lake, continued operation of The Lodge At Geneva-On-The-Lake by the Delaware North Companies, Inc., and transparent decision-making of The Lodge at Geneva-On-The-Lake with stakeholder involvement. Mr. Roskovics moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

- Form and Correctness – met per City Solicitor.
- Public Discussion (on legislation only) Pertaining to Resolution 2021-94, Stephen Kellat asked if State Representative Sarah Fowler-Arthur or State Senator Sandra O'Brien were involved in its preparation. According to the City Manager, they both were contacted several times and informed of numerous meetings but refused to attend.

## Legislation Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-92 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE TWELVE (12) 2022 FORD UTILITY INTERCEPTORS WITH ALL NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FROM STATEWIDE FORD LINCOLN, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$554,088.00 (City Manager)

Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED.

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-93 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENTS, PAVING LEVY, SANITATION, FIRE PENSION, POLICE PENSION, PARKS & REC LEVY, VOTED BOND/DEBT RETIREMENT, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT, AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL 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)

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED.

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-94 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY OF ASHTABULA'S SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF THE LODGE AT GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE, A CONTINUED FUNDING SOURCE FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE LODGE AT GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE, CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE LODGE AT GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE BY THE DELAWARE NORTH COMPANIES, INC. AND TRANSPARENT DECISION-MAKING OF THE LODGE AT GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE WITH STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT (City Council)**

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED.

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

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

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

The Council President complimented the City Manager for bringing the Manager's Cup trophy to the City of Ashtabula due to the Lakeside football team's win over Geneva. He also presented a welcome letter to fitness business F.H.I.I.T. They hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony at their new location at 331 Center Street in the Castle Block building.

The Ward 1 Councilor congratulated Tasha's Closet and welcomed them during a ribbon cutting ceremony at their 4233 Main Avenue location. She also commented on the growing activity at the pickle ball courts. She recommended adding stands for spectators and those waiting to play. The City Manager commented bleachers and possible locations for additional pickle ball courts are in discussions.

The Ward 2 Councilor announced Meet the Candidates Night for those running for Ashtabula Area City School Board is Monday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Lakeside High School in the Large Group Instruction Room.

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The Ward 4 Councilor “did not want to let tonight to go by” without praising Mr. Franklin.

### **Public Discussion/Comments on General Matters**

Jodi Mills advised the date of the G. O. Community Development Corporation (CDC) Boot and Winter Apparel Giveaway has been changed to Saturday, October 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pre-registration is available on their website <https://www.go-cdc.org/events/>. New and slightly used coats can be dropped off at G. O. CDC Mondays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at their location, 3703 Station Avenue. The organization is also planning a Christmas present give-away event. Monetary donations can be dropped off or mailed to P. O. Box 1173. She announced upcoming events in Ward 4. Art & Music Celebration is scheduled Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. next to Dublin Down 4618 Main Avenue. Community Action is holding an Open House at their new location, 4200 State Road on Wednesday, September 22. Tours and refreshments will be offered, masks are asked to be worn.

### **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**

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. by the President of Council.

City Council will meet again on Monday, October 4, 2021, in Council Chambers. A Public Hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. The Pre-Council Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

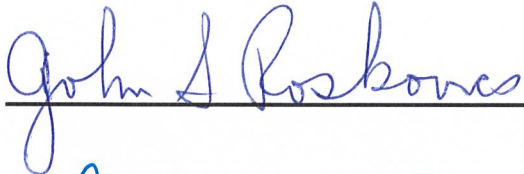
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Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey

  
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Attested by:

President of Council, John S. Roskovics

  
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Date Approved:

  
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**Attachments:** Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting minutes for September 14, 2021.

**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT**

NAME OF COMMITTEE:

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

DATE: Tuesday, September 14, 2021

MEETING TIME & PLACE: 4:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

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

COUNCIL/ADMNISTRATION/STAFF: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey,

VISITORS: Penny Neubauer, Earl Tucker, Margaret Distler, Larry Mills, Jerry Manus

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**REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED**

**Special Guest:**

**Penny Neubauer, Director Ashtabula County District Library (ACDL)**

Penny Neubauer described ACDL as a “library system” which includes the Ashtabula Public Library located at 4335 Park Avenue, Geneva Public Library located at 860 Sherman Street and the County Bookmobile. The ACDL is partially funded by a 10 year levy which is up for renewal in November 2022. The levy provides 50% of their operating budget and the State’s public library fund accounts for the other 50%. The Geneva location is roughly 17,000 square feet. This location sees 40-60 students every day after school. ACDL has hopes to add on to the building in the future and provide additional programming to keep the students engaged. In 2015, a renovation project updated and added to the Carnegie-Conklin Library building in Ashtabula, increasing its size to 38,300 square feet. Traffic at the Ashtabula location is mainly adults who seem to just come to hang out. ACDL hired a professional librarian, who will start in October to reach out to the adults in the community and provide activities for them. Though they were only closed for seven weeks due to COVID, ACDL added curb-side and home delivery service for people; it is still available through the ACDL website [www.acdl.info](http://www.acdl.info) or by calling 997-9341. Since COVID, foot-traffic was significantly reduced and is still about 66% compared to 2019. ACDL provides well-paying jobs for the 30 employees serving the three libraries. Nine staff members earned their Master’s of Library and Information Sciences degree. Out of the roughly \$3 million budget, salaries for the staff of the Ashtabula branch alone are expected to be \$885,000. Several cost saving measures allowed the library board to pay off a \$4.3 million, 15 year construction loan several years early. This loan was used for the Ashtabula location renovation project. A calendar displays current meetings, activities, and classes on the “Events” page on [www.acdl.info](http://www.acdl.info). When the Ashtabula building celebrated a grand opening after the renovations, a library patron looked around and asked, “Do we deserve a space like this?” Ms. Neubauer believes Ashtabula does deserve the library where she has served for seven years as Assistant Director and now as



Director and is proud of everything the library is doing to improve the lives of Ashtabula residents. For example, the Ashtabula branch recently introduced Families Inspiring and Reinforcing Education Workshop. It is a series of classes designed for the parents of English as a Second Language (ESL) students to reinforce their children's education. Students are welcome to join their parents. The library also offers the Peterson's Test and Career Prep database, to assist in preparing for many standardized tests. Library cards are available for free for anyone and upon receipt, entitle the bearer to enjoy books and media, and many library services and programs at no cost. ACDL has seven board members, three are appointed by Court of Common Pleas and four are appointed by the Ashtabula County Commissioners. Board members serve seven year terms. Ms. Neubauer is appreciative of the dedication exhibited by the board members and the staff. They enhance her dream of changing they world.

#### **Discussion – Moratorium on discount retail stores**

The City Manager asked the Committee to research legislation for putting a moratorium on discount retail stores. The City Manager would like such legislation to be part of a Comprehensive Rezoning Plan, which is a significant cost. The City Solicitor will need to advise specific legal language and if it needs to be a part of a comprehensive rezoning plan.

#### **Parks & Recreation (P&R) Board Communications – Earl Tucker, Chair**

Mr. Tucker presented a list of items discussed at the September P&R meeting:

- Significant damage and vandalism reported at Walnut Beach
- Looking at a less expensive alternative for life guard shelter
- Pleased with success of added concerts at Walnut Beach
- Referred a concessionaire to the City Manager
- Clifford Kaden Park weeds are out of control
- New basketball court at Nappi Field next year

-The City Manager purchased umbrellas for the lifeguards. He noticed lifeguards sitting on the ground.

-The City Manager plans to continue having concerts at Walnut Beach Park and is looking at holding them on a weeknight. He wants to start the series the fourth week of June until end of August.

-The City Manager plans to submit Request for proposal for new concessionaire for Walnut Beach Park.

-The City Manager is looking for grants to supplement a basketball court project, but Nappi Field may not be the best location.

-The people who run the community garden at Clifford Kaden Park previously requested the weeds not be touched, but since it has been noted, it will be handled.

-Fireworks will be displayed during the Wine & Walleye Festival.

- Mr. Jerry Manus requested increasing the number of pickle ball courts. There is a high demand for the current two courts. Committee member Roskovics reminded the City Manager he had requests for putting bleachers at the current pickle ball and tennis courts. The City Manager will look into pricing. A bench for changing shoes was also requested by Ms. Margaret Distler. She announced any person interested in trying out pickle ball can borrow a net, paddles, and balls at Harbor Topky Library.

### **Unfinished Business/Follow-up Discussion**

- Lakefront Residential Zoning – The City Manager planned to take the input from residents and put legislation together with the new City Solicitor.
- Requests for Qualifications(RFQs) were sent out for the vacant “Harbor” church property on Lake Avenue which yielded only one reply. The Ashtabula County Landbank sent the RFQs out again hoping to have more responses.
- The City Manager is collecting quotes for the repair of bump out issues on Main Avenue.
- The City Manager is handling legislation for adding food trucks to Chapter 759 Temporary Stores.
- The Committee Chair suggested putting signage indicating the information pertinent for the homeless populations within the City. The organizations involved in the homelessness work session are scheduling outreach visits to the homeless populations in the parks and plan to share their information. The Vice Chair determining needs of each individual is paramount and is eager for the outreach. She is careful to be cautious of individuals, but not necessarily fearful. The City Manager through code enforcement has vacated houses and had them boarded up, increasing the number of displaced individuals.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting is Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

**Adjourn** – The Chair adjourned meeting at 4:56 p.m.  
Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council