

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 16, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

The President of Council called the virtual meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Ward 1 Councilor offered the opening prayer, and the Clerk of Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Octavia V. Harris	(Ward 4 Councilor)
Ms. Jane E. Haines	(Ward 5 Councilor)
Mrs. Kym A. Foglio	(Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. Calvin C. Crawford	(Ward 2 Councilor)
Ms. Laydean Young	(Ward 3 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)
Ms. Traci R. Welch	(Director of Finance)
Mrs. Stacy H. Senskey	(Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: none

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

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Due to the current stay-at-home order imposed by Governor DeWine, the Council President announced the Council Rules of Order may be temporarily suspended at any meeting of the City Council. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to suspend the Council Rules of Order for the duration of the meeting. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

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

- November 2, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mr. Roskovics moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER:

The City Manager formally requested to repeal Payroll Ordinance No. 2020-97 and replace it with Payroll Ordinance No. 2020-111 for the purpose of adding to the payroll ordinance the temporary, part-time job position of Contract Tracer for the Health Department. Ms. Haines moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested ordinance to enter into an agreement with Building Technicians, with a mailing address of 2775 Hubbard Road, Madison, OH 44057 as the most responsible bid for the WPC Blower Building Roof Repair in the amount not to exceed \$44,600.00. Funding for this expenditure 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, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested ordinance to enter into an agreement with Refuse Equipment & Truck Service, Inc. with a mailing address of P.O. Box 1424, Ashtabula, OH 44005-1424 for the purpose of providing brake repairs/replacement in the amount not to exceed \$11,609.67. Funding for this expenditure will be taken from fund 225. The City manager added expenditure is to repair one of the sanitation trucks. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager said the City experienced downed trees and wires from the excessive winds over the weekend. Lake water at Walnut Beach flowed to the playground set and into the parking areas. The City Health Department remains overwhelmed with positive cases of COVID and he is eager to hire the contact tracers. Staff members of other City departments and some community members volunteered to assist with calls until contact tracers are hired, assuming Council passes the legislation. Currently, between 200 and 250 calls are being made each day to keep in touch with patients and their contacts. The City Manager is revamping the COVID-19 page of the City website and updating with the latest guidance.

CITY SOLICITOR: none

FINANCE DIRECTOR:

The Finance Director requested the preparation of a resolution urging the Ohio Legislature not to pass legislation repealing Section 29 of House Bill 197, which allows municipalities to continue withholding income tax at a tax payers place of work during the Governor's declaration of emergency. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations in the General and Public Health Nursing Funds 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; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to advance funds from the General Fund (101) in the amount of \$250,000.00 to the Permanent Improvement Fund (412) for the Petmin Road Improvement Project. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

CLERK OF COUNCIL: none

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation

The Ward 5 Councilor gave a brief report from the Committee's November meeting (minutes provided as attachments). The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th, 2020 at 4p.

Finance & Personnel

The next meeting is Friday, November 20th, 2020 at 8a.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

The next meeting is Monday, November 23, 2020 at 5p.

Safety Forces

The next meeting is Monday, November 23, 2020 at 8a.

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- Formal Legislation Request(s):
- 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. The Clerk of Council explained Ordinance No. 2020-102 has been withdrawn from the legislative agenda and replaced by Ordinance 2020-115 per the request of the Ashtabula Municipal Judge.
- Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to dispose of ORDINANCE NOS. 2020-110 through 2020-114 of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-110 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2020-97, ENACTED ON OCTOBER 19, 2020 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING THE POSITION OF CONTRACT TRACERS, A PART-TIME, TEMPORARY FOR COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE POSITION IN THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-111 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES, AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-112 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING FUNDS 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. 2020-113 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BUILDING TECHNICIANS CORPORATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,600.00 TO MAKE EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO OR REPLACE THE WPC BLOWER BUILDING ROOF (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-114 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ADVANCE FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND (101) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000.00 TO THE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND (412) FOR THE PETMIN ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (Finance Director)

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

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

SECOND READING

The Council President withdrew ORDINANCE NO. 2020-102 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING INCREASED COMPENSATION FOR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A JUDGMENT ENTRY FROM JUDGE LAURA DIGIACOMO (Ashtabula Municipal Court) with no objections raised.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-108 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING INCREASED COMPENSATION FOR TWO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A JOURNAL ENTRY FROM JUDGE LAURA DIGIACOMO (Ashtabula Municipal Judge)

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

Ms. Haines moved; Ms. Harris seconded to adopt the legislation. On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, and Mr. Crawford voted aye; Mrs. Foglio, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted nay; motion FAILED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-115 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION FOR TWO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT PROBATION DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A JOURNAL ENTRY FROM JUDGE LAURA DIGIACOMO (Ashtabula Municipal Court)

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

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

The Council President appreciates the interest to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board. He thought it best to nominate a board member at the next Regular Council Meeting with no objections raised.

The Ward 5 Councilor continues to receive complaints of excessive trash and illegal dumping in her ward. The City Manager asked Council to assist with solutions.

The ability to meet virtually is set to expire December 1st, 2020 unless Ohio Legislators approve an extension.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters): none

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58p.

DATE APPROVED:

December 7, 2020

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics
John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy H. Senskey
Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council

(Attachments)

1. Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation November 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes – page 7

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:

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

DATE: Tuesday, November 10th, 2020

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Haines (Chair)
Octavia Harris (Vice-Chair)
John Roskovics (Member/Council President)

COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION/STAFF: City Manager James Timonere, City Solicitor Michael Franklin, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

VISITORS: Parks and Recreation Chair Earl Tucker, Special guests Patrick Haywood and Steve Sargent, Council Vice President Michael Speelman

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

Special Guests present request to rename Station Avenue to R. W. Shelby Avenue

Patrick Haywood described a resurgence in positivity along Station Avenue. In recent past Station had a negative stigma. Residents are keeping up with lawn care, homes are receiving better maintenance. Mr. Haywood believes now would be a good and proper time to make another positive change by renaming the road after the prominent Ashtabula doctor and philanthropist, R. W. Shelby. Steve Sargent thanked the Committee for hearing the request. He explained Shelby was a great medical doctor and surgeon, the first African American doctor and surgeon in Ashtabula. He came to Ashtabula from Memphis, Tennessee. His last name, Shelby, was chosen by one of his forefathers, an emancipated slave, who refused to keep his slave surname. He decided on the name Shelby because it is the county where Memphis, Tennessee is located. Shelby went to schooling in New York but decided to come to Ashtabula to start his medical practice. Mr. Sargent said he is a trailblazer for coming to Ashtabula, serving on many boards including Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority, a board appointment filled by Mr. Sargent after Dr. Shelby retired. His story is the powerful story of inspiration among our community members because of the nearly impossible accomplishments he was able to achieve. When considering Station Avenue, named for the train station since demolished, consider an area slowly improving and deserving of a name associated with ongoing change, positivity, and inspiration such as Dr. R. W. Shelby. His story will serve to motivate future generations.

The City Solicitor was asked to relate the proper procedures to rename a road in the City of Ashtabula. He stated one procedure is action by Council without a petition. The other procedure is by petition of a citizen or citizens, owning a lot or lots fronting on Station Avenue, requesting the change of name. There is some conflict of language in our Codified Ordinances, but the City

Solicitor recommends City Council convene a hearing on the petition and invite the public to attend. Following the hearing, and our Codified Ordinance 919.01 (b) states “upon hearing, and upon being satisfied that there is good cause for such change of name, vacation, or narrowing that it will be not be detrimental to the general interest, and that it should be made, may by ordinance, declare such street or alley vacated, narrowed, or the name thereof changed.” The Ohio Revised Code states “a certified copy thereof shall be recorded in the official records of the county recorder.” Other practical tasks such as notification of the post office, federal authorities, etc. follows council action. Simply put, a) petition, b) hearing, c) ordinance. Mr. Sargent and Mr. Haywood have a petition and have reached out to roughly a quarter of residents of Station Avenue. The City Solicitor suggest they summarize the reason for making the stated change and have at least one Station Avenue property owner sign the petition, though multiple signatures are fine. Once ready the petition should be submitted to the Clerk of Council and she will schedule the public hearing. Council can instruct the City Solicitor to prepare a draft of legislation for review.

City Manager Report – 20m

The City Manager noted by East 6th Street and Pinney Dock, the Petmin Road project is moving along quickly because of the great weather.

Input from residents and City Council is needed for the proposed “Lakefront Residential Zone” introduced at last meeting. The change would affect those properties on the north side of Walnut Boulevard between West 9th Street and Point Park and residents on both sides of Walnut Boulevard.

The City must hire contact tracers for the Health Department due to the drastic escalation of COVID cases in the City of Ashtabula. A contact tracer need not have a medical background. We are now seeing contacts are becoming positive. Ashtabula County cumulative positive cases is 1290, up by 342 cases since last Tuesday. The City of Ashtabula has 254 cumulative positive cases and 81 current positive cases, which is up by 41 from the previous week. The City is monitoring 108 people in quarantine. The positivity rate within the County is high, a higher number of those getting tested result in positive tests. Contacts are now testing COVID positive, signifying the reluctance of following the important COVID safeguards. The majority of new cases are occurring in the 20-40 year old age range. The four most important things to prevent the spread of COVID are: avoid crowds, social distancing, wear a mask and personal hygiene. The Ashtabula City Health Department may suspend flu vaccines since the department is working overtime handling COVID issues. The updated City website now includes a “Breaking News” banner at the top of the page.

OTHER BUSINESS: Forming a Parks Board Levy Committee – Council will vote to put renewal on the ballot. If approved, a campaign committee can be formed to raise funds for various notifications. The Parks & Recreation Board Chair will review.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is Tuesday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjourn – The Chair adjourned meeting at 4:39 p.m.
Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council