

## ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 16, 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. A moment of silence was observed for Mr. Brent Bunnell who recently passed. Mr. Bunnell was a resident of Ward 1 who owned an insurance business in Ashtabula and served on various City committees throughout the years.

### 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. Roskovics

### Officers Present

City Manager – Mr. James M. Timonere, Director of Finance – 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 as modified, due to the stay-at-home order imposed by Governor DeWine. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris 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 and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

### Approval of Minutes

The Clerk of Council presented amended minutes from the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting and approved at the February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting. Mr. Roskovics moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended. The Clerk of Council presented minutes from the February 1, 2021 Regular meeting. Mr.

Roskovics moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. The minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

**City Manager Report and Communications**

The City Manager asked residents to obey the parking ban when snowfall is over three inches. All three shifts are working to clear the snow from the roads. Presidents' Day on Monday did not change the garbage pick-up schedule.

**Clerk of Council Report and Communications**

The Clerk recited a resolution drafted in honor of Dr. Gloekler:

*A RESOLUTION HONORING DR. NORMAN GLOEKLER AND GLOEKLER  
CHIROPRACTIC FOR SERVING THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF ASTHABULA  
FOR 40 YEARS*

*WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, that the month of February 2021 marks the 40th anniversary of Dr. Norman Gloekler's chiropractic practice in the City of Ashtabula; and,*

*WHEREAS, Dr. Norman Gloekler returned to the City of Ashtabula in 1981 to provide chiropractic care to the citizens of the City of Ashtabula and surrounding communities; and*

*WHEREAS, he has grown his practice by educating patients about his staunch belief in the benefits of nutrition, exercise, and natural, holistic health care to improve his patients' quality of life; and*

*WHEREAS, his passion for making a difference led him to serve the American Chiropractic Association, National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, Ohio Chiropractic Board, Northeast Ohio Academy of Chiropractic, Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research, High Country Chiropractic Knights, and locally in organizations such as the Rotary Club of Ashtabula, Ashtabula Downtown Development Association, Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce, RAM Clinic in Ashtabula County and LEADERShip of Ashtabula County; and*

*WHEREAS, he is admired and respected by fellow professionals, his patients, staff, community, and family; and,*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, do hereby convey to Dr. Norman Gloekler, our heart-felt*

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*appreciation and commendation on his 40th anniversary and best wishes for the future years of continued dedication and service to the City of Ashtabula.*

*Thank you for Believing in Ashtabula.*

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

The Committee Chair reported on the February meeting (minutes attached). The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

**Finance and Personnel Committee Report and Communications**

The February meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

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

The next meeting is Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. and will be held virtually.

**Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications**

The February meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22, 2021.

**Legislation Agenda**

- Formal Legislation Request(s): no additional requests came before Council
- Form and Correctness – met per City Solicitor
- Public Discussion (on legislation only) – none
- Legislation Overview –  
The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda.
- Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Ms. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda. On the roll call: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

**Legislation Reading**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-17 A RESOLUTION HONORING DR. NORMAN GLOEKLER AND GLOEKLER CHIROPRACTIC FOR SERVING THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF ASTHABULA FOR 40 YEARS (City Council)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-18 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FAMOUS SUPPLY OF ASHTABULA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING TWO (2) BOILERS FOR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING HEATING SYSTEM AT \$14,689.12 EACH FOR A PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$29,378.24 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-19 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ZIEGLER HEATING COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLATION OF TWO BOILERS FOR THE HEATING SYSTEM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$22,030.00 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-20 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER #1 WITH PERK COMPANY, INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDITIONAL WORK AS WELL AS NON-PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES AND MATERIALS IN THE NET AMOUNT OF \$47,192.29, BRINGING THE CONTRACT TOTAL FOR THE PROJECT TO \$851,615.49 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-21 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY SEAT PROPERTIES, LTD., FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR SEVEN YEARS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING KNOWN AS 1417 BRIDGE STREET, ASHTABULA, OH 44004, PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 68-409-10-012-01 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-22 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH TIFFANY SALINAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF A TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR SEVEN YEARS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING KNOWN AS 1419 BRIDGE STREET, ASHTABULA, OH 44004, PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 68-409-10-012-02 (City Manager)

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

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 and 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 and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

#### **New Business**

City Council asked the Clerk to draft a letter which she recited:

*I am writing today on behalf of the Ashtabula City Council to voice our support of the Surface Transportation Bill that will bring an Amtrak stop to the City of Ashtabula. What an honor it is for the City of Ashtabula to be recognized by Amtrak! Ashtabula has enjoyed a rich history of rail transport for goods, products, and passengers, but amid the*

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*positive changes currently happening in our area, the impact for our City and Northeast Ohio could be boundless! Our Councilors are receiving numerous calls from excited constituents in support of the measure. If you have the opportunity in your certainly busy schedule, please advocate for the bill and especially for the City of Ashtabula.*

Mr. Roskovics moved Ms. Haines seconded to adopt the letter and send to appropriate legislators. Discussion: Because an Amtrak stop in Ashtabula will change the economic landscape in Ashtabula, Ms. Haines and Mr. Roskovics encouraged residents to contact the appropriate legislators to support of the bill. On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman and Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

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

Both the President and Clerk of Council attended Little Charlie's Bake Shop opening the previous Friday evening. They sell flowers as well as baked goods at their location at 1469 Bridge Street.

The Ward 3 Councilor organized a drive-thru give-away of food and household supplies called The Charity Faith Love Project at the Peoples Missionary Baptist Church parking lot 3837 West Avenue on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:00 p.m. Anyone with questions or interested in volunteering or giving needed items can contact Ms. Young by calling 440-637-4846.

The Ward 1 Councilor congratulated John Rocco and Joey Huang on their retirement and the sale of Great Lakes Auto in Ashtabula and wished them the best of luck. She also wished to congratulate Ms. Sadie Drozd, a past Miss Ohio Pre-Teen and recently crowned Miss Ohio Junior Teen. Sadie replaces the outgoing Miss Ohio Junior Teen, her sister Sydney Gilbert, who ceremoniously transferred the crown.

The Ward 4 Councilor announced the Ashtabula NAACP is organizing an art and writing contest called "Black History And Me" for students from Pre-Kindergarten to college. For more information or to send a submission contact Jessica Leveto or Liz Penna [naacpashtabula@gmail.com](mailto:naacpashtabula@gmail.com). Physical submission will be accepted at the Ashtabula County District Library. All submissions will be accepted until March 12<sup>th</sup>. Bula Beauty Shop located at 4118 Main Avenue has special calendars available in honor of Black History Month.

The City Manager gave a brief COVID update. Ashtabula County had 159 new cases in a one week period. Ashtabula City is monitoring 36 cases, four patients are hospitalized. In the County, fourteen patients are hospitalized an increase of seven patients. The positivity rate is 10.2% which is an increase since last week. COVID variants found in the United States is an additional area of concern. The City Health Department staff continues to dedicate long hours every day including weekends. It is still best practice to wear masks and keep social distancing.

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The Ward 2 Councilor announced the Lenten Fish Fry for Our Lady of Peace parish will be held at the Mount Carmel Community Center from March 19<sup>th</sup> to March 26<sup>th</sup>. Meals will be available for take-out only.

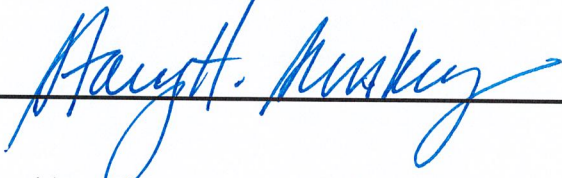
**Public Discussion/Comments on General Matters**

none

**Adjournment**

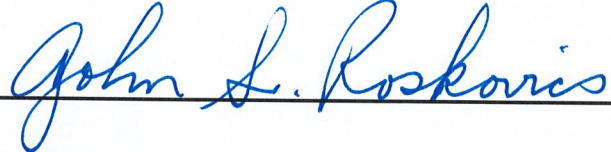
Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. by the President of Council. The next Pre-Council Meeting will be held virtually at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and will be followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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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Attachment: February 9, 2021 Community Development/Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes – 3 pages

**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT**

NAME OF COMMITTEE:

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

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

MEETING TIME & PLACE: 4:00 p.m. – Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

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

VISITORS: Ashtabula County Auditor, David Thomas

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**REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED**

**Special Guest: Ashtabula County Auditor, David Thomas**

Property owners throughout Ashtabula County have noticed changes in their taxes. Mr. Thomas explained due to the state mandated revaluation, the changes reflected on property owner’s tax bills are due to changes in valuations for City of Ashtabula property owners, not from levies. The revaluation process occurs every six years in every county throughout the state. Voters pass the tax rates for particular levies which are then assigned to the values of each property, resulting in the property tax bill. The property taxes paid last year used the values from the 2014 revaluation data. To accurately appraise and update values of nearly 80,000 county properties, Ashtabula County Auditor’s staff collect the data necessary by physical external inspection of property conditions as well as current real estate market sales figures. Since 1994, the Auditor’s Office has contracted with an appraisal company. Current cost for the service is roughly \$20 per parcel. Using the outside appraisal company allows Auditor staff to focus on Board of Revision appeals, new construction, and subsequent reviews. Changes in value do not necessarily correlate directly to changes in taxes. Each property’s value equals a percentage of the district’s value. Mr. Thomas gave an example of two homes in a district, one worth \$60,000 and one worth \$40,000, and combined totaling \$100,000. The first house pays 60% of the taxes for the district while the second house pays 40%. After the revaluation, both theoretical homes saw an increase in value, the first home’s value rose to \$110,000 and the second home’s value rose to \$90,000. The first home is now only responsible for 55% of the district’s tax burden, meaning a decrease in 5% of its tax bill compared to before the revaluation. The second home is responsible for 45% of the district’s tax burden, an increase of 5% in its tax bill before the revaluation. Mr. Thomas went on to explain the property values used on the current tax bill are based on their value as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The government entity, whether county, city or township does not receive additional revenue than prior to the revaluation, the revenue remains a steady amount, unlike sales tax or income tax. For instance, in 2016 City voters passed a five year, 1.5 mill Park Levy yielding a total amount of revenue based on property values at that time. This total amount remains steady for

the length of the levy and also if the levy is renewed again. In the City five years later, because properties transfer ownership and increase the property owners in the district who pay into the Park Levy, actually reduces the amount of taxes each property owner pays. The City Manager described the calculations as rebalancing. Mr. Thomas said his website (<https://auditor.ashtabulacounty.us>) has many tools and guides to answer taxpayer questions, but also invited taxpayers to call the Auditor's office. He advises property owners with financial challenges should contact the Ashtabula County Treasurer's Office to discuss payment plans. Property owners wishing to challenge property value can contact the Board of Revision. When comparing the City of Ashtabula property values between the 2014 to 2020 revaluations, residential property values increased by 8% and Ashtabula County property values increased by 12%. The City Manager added that while a levy collects a set amount each year for the duration of a levy, increasing costs for salaries, maintenance, supplies, or other expenses mean the levy income will likely not be enough to cover those expenses by the end of the levy. The total amount of money received by the City, or any government subdivision, is also impacted by the revenue actually collected and County fees for collecting and distributing the revenue.

The Vice-Chair asked about a resident who has questions about paying taxes to Ashtabula City and Ashtabula Township. To explain, Mr. Thomas likened the different and numerous (68) taxing districts that exist in Ashtabula County to layers. Ashtabula County represents the first layer. The second layer includes the County's 27 townships. School districts, first responder districts, park districts and libraries also add a layer. Finally, cities and villages represent another layer. Some property owners can be a resident of the City and of a township (either Ashtabula or Saybrook Township) because of the way the property was transferred between the township and the city. Those property owners also vote on both township and city levies and elected officials. Each property in the county is charged ten mills (\$10 per \$1,000 of market value) which is disbursed to all the tax districts (layers) the property sits upon. This property owner's 10 mills are shared between the city and the township. To avoid splitting the revenue, the property owner may choose to move out of that section of the city or move to the township. Some government entities choose to certify or conform the boundaries, but it is quite an extensive and costly process at this stage. Conforming the boundaries is normally a process that occurs when the property is initially annexed. If desired, City Council can vote to conform the boundaries. Past Councils have considered it in the past, but at that time, the residents polled did not desire such action. The committee plans to discuss further once more information can be collected.

### **City Manager's Report**

The City Manager met with the City Solicitor and Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development to discuss lakefront zoning changes to the Codified Ordinances and plans to present to Council soon. He is still looking for recommendations from Council and the residents impacted. The City has frequent issues regarding fences and signs. They are areas of the zoning codes they will be reviewed next. A comprehensive zoning plan is a desired project for later in the year. The City is preparing summer and fall construction projects. Many local businesses are expanding and hiring but concern remains that smaller businesses are faltering. Ashtabula Downtown Development Association and Lift Bridge Community Association are making summer plans but COVID may prevent festivals from occurring again this year. The COVID cases seem to have leveled off locally and state-wide, though a COVID variant has been discovered in Ohio which may cause a resurgence of cases. The Health Department is trying to schedule as many



vaccine appointments as possible. Because they do not receive many vaccines, supplies run out quickly.

**Parks & Recreation (P&R) Board Communications**

The Committee Chair announced the next P&R meeting is March 3, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. *(Since the meeting, the P&R Board Chair clarified the Board meeting is cancelled, though a group is meeting to discuss the Parks Levy on March 2.)*

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting is Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

**Adjourn** – The Chair adjourned meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council