

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 2, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Ms. Jane E. Haines (Ward 5 Councilor)

OFFICER(S) PRESENT: Mr. James M. Timonere (City Manager)
Mr. Michael Franklin (City Solicitor)
Ms. Traci R. Welch (Director of Finance)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: Mrs. Stacy H. Senskey (Clerk of Council)

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): Mrs. Foglio moved, Ms. Young seconded to excuse Ms. Haines from the meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

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

- October 19, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

MONTHLY COVID-19 UPDATE

Christine Hill, Health Commissioner reported cumulatively, Ashtabula County had 917 positive cases of COVID-19, 119 hospitalizations, 48 deaths and the City of Ashtabula had 187 positive cases, 21 hospitalizations and five deaths. She reported a "literal explosion of cases" and health department staff have been working 12-14 hour days seven days a week for about two weeks. The health department hired and are training some new nurses to assist in the coming months. Ms. Hill reported they are following forty cases in isolation and a voluminous amount of quarantine cases and contract tracing because people are expanding their social circles. Ohio's Public Health Advisory System placed Ashtabula County in red status due to four flagged indicators. The indicators met were:

- New Cases per Capita went from 41.1 cases to 83.5 cases per 100k in one week
- Sustained New Cases increased from 1.6 to 8.3
- Non-Congregate Cases is very high
- Outpatient Visits went from 3.7 to 8.3

43 other Ohio Counties are in the red status. There are no mandates for the advisory system, but it allows the local leaders to assess the current situation and decide a course of action. The school partners are doing a great job managing the students and staff. There have been cases within some schools but not enough to close the schools.

Ms. Hill reported Governor DeWine wants each County to form a Coronavirus Defense Team and she was proud to say Ashtabula County already has one, though she would like to add some business leaders to the team. Governor DeWine reminded urged Ohioans to vote tomorrow, but to unify Ohio by putting politics on the back burner and focus on defeating the virus. She is concerned about funding going into 2021 but received some assurances from the Governor that assistance will continue from the state, if not from the federal level. Ms. Hill continues to give her staff high praises for the level of care they are providing with the rising numbers of cases. She hopes to deliver encouraging news and asks the public to continue their patience and stay safe. Properly wearing a mask makes a considerable difference in keeping people from getting as sick or getting sick at all. The spread of viral load is limited if you are wearing a mask and exposed to the virus. The City Manager added the health practices recommended to prevent the spread of coronavirus will also help prevent the spread of the flu. The Health Department is providing a drive-by flu hot on Monday's from 2p to 4p or in the Health Department Office by appointment.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER:

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD Group, with a mailing address of 100 Federal Plaza East, Suite 200, Youngstown, OH 44503 for the purpose of providing construction administration and inspection for the Petmin Plant

Resurfacing Project in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the 412 fund. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Ashtabula Township Board of Trustees for the exchange of certain assets no longer needed by each entity. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to execute Change Order #1 with Infinity Paving Company with a mailing address of 50 E. Highland Rd., Northfield, OH 44067 for additional work to the Walnut Boulevard Tennis Courts project in the amount not to exceed \$231.30. Funding for this expense will be taken from the Parks and Recreation 233 fund. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager requested an ordinance to execute Change Order #1 with Roto-Rooter with a mailing address of P.O. Box 524, Ashtabula, OH 44004 for the purpose of additional work to the Fire Department Sewer Line Project in the amount not to exceed \$2,760.00. Funding for this project will be taken from the 504 fund. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to create a Mortgage, Rent, Utility Relief Grant Program using C.A.R.E.S Act Funding and enter into a subgrant agreement with the Ashtabula County Community Action Agency to administer the program. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. **Discussion:** The City Manager recommends using \$50,000 for the program and pay the Ashtabula County Community Action Agency \$5,000 to administer the program for the City. Community Action will be administering similar programs for the State of Ohio, Ashtabula County, and the City of Geneva. Motion CARRIED.

Last weekend's winds caused power outages and fallen branches or trees. City crews were out handling power back-ups and clearing debris. The winds blew leaves into the road, but the City Manager asks residents to use leaf bags and please keep leaves out of the street.

CITY SOLICITOR: none

FINANCE DIRECTOR:

The Finance Director reported she would present the preliminary 2021 budget to the Finance Committee at the November 20th meeting, and in a Public Hearing on December 7th. Council will have the opportunity to vote on the 2021 budget at the December 21st Regular Meeting. This will be the fourth budget the Finance Director and City Manager have compiled and presented this year.

CLERK OF COUNCIL:

The Clerk of Council was unable to attend the meeting, but the Council President shared she was awarded the 2021 Jim Tinnin Online Learning Scholarship for Region V of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 4p. Guests include Patrick Haywood, Steve Sargent and Liz Penna who wish to present their request to rename Station Avenue to R. W. Shelby Avenue to the Committee members. The President of Council suggested the Committee discuss the housing shortage in Ashtabula. The City Manager agreed there is a housing shortage here and throughout Ohio. Rentals and housing with three bedrooms or more are scarce and would like the housing stock in the City updated.

Finance & Personnel

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

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

The Ward 4 Councilor gave a brief report from the Committee's October 26th meeting (minutes provided as attachments).

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

Safety Forces

The Vice President gave a brief report from the Committee's October 26th meeting (minutes provided as attachments). 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) – Letters (provided as attachments) were read from:
 - Ashtabula City Employees Local Union 1197 President, Steve Lanham
 - Fraternal Order of Police Ashtabula Lodge No. 26 President, Brandon Zukoski
 - Ashtabula Fire Fighters International Association of Fire Fighters Local #165 President Derrick Krzys

- Legislation Overview –
The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda. The City Solicitor indicated Ordinance 2020-108 was requested for the Addendum Agenda through the Ashtabula Municipal Judge’s Journal Entry No. 28-359 dated October 30th, 2020 in place of and rather than Ordinance 2020-103 which was requested for the Regular Meeting Agenda through the Ashtabula Municipal Judge’s Journal Entry Nos. 28-235 dated August 4th, 2020 and 28-259 August 20th, 2020. The City Solicitor was requested to draft Ordinance No. 2020-103 by a vote at the October 19th, 2020 Regular Meeting. The City Solicitor thought it best to prepare the Ashtabula Municipal Court’s current request as draft Ordinance No. 2020-108. The City Solicitor does not believe the Ward 4 Councilor has a conflict of interest due to working with clients through the Ashtabula Municipal Court, though she no longer sits on the docket.
- Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to dispose of RESOLUTION NO. 2020-101 and ORDINANCE NOS. 2020-104, 2020-105, 2020-106, 2020-107, and 2020-109 Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING

The Council President presented the following legislation:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-101 A RESOLUTION HONORING MARIE RANIER’S YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF ASTHABULA MUNICIPAL COURT (City Council)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-104 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND INSPECTION FOR THE PETMIN PLANT RESURFACING PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$80,000 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-105 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR AN EXCHANGE OF ASSETS WITH THE ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-106 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT WITH INFINITY PAVING COMPANY, FOR MAKING REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WALNUT BOULEVARD TENNIS COURTS (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-107 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT WITH ROTO-ROOTER FOR ASSISTANCE IN REPAIRS TO THE SEWER LINE SERVING THE ASHTABULA FIRE STATION (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-109 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CREATE A MORTGAGE, RENT, UTILITY RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM USING CARES ACT FUNDING AND ENTER INTO A SUBGRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHABULA COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM (City Manager)

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED.

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

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

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)

Mr. Speelman moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED. **Discussion:** The City Solicitor gave legal guidance with the caveat he is not furnishing his own personal or professional opinion. The draft Ordinance No. 2020-102 proposes replacing Marie Ranier with William Niemi, who is given the title of Acting Chief Probation Officer and Bailiff. Ohio Supreme Court precedence says the Ashtabula Municipal Judge can request Niemi to perform both duties and can determine the compensation for the position. The draft Ordinance No. 2020-108 proposes a one-time stipend to the two Ashtabula Municipal Court's Security Officers and orders the stipends to be paid from an Ashtabula Municipal Court's Special Projects Fund. The Ohio Revised Code, the Attorney General's opinions, and numerous court decisions indicate that Special Projects Funds are completely within the court's discretion and a city council which hosts a municipal court has a mandatory duty to authorize expenditures required by the court from those funds as long as it will not create a negative balance in that year. The City Solicitor further emphasized there must be money appropriated, unencumbered and either collected or in the process of collection. If all those conditions are met, the court has absolute discretion to order the money be expended as the court sees fit. The city council has a mandatory legal duty to approve the court's request enforceable by a petition for a writ of mandamus in a higher court. The City Solicitor strongly believes the Court of Appeals would uphold the Judge's order in this instance. The Ashtabula Municipal Court is not a department of the City and the Court's employees are only subject solely to the terms and conditions the Court sets. The Ohio Revised Code created an arm of the government called the Ashtabula Municipal Court and the City of Ashtabula is the host city required to provide certain fiscal obligations to the Ashtabula Municipal Court. Because the Finance Director and Department are employees of the City and the City is the custodian of the Courts funds, Council is obligated to permit the City Finance Director and Finance Department to make the expenditures as ordered by the Court. Only the Judge is permitted to direct how monies in Special Projects Funds are spent and only the City Finance Director and Finance Department employees can release the funds as directed by the Courts. The Finance Director's estimates the funds are available in the Special Projects Fund for the current year's requests. She is mainly concerned with next year's projections of revenue in the Special Projects Funds. She cannot present a budget with any fund line in the negative. Based on her current projections for 2021, the General Fund would need to be used to subsidize the Courts Special Projects Funds.

There was no motion to waive the Charter Requirement of two readings of the Legislation. Ms. Harris made a motion to adopt the legislation, there was no second. Council will entertain a second reading of Ordinance No. 2020-102 at the next Regular Council Meeting.

The Council President withdrew ORDINANCE NO. 2020-103 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH JUDGMENT ENTRIES OF JUDGE LAURA DIGIACOMO, CONDITIONED UPON JUDGE DIGIACOMO AGREEING TO FUTURE DISPUTE RESOLUTION WITH THE CITY OF ASHTABULA THROUGH THE OHIO SUPREME COURT PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT CONFLICT RESOLUTION SERVICES (Ashtabula Municipal Judge) 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)

Mr. Speelman moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to waive the reading of the legislation.

Discussion: The City Solicitor clarified should this ordinance be approved the monies are strictly coming from the Court's 2020 Special Projects Fund. The City Solicitor explained Ordinance 2020-108 gives the Court's two Security Officers one-time stipends which sidestepped Council's prior objections to the journal entries giving them raises. Motion CARRIED.

There was no motion to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. Council will entertain a second reading of Ordinance No. 2020-108 at the next Regular Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Council President was glad to see the interest to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board. He thought it best to give attention to the applications at the next Regular Council Meeting with no objections raised.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know:

- The Ward 2 Councilor observed motorists driving through the orange barrels into the bike path down West Avenue. He is asking motorists to please stay within the proper lanes. The City Manager added the pavement is grooved to remind motorists to stay in the proper lane.
- The Vice President reminded everyone that Wednesday, November 11th is Veteran's Day and despite the nation's current turmoil, everyone should take the time to thank a Veteran. The Vice President was thanked for his service to our nation.
- The Ward 1 reminded everyone to get out and vote tomorrow.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters): none

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:31p.

DATE APPROVED:

November 16, 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. *Public Works/ Public Utilities/ Cable/Schools October 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes – page 9*
2. *Safety Forces October 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes – page 12*
3. *Letter on behalf of the Ashtabula City Employees Local Union 1197 from President, Steve Lanham – page 14*
4. *Letter on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police Ashtabula Lodge No. 26 from President, Brandon Zukoski – page 15*
5. *Letter on behalf of the Ashtabula Fire Fighters International Association of Fire Fighters Local #165 from President Derrick Krzys – page 16*

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Date: Monday, October 26, 2020

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

Member(s) Present: Ms. Octavia Harris (Vice Chair/Ward 4 Councilor)
Ms. Laydean Young (Member/Ward 3 Councilor)

Member(s) Absent: Mr. Calvin Crawford (Chair/Ward 2 Councilor)

Officers Present: Mr. James Timonere (City Manager)
Mrs. Stacy Senskey (Clerk of Council)
Ms. Traci Welch (Finance Director)

Department Heads Present: Mr. Craig Pierce, Superintendent of Waste Water Treatment Plant

Scheduled Visitors: Christopher J. Tolnar, P. E. GPD Group Project Manager

Visitor(s) none

Media: none

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

Presentation

The City Manager introduced Mr. Tolnar and reminded the Committee that GPD Group is the City of Ashtabula’s engineer; Mr. Tolnar, our primary liaison. GPD Group’s services offer a variety of engineering proficiencies to the City including planning various types of projects, locating grants, and coordinating bid packages. Mr. Tolnar was invited by the City Manager to discuss a system evaluation, future repair plans and rate analysis for the City’s Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Mr. Tolnar explained the Ohio EPA is requiring a comprehensive sewer model as part of the permitting process. The City of Ashtabula has an east and west side split by the Ashtabula River, and there are sub-areas within the two sides. Field investigation will provide the data which will be interpreted by a computer program to develop the sewer model. This model will deliver the best representation of the current conditions of the 89 miles of sewer pipe and how the different areas of the sewer systems interact. The model will also provide insight on the most effective repairs or determine upgrades or complete changes are required. The sewer model is a costly part of GPD Group’s proposal initially, but the overall value lies with making the soundest choices based on actual data-driven results. It is also an excellent tool to prevent spending funds on unforeseen repairs.

The GPD Group’s \$500,000 proposal estimates a Condition Assessment Study and Capital Improvement Plan will cost \$388,000, the Wastewater Rate Analysis another \$64,500, and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Loan Coordination adds \$47,500 and includes the City’s sewer system (sewer pipes and pump stations) and the WWTP . The City’s WWTP is essentially two plants in one providing back-up in case of unanticipated failure or disrepair. The City Manager approves the proposal and deems it necessary for the future success of the WWTP. Further discussion at the Committee’s next meeting is necessary and will include budgeting.

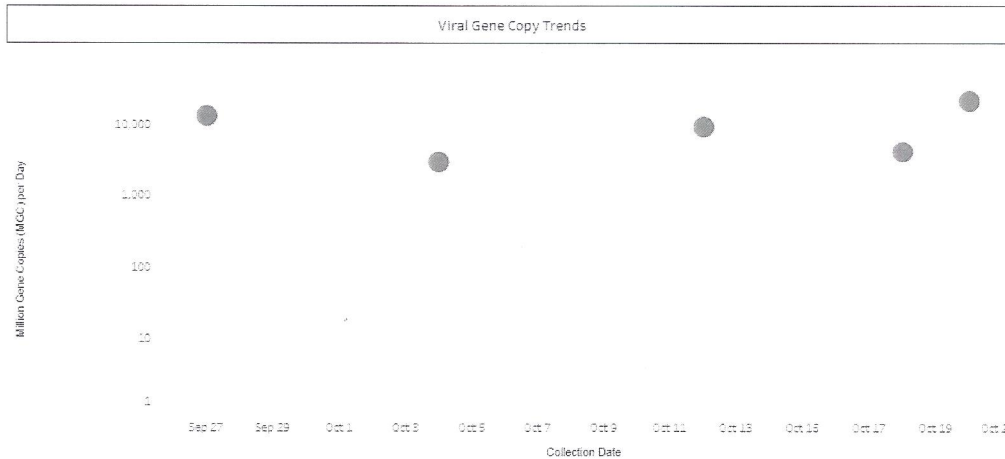
Public Works

Summer maintenance equipment was stored for the season and trucks are being prepared for winter. Salt has been delivered. The City Manager had a meeting with Waste Management (WM). The current contract covers sludge from the City’s WWTP, municipal solid waste (garbage from Sanitation) and construction and demolition debris (C&D). WM is proposing 4% yearly rate increased for the next five years. Currently, WM charges the City \$47.20 per ton for municipal solid waste. The average cost per year for municipal solid waste disposal is nearly \$500,000, another \$8,300 for C&D. Using the proposed rate increases, the City would be paying around \$586,000 in 2025. The City Manager compared the figure with the 6,388 current active trash accounts, the City would have to increase each account by \$3.03 or 25 cents per month to cover the proposed rate increases. Also, a part of the negotiations is the credit the City receives to treat WM’s leachate at our WWTP. By the end of the year, the City Manager plans to share three proposals with full Council. The Tivision Pump Station replacement will start next week, as the project needs to be finished by the end of the year. There are some road patches that need finished before snow falls. The barrels drawing attention to the new bike path with remain in place for a time to assist motorists with the road changes.

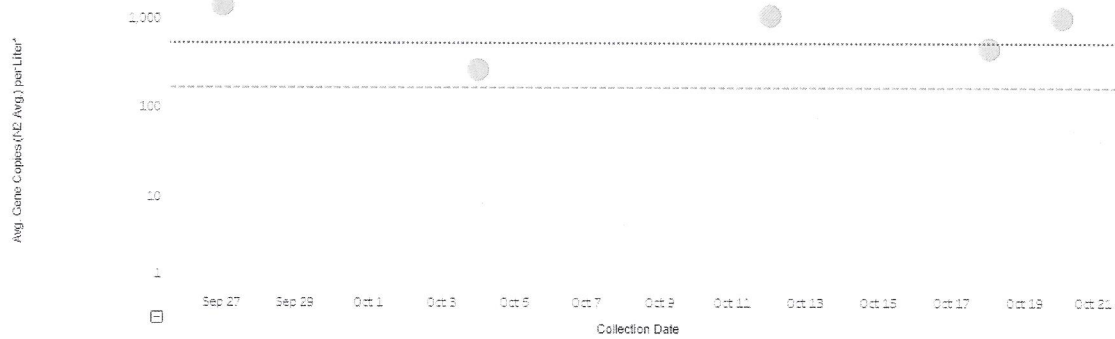
WPC

The Superintendent of WPC discussed the statewide wastewater influent monitoring study for gene fragments of COVID. He sends samples weekly and the data can be viewed on the coronavirus.ohio.gov website.

Facility Name = Ashtabula WPCP



Ashtabula City Council
 Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools Committee Meeting
 Monday, October 26, 2020



*Limit of Quantification (LOQ): Results below this limit are low and, while detectable, cannot be accurately counted. These are therefore referred to as being below the limit of quantification.
 Limit of Detection (LOD): Results below this limit are too low for the instrument to detect, referred to as being below limit of detection. This does not mean there is no virus in the community.

Trash Talks

The discussion continues about the topics of city wide recycling and trash pick-up. “Extra Trash” stickers seems to be an idea warranting further discussion. The City Manager mentioned the WM contract currently in negotiation. Hiring a firm like WM to collect the recycling would cost \$7 per household. Another costly option is to purchase dual armed garbage trucks. The ideal solution would be to produce less waste. The Councilors are routinely contacted by residents and are open to change that keeps the City clean.

ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.
 Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT
4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004
(440) 992-7119

NAME OF COMMITTEE: SAFETY FORCES

DATE: Monday, October 26, 2020

TIME & PLACE OF MEETING: 8:00 a.m. – Council Chambers

MEMBER(S) PRESENT: Mr. Michael Speelman (Chair/Vice President)
Mrs. Kym Foglio (Vice-Chair/Ward 1 Councilor)
Ms. Laydean Young (Member/Ward 3 Councilor)

**ADMINISTRATION/
OFFICER(S):** City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey,
Police Chief Stell, Fire Chief Shawn Gruber,

STAFF PRESENT:

SCHEDULED VISITORS: Emory G. Moore, Founder and Pastor of New Hope Church of God
In Christ in Ashtabula and;
Founder and Director of Building Youth for Society

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

I. Special Guest Speaker

Chief Stell invited Pastor Emory Moore to attend this meeting to introduce a scholarship program. Emory G. Moore is the Founder and Pastor of New Hope Church of God In Christ in Ashtabula and Founder and Director of Building Youth for Society, a non-profit organization designed to assist under-served youth in Ashtabula. He and Kathryn Shelby, of the Shelby Foundation, have teamed with the City's Safety Forces to create a scholarship program in support of local youth staying in Ashtabula and serving Ashtabula as police officers or firefighters. Once the program is out of the developing stages, Pastor Moore intends to visit the schools and plan fundraisers and other events. The plan is to begin with the APD and at this time, they have enough funds to support three or four police candidates. The funds will be paid to the Police Academy on behalf of the candidate upon successful completion of training. The candidate must pass the state certification test and commit to staying with the APD for a specific term. For more information about becoming an Ashtabula City Police Officer, please contact Chief Stell's office at 440-992-7156. To donate or for more information about the scholarship and Building Youth for Society, please contact Pastor Moore by calling 501-425-4349 or 440-855-7455, or by his e-mail, emorymoore2@gmail.com.

II. SAFETY FORCES REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Police Division

Chief Stell stated a recent drug bust removed significant amounts of drugs and money from the streets of Ashtabula. Aside from this incident, they have experienced calls for service consistent with the past few months.

Fire Division

Chief Gruber reported the department is back to normal. The station's plumbing project is almost finished. CARES Act Funds were used to purchase a new ambulance.

City Manager

The City Manager asked the Civil Service Commission to produce an entrance exam for the police department for January exam date. He is thankful for the scholarship and helping future candidates is critical, but in the short-term, the need is dire for a minimum of three officers to replace vacancies.

III. Unfinished Business

Parking Issues on East 16th Street

This issue was identified back in March and recently revisited. The concern is to add "No Parking" signs to additional portions of East 16th Street. The 1953 Ordinance prohibits parking on the north side from Columbus Avenue to Scott Avenue on Sundays only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. City Manager will review with the City Solicitor and Clerk of Council and report back to the Committee at the next meeting. *Clerk's note: The minutes from March 2, 2020 reflected the basis of the issue: Mr. Coffield identified parking issues on East 16th between the creek and Columbus Avenue. People are parking on both sides of the road and fire hydrants are often blocked. The signs are being removed. The City Manager will check the street and the traffic map and advised Mr. Coffield to call the police if he sees anyone removing signs.*

IV. New Business

Parking problems were reported on Hamlin Drive earlier this month. A resident on the north side of Hamlin is unable to access his driveway because of parking by apartment residents on the south side of Hamlin. The City Manager will review with the Planning and Community Development Department and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 23, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

The Committee Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:24 a.m.

Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council



American Federation of State County and Municipal
Employees

Ashtabula City Employees Local Union 1197

4717 Main Avenue

Ashtabula, OH 44004

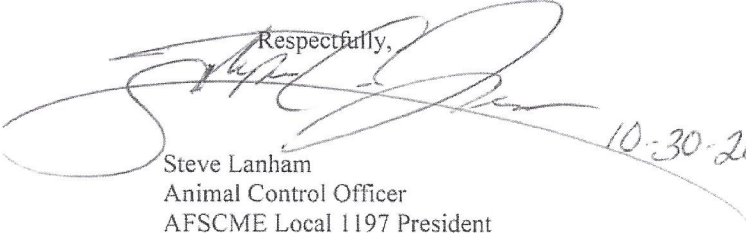
To: The Members of Ashtabula City Council,

Today I am writing to City Council on behalf of AFSCME Local 1197 to express my concern and dissent with the request from the municipal courts regarding an increase in wages for two of their employees. Local 1197 does realize the Judge has full control over this decision however the Union is concerned with the continuous demand for court expenses. In this case the increase in wages is due to the task of taking temperatures and enforcing mask wearing policies. The vast majority of Local 1197 members have been doing more and more and not being financially upgraded, we have combined jobs, taken concessions and overall have tried to work with the City in creating a more efficient workplace. Just this year alone during the beginning of the Covid-19 Local 1197 members continued to work as well as my colleagues from the F.O.P. and I.A.F.F. while we all showed up to work the Judge chose to send some if not most of her employees home and continued to pay them 100%. Then when the City was able to completely open back up Local 1197 had Union Members laid off and multiple employees on furloughs for 120 days, along with the F.O.P. and I.A.F.F.. The courts have also received more CARES ACT reimbursements than any other department.

As the City Manager and Finance Director graciously commended Our Union's for working together, asking questions, and thinking outside the box during the pandemic to keep the City functioning I had to ask myself after this meeting with the Courts why haven't they done the same thing? Maybe they have behind closed doors I'm not sure. I truly have great respect for the Judge and her staff but as The Union President I am worried on how things may continue. How much more can the City fund to the courts? Where will the money continue to come from? How many of my members will have to suffer low raises and increased duties that are actually substantial? If a decision is made to give raises to the courts Local 1197 would like the same consideration.

In conclusion Members of Local 1197 which consists of seven different City Departments would also like to thank Council for their time. As President of 1197 I would like to express that if there is any more concern or questions my door is always open.

Respectfully,



Steve Lanham
Animal Control Officer
AFSCME Local 1197 President
AFSCME Ohio Delegate
AFL-CIO Delegate

10-30-2020

COPY



Fraternal Order of Police Ashtabula Lodge No. 26



It has been brought to the FOP's attention that the Municipal Court is insisting on additional funds to give their staff pay increases. The reason being increased duties being placed on her staff due to COVID-19. The FOP recognizes that Council has come out against these increases and we applaud this position.

Police and other first responders are truly bearing the brunt of the burden placed on the city due to COVID-19, as well as being put at the greatest risk of exposure. It is required of us on a daily basis to go into unknown environments with unknown individuals and many times in less than sanitary conditions. We are required to be in close confined quarters with people while on calls for service, while in the city jail and in vehicles transporting inmates and victims as necessary.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, not only has our risk of exposure been higher than other city employees, with the possible exception of City Fire, we have been financially hit much harder than most departments. While court employees were given weeks, and in some cases months, of paid leave the police department was taking a reduction in staffing levels as well as furloughing hours to avoid police officers being laid off.

In the era of COVID-19 it is nearly impossible to find any job in any field that has not been changed or given additional duties. Specific to the police department we are required to screen all arrestees and do temperature checks on inmates. Determining the need to isolate or quarantine inmates and reporting these instances to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on a daily basis.

Given today's cultural climate as well as our rate of compensation it is becoming increasingly difficult to not only retain employees but to recruit new ones. We are competing with surrounding agencies, nearly all of which, pay significantly more than that of the City of Ashtabula. Currently, the part-time court security officers make \$5 more per hour than the part-time emergency dispatchers in the police department. If they were to be given the \$2 per hour raise as proposed, a part time security officer would be within about \$1.35 per hour of the police department's entry level pay for a full time police officer!

If the Court is given the funds for pay increases the FOP believes that it is only appropriate that we receive the same increases, particularly if the reasoning behind the pay increases is additional duties and risks due to COVID-19.

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BY: *AO*

Brandon Zukoski

FOP #26 President



Ashtabula Fire Fighters International Association of Fire Fighters Local #165

4326 Main Avenue Ashtabula, OH 44004 (440) 992-7192

The Ashtabula Firefighters have been watching the City's financial status closely. In recent meetings we have seen Judge DiGiacomo demanding a pay increase to some of her employees. Judge DiGiacomo's reason includes employees stating they will leave for higher paying jobs due to "increased duties" such as taking temperatures and enforcing mask wearing policies. We commend both the City Manager and City Council members for speaking against these raises as no other employees have received pay increases during these times.

We understand that although you have tried to fight this, it is inevitable that the Judge will prevail through powers that have been granted to her. Although this letter may not help you prevent those raises, we feel the need to show our displeasure with the Judge's actions.

The Ashtabula Firefighters have been on the front lines long before the COVID-19 crisis began. We are exposing ourselves in more ways than what is occurring at the courts. We are treating sick patients daily that could be shedding this virus. During this time, we have seen our firefighters laid off and again have been doing more with less. This creates an unsafe work environment to an inherently dangerous job. It also creates an increased risk to our citizens and a lack in services. Thankfully, the City Manager, Finance Director, and Fire Chief have found a way to bring those laid off back to work. But at a cost of already losing one firefighter to another higher paying job.

Since 2014, we have seen four firefighters leave for significantly higher paying jobs. Our Civil Service lists have dwindled because of lack of interest due to lower than normal salaries.

A significant portion of this stems from the 10% reduction in pay which exists for any employee hired after May 2012. It is hard to retain firefighters when they are doing the same job but getting paid significantly less than comparable departments. In addition, we have seen reductions in manpower over the years due to budget cuts. Again, causing our firefighters to do more with less.



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Professional Firefighters are 9% more likely to acquire cancer than the average person and have a 14% higher risk of dying from any form of cancer. This is one example of the many new threats our firefighters face. COVID-19 now presents a new obstacle and unforeseen threat to the health of our firefighters.

The intent of this letter is to show real issues that are occurring within just one City department, and our general displeasure with the Judge's forced decision to give her employees raises. We hope that this will help you in your future negotiations with the Judge on some of the real issues at hand.

In the event the City awards the additional \$2.00 per hour increase to the courts the Ashtabula Firefighters ask that we receive the same consideration.

Derrick Krzys, President

IAFF Local #165