

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 5, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Ward 1 Councilor offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Kym A. Foglio (Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. Calvin C. Crawford (Ward 2 Councilor)
Ms. Laydean Young (Ward 3 Councilor)
Ms. Octavia V. Harris (Ward 4 Councilor)
Ms. Jane E. Haines (Ward 5 Councilor)
Mr. Michael D. Speelman (Vice President)
Mr. John S. Roskovics (President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: none

OFFICER(S) PRESENT: Mr. James M. Timonere (City Manager)
Mr. Michael Franklin (City Solicitor)
Mrs. Stacy H. Senskey (Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: Ms. Traci R. Welch (Director of Finance)

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): none

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

PRESENTATION - Ashtabula City Health Commissioner, Christine Hill – COVID-19 Update

The State of Ohio reported 150,761 confirmed positive cases of COVID and 4,622 deaths. Ashtabula County confirmed 674 positive cases, 102 cumulative hospitalizations, 48 deaths, and 590 cases are presumed recovered. The City of Ashtabula confirmed 126 positive cases, twenty cumulative hospitalizations, five deaths, 119 cases are presumed recovered. The Health Department has issued 422 orders of quarantine overall.

The Public Health Advisory System, found on www.coronavirus.ohio.gov website, displays county's as a color corresponding to levels of risk. Ashtabula County, yellow/Level 1 since the start of the new advisory system, was orange/Level 2 for a week. The indicators causing the rise were number of COVID related outpatient visits and percent of new community spread cases as compared to new cases of congregate living cases. Last week, the warning system showed Ashtabula County back at the yellow/Level 1.

The Health Department is working with the schools on COVID safety and weekly reporting of positive cases of staff and students. The schools have been very helpful with providing contract tracing documentation and using practical strategies to stop the spread.

Long term care facilities and nursing homes are doing an excellent job of weekly reporting, bi-weekly testing of staff and keeping residents healthy.

The Environmental Health Director has been very busy ensuring safety at sporting events and holiday celebrations.

The Nursing Division continues participating in weekly conference calls and is planning for the eventual release of a COVID vaccine. The seasonal flu vaccine is now ready. A popular option for getting your flu vaccine is the drive-by flu clinic held every Monday from 2p to 4p in the Municipal Building parking lot. A required form is available on the city's website, www.cityofashtabula.com/health-department. Flu vaccines are also available by calling the Health Department and pre-arrange an appointment.

The coronavirus waste water monitoring program is getting started in the City of Ashtabula. Samples of untreated waste water is being monitored for dead fragments of the COVID virus. Results can give a three to seven day warning to the Health Departments, who can react by sending communications to citizens and health partners of our community. Data from the first sample is available on www.coronavirus.ohio.gov. To get a baseline, three samples need to be collected. Once the baseline is determined, trends can be documented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mrs. Foglio moved, Ms. Haines seconded to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel - Employment. On the roll call to adjourn into Executive Session: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. The President announced no decisions may be voted on in Executive Session; and that at the conclusion of the Executive Session the public portion of the meeting will resume.

Reconvened Public Meeting/Action: The members of City Council and Administration returned to the dais, the President announced the public portion of the meeting resumed, and there was nothing to report out of Executive Session.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES: The Clerk of Council presented the minutes from the following meetings:

- September 8, 2020 Regular Meeting
- September 21, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines 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 formally requested an ordinance to enter into a consent agreement with ODOT for the purpose of providing sign replacement on Route 20 within the City of Ashtabula. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Pfund Superior Sales Co., Inc with a mailing address of 221 Chester Dr., Lower Burrell, PA 15068, for the purchase of a 2019 Hughes Ambulance through the State of Ohio, State Procurement Program to be utilized in the Fire Department in the amount not to exceed \$295,757.84. This purchase is funded through the C.A.R.E.S. Act Fund 260. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request. **Discussion:** Guidance on how C.A.R.E.S. Act funding could be spent changed, purchasing a new ambulance was a top priority. The ambulance comes with specialized air quality systems, disinfection lamps, plexiglass dividers between driver and patient compartments, extra outside ventilation, anti-microbial hand rails, and power cot and load system. Though many of these additions to the ambulance are meant for COVID times, the ambulance will be uniquely ready for other health hazards and maintaining the safety of patients and staff. Motion CARRIED.

As a result of the Executive Session, the City Manager formally requested an ordinance acknowledging the hiring of Mark Verzella as Assistant Superintendent – Director Of Pretreatment (Class III) of the City Of Ashtabula Waste Water Treatment Division and approving additional paid vacation leave and compensation. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The City resumed picking up leaf-bags curbside. The Harbor Route consists of Walnut Boulevard south to West 19th Street (Carpenter Road) and the Ashtabula River west to City Limits. Wards indicate all other homes not included in the Harbor Route. The two routes switch weekly; a schedule is available on the City's website www.cityofashtabula.com/public-works. The bags should be put curbside on Monday and will be picked up by Friday.

The City's Trick or Treat is Saturday, October 31 from 4p to 6p. Community leaders throughout the County are encouraged to use the same date and time to enjoy Trick or Treat in your community only. If someone is exhibiting symptoms of COVID, awaiting a test, or in quarantine should not participate in the custom. Households should stay together. Trick or treaters and citizens passing out candy should wear protective masks, have gloves, and hand sanitizer available. Remember to leave a porch light on to participate.

The State of Ohio will soon distribute a third round of C.A.R.E.S. Act funding. The City Manager is creating programs of grants to businesses and for mortgage and rent assistance. His goal is to present the programs to Council at the next meeting.

CITY SOLICITOR: none

FINANCE DIRECTOR:

The Clerk of Council made the following formal requests on the Finance Director's request:

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance to make supplemental appropriations in the Water Pollution Control Fund for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2020. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Office of the Auditor of the State of Ohio to assist the City of Ashtabula as fiscal agent for the Ashtabula Health Department in the conversion of cash reporting to GAAP for fiscal year ending December 31, 2020. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

CLERK OF COUNCIL:

The Clerk of Council announced she is applying for scholarship funds for her Clerk education for 2021. She is compiling her education points by attending online webinars and Zoom classes. She asked Council to take notice of her mask. An Ashtabula citizen, Arlene Ryan contacted her about masks representing Ashtabula. After many weeks, the Clerk found a sponsor in a City of Ashtabula business, Richmond Transportation. The masks feature the Ashtabula County Visitors Bureau branding "A" with a heart in the center. The masks were created by Made in Ohio on Bridge Street. Mask sale proceeds will be donated to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She thanked Arlene for coming up with the idea.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 4p.

Finance & Personnel

The next meeting is Friday, October 16, 2020 at 8a.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

The Committee Chair gave a brief report from the last meeting (minutes attached). The next meeting is Monday, October 26, 2020 at 5p.

Safety Forces

The next meeting is Monday, October 26, 2020 at 8a.

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- Formal Legislation Request(s):
- Form and Correctness – met per City Solicitor
- Legislation Overview –
The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda.
- Public Discussion (on legislation only) – None
Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-91 AN ORDINANCE GIVING CONSENT TO THE STATE OF OHIO'S DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF SIGNS ON ROUTE 20 WITHIN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-92 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN AMBULANCE UNIT AND TO UTILIZE C.A.R.E.S. ACT FUNDS (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-93 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FUND FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-94 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO ASSIST THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AS FISCAL AGENT FOR THE ASHTABULA HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN THE CONVERSION OF CASH REPORTING TO GAAP FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020 (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-95 AN ORDINANCE ACKNOWLEDGING THE HIRING OF MARK VERZELLA AS ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT – DIRECTOR OF PRETREATMENT (CLASS III) OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA WASTE WATER TREATMENT DIVISION AND APPROVING ADDITIONAL PAID VACATION LEAVE AND COMPENSATION.

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines 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 to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, and Mr. Roskovics voted aye; motion CARRIED.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- No hearing was requested for new Liquor Permit Class D5 Spiritous liquor for on premises consumption only, beer and wine for on premises, and off premises in original sealed containers, until 2:30 a.m. for Spring Family LLC dba Burrito Loco, 2421 Lake Avenue.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know:

- The Ward 2 Councilor displayed a framed photograph of past Ward 2 Councilor, August A. Pugliese which will hang in the August A. Pugliese Conference Room, on the second floor of the Municipal Building.
- The President announced early voting begins Tuesday, October 6, 2020.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters):

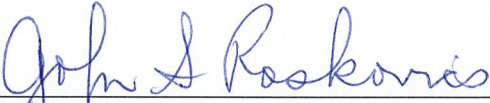
The Clerk of Council read a letter drafted by Julie Wood, Outreach Coordinator for Homesafe, Inc. Ashtabula County's Domestic Violence Shelter(letter attached).

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15p.

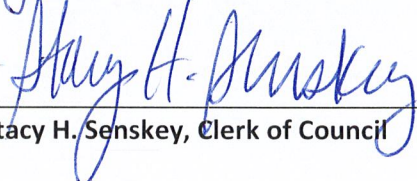
DATE APPROVED: _____

ATTESTED BY:



John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:



Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council

(Attachments)

1. Public Works/ Public Utilities/ Cable/ Schools Committee Meeting Minutes for September 28 – pages 7-9
2. Letter submitted by Homesafe – page 10

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Name of Committee: PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC UTILITIES/CABLE/SCHOOLS

Date: Monday, September 28, 2020

Time & Place of Meeting: 5:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

Member(s) Present: Mr. Calvin Crawford (Chair/Ward 2 Councilor)
Ms. Octavia Harris (Vice Chair/Ward 4 Councilor)

Member(s) Absent: Ms. Laydean Young (Member/Ward 3 Councilor)

Officers Present: Mr. James Timonere (City Manager)
Mrs. Stacy Senskey (Clerk of Council)

Scheduled Visitors: Dr. Mark Potts, Superintendent of Ashtabula Area City Schools (AACS)

Visitor(s) Ms. Jane Haines, Ward 5 Councilor

Media: none

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

**Presentation
School Year 2020/2021**

Dr. Potts updated Council the 2020/2021 school year. The schools opened remotely using Google Meet. Students follow their schedule and have live classes using Google Meet. He met with groups of parents, school staff and the City Health Department to determine how best to serve the students this year. He is proud to share the school attendance is just under 97% for online participation. Teachers are delivering the lessons live, using a synchronous version of school to provide interaction between the teachers and students. About 100 students with various disabilities are meeting in-person with their teachers for half of the day. They have not experienced issues with connectivity, in part to deploying 85 hot-spots around the community. Lag issues arise when three or more students are online in one household. The school’s broadband capacity ranges between 28-29%. 25 students showed up at youth OPPORTUNITIES! to log in to school. October 12, kindergarten through 4th grade students will begin a hybrid model of school attendance. Some will attend in-person schooling Mondays and Tuesdays, the balance will attend Wednesdays and Thursdays. On the “off” days, they will go online with their teachers in the afternoons. In order to maintain six-foot distancing, the rooms have been rearranged. Elementary rooms will typically hold twelve students per class. In the high school, rooms will hold between fifteen to seventeen students per class. At Huron, Ontario and Michigan, class days will be 8a to 1p. Superior Elementary class days will be from 9a to 2p. Students will be served breakfast coming in to school, have a snack midway through the day and will be served lunch on the way home. The schools have six remote sites around town where

school lunches can be picked up for all children from age one to eighteen. In the spring, they served an average of 2500 students per day, though once school started, it was quite a bit lower. It has picked back up to around 2000 children. Dr. Potts hopes to welcome all students back after the first nine-weeks, though the schools may continue the hybrid model. Under normal circumstances, county superintendents meet every two weeks, but because of COVID, they have been twice a week via Zoom. Due to the differences in the individual school districts, a county plan was not feasible. The City Manager expressed concern that some students know how to manipulate the online attendance and would like to see the in-person model accelerated. About one-third of parents chose to allow their school-aged children to participate through the online-only version of schooling.

Mother of Sorrows

When it came to the attention that the Church was going to sell the building to a charter school. This particular charter school has been known to target impoverished communities and are not academically successful. Using aggressive marketing techniques, the charter school predicted enrolling 2-300 students by August. The school district typically receives around \$6000 dollars per student, meaning AACS would lose over \$1 million dollars this year and every subsequent years. The building purchase cost AACS \$200,000, solely using capital funds from the sales of other buildings. Dr. Potts' vision for the building is to make it a specialty school dedicated to Ashtabula County students with special needs. At this time, special needs students are bussed two hours or more, to schools in other counties.

Racism and Bullying

AACS has instituted many programs for students and faculty. Dr. Potts and his directors brainstorm ways to ensure systemic racism is identified wherever it exists and not ignored. They strive to ensure each student receives an equal opportunity to be successful. They recognize culture in many ways. Nearly 2500 students participated in the week long program of age-appropriate activities that culminated in the Trailblazers Assembly, devoted to celebrating African American graduates of the school and community leaders. To address high expulsion numbers of mainly minority students, they began using the mindset of restorative discipline (*Restorative discipline is a way of dealing with bad behavior without only punishing offenders. Traditional methods of discipline focus on punishing bad behavior or offenders. Restorative discipline focuses on repairing the harm done to people, like a mediation.*) and involving the whole family with conferences. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a state mandated system, which AACS expanded to purposefully address the issues of how students treat each other, how students treat staff, how staff treat students and how staff treat each other to promote an uplifting school environment. The school system wants to produce a supportive and welcoming atmosphere for everyone by being intentional about the topics of racism, bullying and respect of each other, and always striving to do better. AACS has Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram along with the website but recognized the Vice-Chair's concern of communicating the district's efforts and the need to make it a higher priority.

The Committee Chair thanked Dr. Potts and offered the Committee's assistance in the future.

WPC

The Superintendent of WPC recently sent out the first sample for the statewide wastewater influent monitoring study for gene fragments of COVID. He will send samples weekly and the data can be viewed on the coronavirus.ohio.gov website. The City Manager is close to hiring an assistant superintendent and will likely have contract details for the October 5th Regular Council Meeting. A comprehensive study, of the plant and collection systems, including an evaluation of pipes and pump stations is needed to identify

areas of inflow and infiltration. The results will be interpreted in order to determine the increase in rates needed to maintain the systems for the next five to ten years. The preliminary cost of the study is \$500,000 and the City Manager plans to invite a representative from the consulting firm for the next committee meeting.

Public Works

The past weekend, the lines were painted on the tennis courts. Tree trimming will be a focus at the site, since fallen branches can deteriorate the court or cause injury. Other City parks have not needed mowing due to the lack of rainfall. Walnut Beach remains accessible, though the lifeguards and concessionaire are gone for the season. There is a port-a-john on site that gets regular maintenance. The streetsweeper was repaired and returned to the routine a few weeks ago. Road patching is ongoing. Catch basin repairs and street openings continue to occur in order to finish up before the snow flies. Plow trucks are being readied for service.

Trash Talks

Calls from many residents about trash in the City are becoming more frequent. Wards 1 & 2 residents received one 64 gallon container for recycling and one 64 gallon container for trash, while Wards 3, 4, & 5 residents are limited to two 32 gallon containers or six bags of trash. The Committee Chair asked if the trash limits can be stated on the bill. The monthly cost is \$15.50 per residential unit, an extra \$10 monthly for an additional container. Wards 1 & 2 residents can ask for an extra recycling container at no additional cost. The Committee Chair thought stickers for instances when more trash is produced may be a solution. Residents could purchase "Extra Trash" stickers from the Sanitation Department and place a sticker on their extra bag, ensuring all the trash is picked up. A separate container can be purchased, but many people have additional trash only on special occasions. This concept would provide consistency. The goal is to have curb-side recycling available city-wide, but the cost is high, roughly \$2 million. The City manager explained the calls into the Sanitation Department and his office are from repeat callers. The Sanitation workers know their neighborhoods and are able to identify the chronic abusers of the rules. The Sanitation Department can plan to pick up when a resident is unable to bring the trash to the curb, or has excess, but the call must be made prior to the normal pick-up day. The City has tried door-hangers in the past to notify the resident of excessive trash. The Sanitation office is open from 7a to 3p. The Ward 5 Councilor sees the problem is frustrating for everyone involved. The Ward 4 Councilor admits she didn't know the rules until becoming a Councilor. She believes many residents are also unaware. Getting reminders out to the people through various methods may assist everyone in making sure all the trash is picked up. All the Councilors praise the sanitation department and their work ethic.

ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.
Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council



Helping Victims of Domestic Violence for Over 40 Years

September 21, 2020

PLEASE READ ALOUD AT YOUR OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

Dear Ashtabula County Residents,

As the month of October nears, our thoughts go out to you who have needed and supported our agency, Homesafe, through this difficult year and years before. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and we wanted to reach out to all residents to share that we all deserve healthy relationships and if your is not, help is available, call 440-992-2727.

Homesafe is committed to breaking the cycle of violence in Ashtabula County and surrounding areas through the provision of emergency and non-emergency services. Our mission is to assure greater awareness of domestic violence challenges through advocacy, education and empowerment of individuals, families, and the overall community. Our agency is growing and changing, just like the times.

Please LIKE us on Facebook or at our website: homesafeincac.org. We created an awareness video by placing "silent witnesses" throughout the county. The silent witness initiative is dedicated to creating awareness, hope and healing by encouraging you to do what you can to help anyone in need of safety from an abusive situation. Statistics say that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

We will also be holding our annual WALK AGAINST ABUSE this year, we are encouraging participants to walk as individuals or in small groups. In light of restrictions caused by COVID-19, the pandemic has changed how we walk, but doesn't change the need for the walk. Send your pictures/video anytime during the month of October. Send us photos or post on our Facebook page, showing your support for our cause to commspecialist@homesafeincac.org to join others in the fight to end domestic violence.

Services are available whether you come to the shelter or just call. All services are provided FREE. Please reach out to us if you need help. Or contact me, Julie Wood, Outreach Coordinator at 440-992-2727 or outreach@homesafeincac.org for more information or to arrange a speaker for your club, church or organization.

Warmest regards,

Julie Wood

Outreach Coordinator

www.homesafeincac.org

If you have Facebook, please follow us:

Homesafe, Inc. Ashtabula County's Domestic Violence Shelter

Twitter @#HomesafeCares.