

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 3, 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 1 Councilor – Mrs. Kym A. Foglio, Ward 2 Councilor – Mr. Calvin Crawford, Ward 3 Councilor – Ms. Laydean Young, Ward 4 Councilor – Ms. Octavia V. Harris, Ward 5 Councilor – Ms. Jane E. Haines, Council Vice President – Mr. Michael D. Speelman, Council President – Mr. John S. Roskovichs

Officers Present

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

Officer(s) Absent

City Solicitor – Mr. Michael Franklin

COVID-19 Update Presentation by:

Christine Hill, Health Commissioner, Ashtabula City Health Department (ACHD)

The ACHD is following 24 active COVID cases and have followed a total of 1,410 cases. 1,306 patients' symptoms resolved and were released. COVID has taken a total of 30 community members from the City. ACHD counted a total of 89 hospitalizations because of COVID, though no one is currently hospitalized. The staff continues to work diligently and has administered 5,632 vaccines. The ACHD is trying several different strategies to encourage people to get the vaccine such as pairing with workplaces and churches, held pop-up drive-thru clinics in the parking lot, and walk-ins at the ACHD. Ms. Hill is open to suggestions and ideas to vaccinate community members. The rate of return to receive second doses has been high. Very few people miss their second dose but if they do, ACHD has been able to quickly find a solution. Another drive-thru clinic is taking place Thursday, May 6, 2021 in the City's Municipal Building parking lot from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Both J&J and Moderna vaccines are being administered, the patient decides which vaccine to use. Modified handouts give specific details about the rare side effects associated with the J&J vaccine. Identification cards or insurance cards are not required to receive the vaccine. The patient fills out a form and ACHD staff creates an electronic record to track vaccinations. The County of Ashtabula is the sixth (6th) worst county in Ohio for positive COVID cases. The state-wide average for COVID cases is 155.6. Ashtabula County is at 209.8. Many positive cases are occurring within

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families and in the City's Hispanic community. Lake City Plating partnered with ACHD to provide vaccines at the workplace where the vaccine literature is available in Spanish. Ms. Hill announced she has serious concerns about the State of Ohio's budget bill, HB 110, where it refers to city health departments. Though it has changed from the original, the house version of budget bill that passed requires a feasibility study for city health departments where the population is less than 50,000; and other criteria to be determined by the Ohio Department of Health. The threat of closing local health department and suspending local health services still looms within the language of the bill. Many letters in opposition and testimony have been sent to the Senate Health Committee. Ms. Hill feels a larger health department from outside the community would not be able to serve the community as effectively or maintain the existing relationships with community members. ACHD is currently required to be accredited by the State of Ohio and additional feasibility studies are unneeded and will only serve to cause unnecessary work and frustration to the staff. Emails or letters in opposition to the proposed language should be sent to Ohio State Senator Sandra O'Brien and Ohio State Representative Sarah Fowler Arthur. The City Manager added our local health department provides numerous vital services to our community, aside from the pandemic and said, "We're not giving up our health department." To find out about how to contact state legislators, visit the ohio.house.gov and ohio.senate.gov. Sending an email results in responses more so than calling. Ms. Hill thanked the Councilors for their support. Possibilities for the slow down on first-time vaccines are due to younger demographic and making the vaccine clinics convenient for them and some are on the fence about receiving the vaccine. Ms. Hill asks people to consider the vaccine's risks versus the benefits. The vaccine is living up to the promise of reducing illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Sunshine Law

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

Approval of Minutes

The Clerk of Council presented minutes from the April 19th, 2021 Regular meeting. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

City Manager Report and Communications

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to authorize the continuance of eleven (11) Community Reinvestment Area Tax Incentive Agreements in accordance with the recommendations of the Tax Incentive Review Council. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young

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seconded to approve the request. Discussion: These are all commercial abatements. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Ziegler Heating with a mailing address of 5223 North Ridge West, Ashtabula, OH 44004 for the repair of two air conditioning units at the Municipal Building in the amount not to exceed \$17,500.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from fund 412. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to authorize the necessary leases, sub-lease, and agreement to acquire and/or preserve the Ashtabula Harbor Conveyor belt and bridge. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with N.E.S. Corp. with a mailing address of 400 Crayton Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44104 as the most responsive bid for the 2021 Paving Program in the amount not to exceed \$428,184.95. Funding for this expense to be taken from fund 212. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager reminded Council the Lake Avenue paving project will be sent to bid soon. Aqua is replacing the water line on Lake Avenue until August, then the City can begin paving. The project will pave the section of Lake Avenue from the West Avenue, Lake Avenue and Carpenter Road intersection to West 9th Street.

The City Manager launched a pilot program between the Police, Code Enforcement, and Planning & Community Development Departments to enforce the City code regarding junk vehicles in residential areas. The past four weekends, for four hours each weekend has culminated in towing 32 vehicles, two trailers, one boat. Over fifty residents complied with the orders to remove vehicles or clean up the property. The Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, and I'm In... Amazing Ashtabula coordinated clean-ups on Main Avenue last weekend. Many volunteers including youth OPPORTUNITIES (yO) students. The City Manager thanked the participants for getting the area ready for spring.

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Union Avenue and Walnut Boulevard need paving repair in areas and will be fixed either by Aqua or the City depending on who is responsible for the repairs. The paving material is not readily available at this time.

Finance Director Report and Communications

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance to make supplemental increases to appropriations in the General and CDBG 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: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The Finance Director announced the deadline to file City Income Taxes is May 17th. Beginning Monday, May 10 through Friday, May 14th and Monday, May 17th, the Finance Office on the 2nd floor of the Keybank Building will be staffed to accept income tax filings between 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A list of delinquent sewer and trash accounts will be submitted to the Ashtabula County Auditor's office for property tax assessments. Monday, May 24th, 2021 is the last day to pay delinquent amounts billed through December 31, 2020. Please note, payment must be received no later than Monday, May 24th. The Finance Office cannot accept the postmark. Any payment received after that date will be applied as a credit for future billings and the delinquent amount will still be assessed.

Clerk of Council Report and Communications

The Clerk of Council formally requested an ordinance to approve current replacement pages to the Ashtabula Codified Ordinances. Mr. Roskovics moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve the request. Discussion: With passage of this ordinance, the City Ordinances will be amended in 28 sections due to state law changes. The replacement pages also include the Ordinance enacting a new Codified Ordinance for the purpose of requiring fire and casualty insurance for rental structures, passed February 1, 2021. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th, 2021 at 4 o'clock p.m. via Zoom.

Finance and Personnel Committee Report and Communications

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 21st, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

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

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24th, 2021 at 5 o'clock p.m. via Zoom.

The Council President added the Park Levy Renewal is also on the Tuesday's ballot.

City Manager notified Council of a problem with skateboarders using the Pickle Ball/Tennis Courts. The Police Department has warned them to stay off the courts, and new signs with rules for the courts will soon be in place. Signs will explain wheels of any kind are not permissible on the courts.

Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications

The Committee Chair gave a report of the meeting (minutes attached). He said his Committee recommends prohibiting parking on the north side of East 16th Street between Columbus and Harbor Avenues due to resident complaints. Mr. Speelman moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to request legislation prohibiting parking on the north side of East 16th Street between Columbus and Harbor Avenues. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24th, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Legislation Agenda

- Formal Legislation Request(s): no additional requests came before Council.
- Form and Correctness – met per City Solicitor.
- Public Discussion (on legislation only)
- Legislation Overview –
The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda.
- Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to dispose of Ordinance No. 2021-37 and Ordinance Nos. 2021-45 to 2021-50 by consent agenda. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Legislation Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-37 - Second Reading AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE WEST SIDE OF CLEVELAND AVENUE (Safety Forces Committee & City Council)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-45 AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE ASHTABULA CODIFIED ORDINANCES (Clerk of Council)

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ORDINANCE NO. 2021-46 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF ELEVEN (11) COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENTS UPON CONDITIONS AS INDICATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-47 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ZIEGLER HEATING COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPAIRS TO THE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$17,500.00 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-48 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH N.E.S. CORP. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$428,184.95 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAVING CITY STREETS (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-49 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL AND CDBG 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. 2021-50 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JEFFERSON HEALTH CARE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMPLOYEE HEALTH, DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022 (City Manager)

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

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-51 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO ALL REASONABLY NECESSARY LEASES, SUBLEASES AND AGREEMENTS TO ACQUIRE AND/OR PRESERVE THE ICONIC ASHTABULA HARBOR CONVEYOR BELT AND BRIDGE (City Manager)

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

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

New Business

Civil Service Commission Appointment

Mr. Roskovics moved, Ms. Young seconded to appoint Sally Bradley to fill a recently vacant and unexpired term on the Civil Service Commission. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. Ms. Bradley's term commences immediately and expires March 21st, 2023.

Liquor License Transfer

The Ward 4 Councilor and the rest of Council do not wish to request a hearing on the advisability of issuing a liquor permit to BBS MINI MART INC DBA BBS FOOD MART located at 515 Center Street in Ward 4.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Council President – The Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission, formerly known as the Architectural and Restoration Review Board recently met with the Planning and Community Development Department and some developers to discuss two upcoming housing projects in the Harbor Historical District.

Ward 2 Councilor – Mr. Crawford congratulated his father-in-law, Pat DiAngelo in celebration of his 30th anniversary of being a sworn law officer.

Ward 5 Councilor – Ms. Haines congratulated the Finance Director and her staff for achieving an Award for Excellence for Financial Reporting.

Council President – Mr. Roskovics noted a new clothing business on Bridge Street and asked the Clerk of Council to draft a welcome letter for them.

Clerk of Council – This week marked the start of Professional Municipal Clerks Week. Ashtabula City's former Clerk of Council asked Mrs. Senskey to share positive feedback from other clerks of the Northeast Ohio Municipal Clerks Association about Mrs. Senskey and her development in the role of Clerk of Council and participation in the Association.

Public Discussion/Comments on General Matters

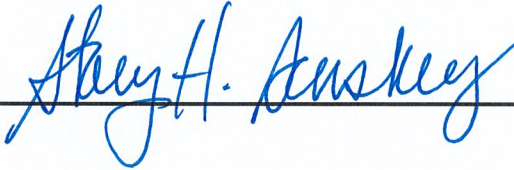
none

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. by the President of Council.

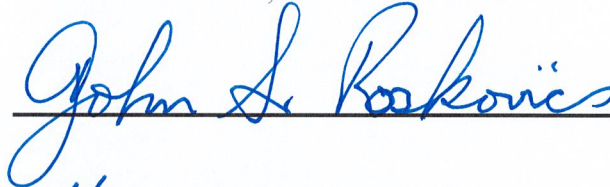
City Council will meet virtually at the Pre-Council Meeting on Monday, May 17th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The Regular Council Meeting will follow at 7 o'clock p.m.

Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey

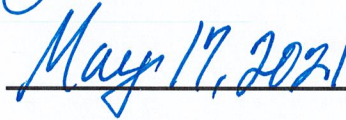


Attested by:

President of Council, John S. Roskovics



Date Approved:



Attachments:

- April Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools Committee Meeting Minutes
- April Safety Forces Committee Meeting Minutes

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools (PW)

DATE: Monday, April 26, 2021

MEETING TIME & PLACE: 5:00 p.m. – Zoom Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair/ Ward 2 Councilor Calvin Crawford
Vice Chair/ Ward 4 Councilor Octavia Harris
Ward 3 Councilor Laydean Young

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

VISITORS/SPECIAL GUESTS: Ms. Christine Seuffert, Mr. Mark Astorino

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

Special Guests:

Mark J. Astorino, Ashtabula Area City School (AACs) Administration, Treasurer/Business Operations and Ms. Christine Seuffert, AACs Board President

Topic: AACs Issue 8 – fact sheet attached

Mr. Astorino said it’s been 21 years since the school district had a new operating levy. The School Board decided to request a 3.8 mill levy while the superintendent and administrative team are working on “right size”-ing the budget for the district. They are reviewing enrollment versus student/teacher ratios while remaining mindful of the student academic needs. Over the past seven years, they reduced bond levy millage by 2 mills. Also, they refinanced the bond debt which will save money for the taxpayers over the duration of the bonds. Ms. Seuffert added 71% of this new operating levy goes to the classrooms. Though teachers are always frugal with what they can use, school testing scores will improve with the additional funds. She said it is important for the community to realize the 2 mill reduction of the bond levy millage. The City Manager said it’s important to remember the 2 mill reduction of the bond levy is a different pot of money than this operating levy. Factual information about Issue 8 can be found on the district website, <https://www.aacs.net/> and also on Facebook Page YES for Ashtabula Area City Schools. The Ashtabula County Auditor website, <https://auditor.ashtabulacounty.us> has a Levy Estimator to help taxpayers figure how the levy impacts property taxes. Mr. Astorino pointed out that academics suffer when cuts are made. Several years ago, the district received an “F” on their report card in 2017-2018. He attributed this to significant cuts made in the district. Spending general fund money and federal title funds enabled the district to bring the grades up from an “F” to a “D”. Internal testing documents reflect the grade would now be a “C”.

City Manager

The Health Department scheduled a drive-thru COVID vaccine clinic for Tuesday, April 27th from 9 a.m. to noon. No appointment necessary. The Health Department trailer will be on the Park Avenue side of the Key Bank parking lot. They will be using the Moderna Vaccine.

Public Works

Staff is completing routine maintenance, filling potholes, and they have started mowing. Seasonal help is being hired to help maintain the parks. The City Manager continues to remind all leaf bags dropped off at the transfer station should not be commingled with garbage or the service will be discontinued. Curbside pickup for leaf bags is ongoing and the schedule can be found on the City's website.

The 2021 paving program will be introduced to Council at the next Regular Council meeting. Residents will see City crews assessing catch basins, manhole covers and making repairs on the streets. The Lake Avenue paving project bid will be out soon. Aqua will begin a water line project and the City Manager is coordinating repair work and a timeline with Aqua. Lake Avenue project contract will be lined up and ready to coincide with funding sometime after July 1st.

Light pole repair at Massucci Field was held up due to the snow. There was also a significant wait time for the LED fixture to arrive. The costs were covered under the City's insurance policy.

Clean-ups scheduled last weekend were successful. Sanitation crews went out early to pick up some bad areas. In one location, crews picked up 2,200 pounds and 22 tires. The City Manager thanked all the volunteers and hopes people will begin respecting our community and our State. He advised to take pictures if you catch people littering and email to him. The Committee Chair reminded about the Tire Amnesty program Saturday, May 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds. The City Manager added the transfer station takes tires also. The Committee Vice Chair added the volunteer groups were comprised of a diverse assembly of community members and feels Ashtabula is blessed for their participation. Main Avenue's annual clean-up is Saturday, May 1st.

Water Pollution Control (WPC)

Bid specs for the bar rake are being analyzed before the bid package is released. It will take 10 to 12 weeks to build. The City Manager is hoping to use American Rescue Plan Act funds to finance the Waste Water Treatment Plant comprehensive study.

Upcoming projects include the broken Lake Avenue outfall repair. ODOT is providing \$50,000 of the estimated \$150,000 to \$200,000 project. Both Public Works and WPC need some new vehicles.

Please report street light outages on the City website.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is Monday, May 24, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Adjourn – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.
Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council



FACT SHEET – AACS ISSUE 8



What is Issue 8? What will Issue 8 funds be used for?

- **Issue 8 on the May 4 ballot is an operating levy request for 3.8 mills.** The Ashtabula County Auditor's office estimates the levy to cost taxpayers about \$11/month per \$100,000 of home value.
- If passed, Issue 8 would generate roughly \$1.7 million per year for the essential day-to-day operation of our schools. About **71% of our revenue is spent "in the classroom"** on teaching and instructional support.

Why is Issue 8 on the ballot?

- The Ashtabula Area City Schools **have not passed a new funding levy in 21 years, and our funding reserves will be "in the red" near the end of 2022.**
- School districts are legally prohibited from operating with reserves "in the red".
- Our local taxpayer support covers only about 20% of AACS' revenue. State funding accounts for 67% of our revenue and has declined over the last several years and decades, and it will likely continue to decline.

What has AACS done to manage its spending?

- AACS strives to operate in a lean fashion. **Our total spending-per-pupil is among the lowest in Ohio** amongst our 'most similar' districts.
- The Board of Education has reduced our bond levy millage from 7.0 mills (*initial*) to 5.0 mills (*current*) due to refinancing in 2013 and 2018.
- We also refinanced our bond debt to take advantage of low interest rates. This will save our taxpayers up to \$2.1 million over the duration of the bonds.
- Our Treasurer and Board of Education have balanced our high educational and health standards with the financial challenges we face. Regardless of outcome, **we anticipate making limited, precision cuts to help balance the district's budget.**

What will happen if Issue 8 is not passed by the community?

- **Without new local funding, our district will be obligated to make major cuts** in the 2021-2022 school year. No decisions about those have yet been made.
- The major common consequences for districts that go "into the red" include an increase in class sizes, the loss of excellent teachers and support staff, and major cutbacks or elimination of support services and extra-curriculars.
- **Our commitment to "Aim High" will remain,** but it would be unlikely that we would be able to realize and retain an improvement on our state report card, as we expected to reach just prior to the COVID closings.

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:

Safety Forces (SF)

DATE: Monday, April 26, 2021

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair/ Vice President Michael Speelman
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

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

Ashtabula Police Department (APD)

Chief Stell submitted statistics for the month of March 2021. Calls for service were up slightly, which is typical with warmer weather. Because of the change in weather, the Committee Chair raised the question of 4-wheelers and similar types of vehicles on City streets. Chief Stell instructed the Committee that those types of vehicles are not permitted to operate on any City roadways.

The Ward 3 Councilor would like APD to consider holding workshops in the schools to provide guidance to the public about proper conduct when stopped by the police. Chief Stell thought it was a great idea. The topic has been discussed by school resource officers on occasion, but a group setting would be beneficial. Many people do not realize the procedure.

Ashtabula Fire Department (AFD)

Chief Gruber said the AFD said responses in March were typical of the time of year. He reported calls about open burning which is not permitted inside the City limits. He asked residents to dispose of yard waste properly. Chief Gruber has been developing standard operating procedures (SOP) for the joint police/fire rescue boat project. AFD and APD staff are in the second week of training and the Coast Guard is participating with the project. The boat is docked by the Coast Guard Station and you'll likely see activity on the water this week. Chief Gruber is encouraged about the success of the training and partnering with the Coast Guard. The City Manager added the Coast Guard Station is manned between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The joint project makes rescue available when the Coast Guard is not. The City does not have funding for the project, but the City Manager agrees it is a necessity.

Civil Service Commission

The City Manager reported all eight candidates passed the Police Department entrance exam and the Commission certified the entrance list. Chief Stell, staff, and some community members will interview them all to fill at least three positions. The Commission is planning an entrance exam in September for the Fire Department.

Parking Issue of East 16th Street

Based on resident's input, Chief Stell recommends prohibiting parking on the north side of the street for the entire length of East 16th Street between Columbus and Harbor Avenues. Mr. Speelman moved; Ms. Young seconded to present the recommendation to full Council at the next regular meeting; MOTION CARRIED.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is Monday, May 24, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Adjourn – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council