

## ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, August 2, 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 1 Councilor offered the opening prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### Members Present

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

### Officers Present

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

### Officer Absent

City Solicitor – Mr. Michael Franklin

### Sunshine Law

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

### Presentation

Chief Robert Stell awarded Officer Pasquale F. DiAngelo a commendation for meritorious service while on duty. Officer DiAngelo was the Captain, and Chief Stell's boss, when Chief Stell started with the Ashtabula Police Department in 1995. Currently, Officer DiAngelo works at Kent State University – Ashtabula Campus as a school resource officer and patrols City roads when school is not in session. While on patrol July 22, he observed an unresponsive individual and performed CPR until Emergency Medical Services arrived. Two days later, he prevented an individual from jumping off the Viaduct Bridge. Chief Stell said, "For these two acts, over and above the normal call of service, you are being awarded this commendation for meritorious service in the line of duty. Thank you for your service and for the fine example you set for your fellow officers and the

community. Congratulations.” Officer DiAngelo humbly stated, “I just happened to be in the right place at the right time and my training took over.” Officer DiAngelo started working for the City as a police cadet at the age of 17.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Clerk of Council presented minutes from the 2022 Tax Budget Public Hearing and the Regular Meeting both held on July 19, 2021. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines 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 authorizing waiving transfer station fees for the disposal of items damaged by flood conditions in the city occurring on July 29, 2021. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. **Discussion:** An employee will document the resident’s name and address and weigh the storm damaged materials. Residents have thirty days in which to dispose of the flood damaged items. Motion CARRIED.

The City Manager explained the rain storm of July 29<sup>th</sup> came from over the lake and deposited between 4.5 to nearly 7 inches of rain over the City and parts of Plymouth Township for between 90 minutes and two hours. At 10:50 a.m. the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) registered 3.8 million gallons flowing through the plant, which is a normal level. One hour later, the plant registered 10.75 million gallons; thirty minutes later, 21.66 million gallons. The City Manager consulted with engineers at GPD Group, who explained a brand new sewer system would not be able to handle the amount of rain received in the short period of time it came down. Systems within the City are built with a 10 year storm event and 25 year hydraulic check in mind, though some areas are built for a 100 year event. The July 29<sup>th</sup> rain event surpassed the 100 year event levels. Debris of fallen trees, logs and other obstacles made the Ashtabula River impassable, preventing boaters from entering the harbor. The Army Corps of Engineers was contacted to assist with the clean-up.

The City offers a check valve program and will reimburse up to \$1,000.00 for the installation of a check valve. For those who qualify and need financial assistance with expenses, contact Planning and Community Development Department, 992-7118. To file an insurance claim, contact the City Manager’s office.

### **Finance Director Report and Communications**

The Finance Director reported the City received \$943,649.92, the first tranche payment from the American Rescue Plan and is working with the City Manager on how to best allocate the funds.

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations in the General, Police Levy, Public Health/Nursing, Paving Levy, Law Enforcement Trust, Sanitation, Local Fiscal Recovery, Permanent Improvement, Water Pollution and Water Pollution Capital 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.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers but may be cancelled.

**Finance and Personnel Committee Report and Communications**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 20, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.

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

The Committee Chair reported on the July meeting – minutes attached. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications**

The Committee Chair thanked and congratulated Officer DiAngelo for his service to Ashtabula. He then reported on the July meeting – minutes attached. Three action items were presented to Council from the Safety Forces meeting.

Mr. Speelman moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to request to revise the Codified Ordinances Chapter 521.14 Recreational Equipment in Right of Way as presented; motion CARRIED.

Mr. Speelman moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to designate the entire length of the east side of Petros Drive as “No Parking” ; motion CARRIED.

Mr. Speelman moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to designate the west side of Washington Avenue between Bunker Hill Road and West 58<sup>th</sup> Street as “No Parking”; motion CARRIED.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, at 8:45 a.m. in Council Chambers.

## 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 Reading

Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to dispose of the remaining legislation by consent agenda; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-78 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, POLICE LEVY, PUBLIC HEALTH/NURSING, PAVING LEVY, LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST, SANITATION, LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT, WATER POLLUTION AND WATER POLLUTION CAPITAL 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. 2021-79 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING WAIVING TRANSFER STATION FEES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF ITEMS DAMAGED BY FLOOD CONDITIONS IN THE CITY OCCURRING ON JULY 29, 2021  
(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. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

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

## New Business

Eli Kalil is the new special events coordinator for the Lift Bridge Community Association (LBCA). He announced several upcoming events on Bridge Street: Market Days/Farmer's Market on Sundays in August and September, and October 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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Live Music with Susan Hagan on Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Clean-up Days on Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and October 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Harvest in the Harbor on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

The Ward 3 Councilor congratulated Rolesia Holman, who was hired as the Ashtabula Area City Schools Diversity Coordinator. She is also running unopposed for Ward 3 in the upcoming election.

She invited everyone to the Back to School Giveaway and Fun on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:00 p.m. in the Peoples Missionary Baptist Church parking lot, 3837 West Avenue. Food, fun, book bags, school supplies, haircuts and personal hygiene supplies are available for students. ACHD will be on hand and administering vaccinations for students twelve years and older. For more information, to volunteer or donate, contact Ms. Young by calling 440-637-4846.

The Ward 5 Councilor announced the downtown crosswalks are scheduled to be painted Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All are welcome, rain is not.

**Public Discussion/Comments on General Matters**

Marty Cephas, Economic Vitality chair for the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA) gathered a group of downtown merchants, church leaders, residents, and representatives to speak about the homelessness issue in and around the City's North and South Parks. Individuals who spoke include:

Deanna Cole, Administrator of the Christian Faith Academy

Reverend Peter W. Nielsen, III, Pastor of St. Peter Episcopal Church, 4901 Main Avenue

Pete Bean, President of My Neighborhood Collaborative and member of St. Peter Episcopal Church

Ryan Lencl, Main Avenue business owner

Ricky Turner, lifetime City resident

Penny Neubauer, Director of the Ashtabula County District Library, 4335 Park Avenue

Reverend Joseph P. Woods, Jr., Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Ashtabula, 4353 Park Avenue

Joe Cole, Deanna Cole's husband

Linda Hanna, lifetime City resident

Jordan Whetson, Main Avenue resident

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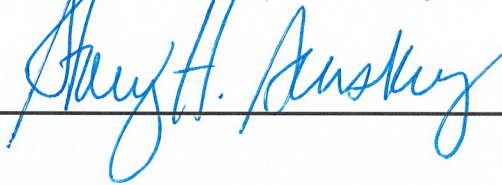
Michael Thompson, ADDA Executive Committee and Main Avenue business owner  
Heather Dreemus, City resident  
Pastor Sam Monte, First Presbyterian Church, 4317 Park Avenue

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m. by the President of Council.

City Council will meet again on Monday, August 16, 2021, in Council Chambers. The Pre-Council Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

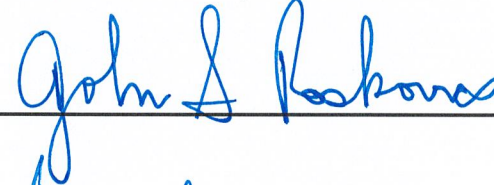
Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey



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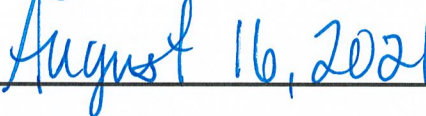
Attested by:

President of Council, John S. Roskovics



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Date Approved:



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**Attachments:**

Public Works/ Public Utilities/ Cable/ Schools Committee Meeting minutes from July 26, 2021.

Safety Forces Committee Meeting minutes from July 26, 2021

## ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:

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

DATE: Monday, July 26, 2021

MEETING TIME & PLACE: 5:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

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

COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION/STAFF:

City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

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### REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

#### City Manager

The City Manager scheduled pre-construction meetings with Koski Construction Company, Inc for the Lake Avenue paving project and J. Severino Construction Co. for the Lake Road storm outfall project indicating the projects will be starting soon. The 2021 paving program was completed late Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### Water Pollution Control

The company constructing the bar rake projected the build would take between 12 to 14 weeks to finish. A bid packet for the installation of the bar rake will be publicized soon, meanwhile the permit-to-install paperwork is being prepared for the Environment Protection Agency. The new truck is expected to take several weeks to complete. Eventually, new dump trucks to haul sludge to the landfill will be needed.

#### Public Works

The department would benefit from two new plow trucks. The department observed a garbage truck with arms; the trucks needed to implement city-wide recycling. The City would need three at a cost of \$250,000.00 per garbage truck. An additional \$250,000.00 was estimated for more recycle cans. The City Manager is looking into upgrading the program and finding grants for additional funding. A new boom truck, a roughly \$100,000.00 purchase, would be helpful for the department. The current truck cannot reach high enough to repair some streetlights and trim tree branches. Build times for all trucks is lengthy.

#### Unfinished Business

The City has not received American Recovery Act funds. The City Manager plans to meet with the Finance Director and determine where the City can best use the funds. He still intends to follow through with the \$500,000.00 Waste Water Treatment Plant Capital Improvement Plan, Condition Assessment Study and Waste Water Rate Analysis that Council approved. Half of the expense will be comprised of American Recovery Act Funds.

The Committee Chair toured the Waste Water Treatment Plant and shared his respect to the department for using natural products to treat the water rather than chemicals. The department is planning to retrofit one of their trucks to support a crane in order to lift and lower the pumps. The task is currently contracted out to a local wrecker company.

#### Trash Talks

Since increasing the quantity of allowable trash bags in Wards 3, 4, and 5, complaint calls have decreased. The sanitation crews see a few problems and give notice of non-compliance.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting is Monday, August 23, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Adjourn** – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:16 p.m.  
Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council



**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT**

NAME OF COMMITTEE:  
**Safety Forces (SF)**

DATE: Monday, July 26, 2021

MEETING TIME & PLACE: 8:45 a.m. – Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair/ Vice President Michael Speelman  
Vice Chair/ Ward 1 Councilor Kym Foglio  
Ex-Officio Member/ President John Roskovics

COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION/STAFF:  
City Manager James Timonere, Chief of Police Robert Stell,  
Fire Chief Shawn Gruber, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

SPECIAL GUEST: Lt. James Kemmerle, Detective Division,  
Ashtabula County Sheriff’s Department

VISITORS: Cory Nagle, J.P. Ducro

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**REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED**

**Lt. James Kemmerle – Presentation**

The current Ashtabula County Jail was built in 1978 with a capacity for 112 inmates. The jail has five floors, the top floor is for the female population. The original jail design created space for a chapel which is now used for programs and classes for inmates. There is one cell for inmates who experience medical or mental health issues. The jail’s kitchen can provide roughly 200 meals per setting and the laundry room manages the inmates’ uniforms and linens. Outdated security controls and outdated and obsolete fixtures have been identified throughout the building, causing unsanitary conditions. Lt. Kemmerle said one of the main problems is the philosophical difference in the purpose of confinement. In 1978, the philosophy for correctional facilities was to “lock people up and throw away the key.” Rehabilitation is now the predominate purpose facing the entire criminal justice system, because many criminals have mental health and medical issues, drug addiction or a lack of education that jail administrators are expected to fix. The lack of jail cells often forces officers to release criminals back to the community and give them a date to appear in court. Jail administrators are also required to separate male inmates from female inmates and should separate based on charge type and status of the case. The current jail has one small area used for indoor recreation, religious services, AA classes, GED classes, drug and mental health assessments, and attorney visits which is insufficient for the jail populations. It is also unable to meet societal expectations for correctional facilities. The single medical and mental health cell falls far short of the number needed resulting in inappropriate housing. Isolation in the cell often results in worsening of the inmate’s condition and creating an unsafe environment. In 2015, Smolen Engineering conducted a study to fix the current jail. They concluded the project would cost \$9.3 million to bring the jail to current standards and would take 18 to 24 months to

complete. The current standards would result in a loss of jail beds. Inmates would have to be housed at other facilities creating increased expenses. In 2017, Strollo Architects conducted a study of the criminal justice system countywide. This study identified some inefficiencies in current practices reducing the demand for jail beds. The study projected 292 jail beds would be needed in 25 years and recommended a new jail should be built on a new site. An architectural firm was hired in 2019 and met with all the stakeholders to determine needs for the project. The original construction cost was estimated at \$51.3 million, but the County worked to streamline the design which reduced the cost to \$43.7 million. The new facility was designed as a single floor allowing the ability to expand to 450 jail beds. It is designed to reduce inmate movement which also reduces safety risks. The new facility will have six medical beds, five holding and mental health beds. The laundry, kitchen and inmate property storage areas were designed for 450 inmates. The County Commissioners determined a ½% Criminal Justice Sales tax would be the best way to fund the project. The added rate would raise the County sales tax to 7.25% which is equal or lower than 59 Ohio counties. In addition to the sales tax, the Commissioners applied for a grant through the State of Ohio, and they plan to lease available jail beds to raise money for the project. The old jail could be used to consolidate County offices, expand existing and often overcrowded office space. They could partner with treatment or service providers and possibly lease space. For more information, contact the Ashtabula County Commissioners Clerk, Lisa Hawkins at 440-576-3750, Sheriff William Niemi at 440-576-3507, or Lt. James Kemmerle at 440-576-3524.

#### Questions/Comments:

Vice Chair Foglio commended and thanked Lt. Kemmerle for his work on this project while he was the jail administrator and for remaining an advocate for the new facility at his new position in the detective division. The new facility would require increased staff because there would be an increase in inmates. The State of Ohio has minimum standards for staffing, which the facility would be required to follow. If a statement was made that they did not intend to hire additional staff during the beginning stages of the project, such a statement was made before full knowledge of the project's scope. As of July 26<sup>th</sup>, 92 inmates are housed in the jail. Due to COVID quarantine procedures in congregate settings, inmates have been turned away, so the number of inmates is lower than normal. Before COVID, the 112-bed jail averaged 154 inmates daily, with a high count of 166 inmates in August 2019. The jail has not housed federal prisoners since January 2018. It is important for the voters to know where the new jail is proposed to be built. Five sites have been considered but releasing the location at this time could negatively influence negotiations. Lt. Kemmerle feels the location will be revealed soon. The structure will be built using steel studs and framing. Steel industry prices have remained stable, unlike the lumber industry, and should not increase the cost of constructing the new facility. If voters pass the sales tax this November, it would go in effect in April 2022 and the county would begin collecting revenue in July 2022. Construction of the facility could begin immediately and will take between three and five years. Ashtabula County Commissioner, J.P. Ducro announced public meetings will be held various places around Ashtabula County. A schedule can be found on their website, <https://www.co.ashtabula.oh.us/>.

#### **Ashtabula Police Department (APD)**

Chief Stell submitted statistics for the month of May and June 2021. July statistics are trending higher which is typical and includes a recent shooting incident.

Chief Stell requested the Committee review the Codified Ordinances Chapter 521.14 Recreational Equipment in Right of Way. He's noticed an increase in basketball hoops in tree lawns all around the City. The current legislation is not efficient for enforcement purposes. Proposed revisions were submitted. Mr. Speelman moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve the proposed revision to the Codified Ordinances Chapter 521.14 Recreational Equipment in Right of Way; motion CARRIED. Ex Officio member Mr. Roskovics expressed his support of the motion.

Chief Stell requested the Committee to approve designating "No Parking" the entire length of the east side of Petros Drive. Vehicles parking on both sides of the road creates a safety hazard. "No Parking" signs are posted, but legislation is not in place for enforcement. Chief Stell also requested posting additional signs to lessen confusion. Mr. Speelman moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve designating the entire length of the east side of Petros Drive as "No Parking"; motion CARRIED. Ex Officio member Mr. Roskovics expressed his support of the motion.

An APD officer performed CPR on a person in distress and two days later prevented a person from jumping off the viaduct bridge, saving his life. Chief Stell requested time during the next Council meeting to give the Officer Pasquale F. DiAngelo a commendation for his actions. The Committee members agreed, and the commendation presentation will take place at the beginning of the August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, Regular Council Meeting.

#### **Ashtabula Fire Department (AFD)**

Chief Gruber submitted a monthly report, including a two year look back for comparison purposes. The statistics are back on track after 2020's reduction in calls due to COVID. House fires have dropped. Vice Chair Foglio commented the new fire truck looks nice.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### **Washington Avenue**

A resident of Washington Avenue feels the street is too narrow for parking on both sides of the road. A traffic study was completed, and residents responded in favor of prohibiting parking along the west side of Washington Avenue between Bunker Hill Road and West 58<sup>th</sup> Street. Chief Stell recommended the Committee moves forward with enacting such legislation. Mr. Speelman moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve Chief Stell's recommendation; motion CARRIED.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Laird Drive and West 9<sup>th</sup> Street**

Vice Chair Foglio identified a request for a crosswalk at Laird Drive and West 9<sup>th</sup> Street came from Mr. Cory Nagle. He witnesses vehicles ignoring the stop signs regularly and using excessive speeds through the area. Between Save A Lot and Mr. Nagle's business, Fat Sally's, there is also increased foot traffic. Recently, a family was nearly hit while walking. There are currently two stop signs at the intersection. Mr. Nagle proposed several solutions, including adding a crosswalk, installing rumble strips and erecting "pedestrian crossing" signs. He is updating his business's parking area and entrance on Laird to include an exit onto West 9<sup>th</sup> Street, which he feels may help the situation. The City Manager assessed the area and decided to put stop signs on both

sides of Laird Drive heading east approaching West 9<sup>th</sup>. He said a crosswalk could be added to West 9<sup>th</sup>, but one across Laird Drive could be problematic. Adding rumble strips in the area is not ideal for the residents due to the noise they create.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting is Monday, August 23, 2021, at 8:45 a.m.

**Adjourn** – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council