

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 19, 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 3 Councilor offered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Ashtabula Area City Schools seventh grade student, Corban Shaffer. A moment of silence was observed for retired Ashtabula Police officer, Sergeant Michael Sharkey who recently passed.

Members Present

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

Officers Present

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

Members Absent

Ward 1 Councilor – Mrs. Kym A. Foglio

Ms. Haines moved; Ms. Harris seconded to excuse the Ward 1 Councilor's absence from the meeting. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Sunshine Law

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

Presentation

In celebration of “Earth Week”, which leads up to the global celebration of Earth Day on Thursday, April 22nd, Kids for Positive Change students from Ashtabula Area City Schools presented their sustainability projects. The students studied and researched various endangered species, animals, ecosystems, biodiversity, and the impacts of climate change throughout the 2020/2021 school year, virtually, with Camille Licata, Founder of

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, April 19, 2021

Kids for Positive Change, and participating Ashtabula Area City Schools teachers. The students showcased their “Take Action” projects as the culmination of the Kids for Positive Change yearly program. Student presenters included 6th graders - Chance Arnold, Jayden Keller, and Maxwell Seymour; 7th grader - Corban Shaffer; and 8th grader - Malia Stills. The Councilors thanked the children for the educational presentation.

Approval of Minutes

The Clerk of Council presented minutes from the April 5th, 2021 Regular meeting. Mr. Crawford moved; Ms. Young seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovichs voted yea; motion CARRIED.

City Manager Report and Communications

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to authorize the renewal of the Group Health Insurance for City Employees with Jefferson Health Plan for a period of one year. Mr. Crawford moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request. Discussion: The City is self-insured. This consortium allows a set monthly premium providing stability until the end of the year. At that time, the City would either pay the balance or receive credit toward the following year, depending on the full year’s usage. In the past, insurance payments were based on usage for each month which could significantly vary. The premiums did not increase this year. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovichs voted yea; motion CARRIED.

City Manager received requests for proposals (RFP) from health care consultants and bids for the 2021 paving program. He plans to present his decision at the upcoming Council meeting. Bids proposals for the Lake Avenue paving project bid will be advertised soon. The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and other grant funding for the project will be available in July, and the work will be started soon thereafter.

This week, curbside leaf bag pick-up is scheduled for the Harbor route. Leaf bags can also be dropped off in front the transfer station, however this service could be terminated if people continue to comingle garbage with yard waste.

With the many requests from residents about City-wide volunteer clean-ups and other outdoor events, the City Manager’s office, and the Health Department prepared covid guidance for those wishing to schedule an event. This information and the application for permit are available on the City’s website. A COVID safety plan is required when submitting the application. Caution should continue since COVID rates are rising and variant has been detected in Ashtabula. Vaccine clinics have been successful. Vaccination does not affect the Ashtabula Waste Water Treatment Plant submissions to the Ohio Coronavirus Wastewater Monitoring study. The study measures the dead

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, April 19, 2021

COVID cells in the waste stream, the vaccines do not contain the COVID virus, but creates a protein meant to kill the COVID virus.

The Ward 5 Councilor asked the City Solicitor and City manager to enlighten residents on their course of action when encountering blaring car stereos and other loud noises. The City Solicitor explained the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ashtabula prohibit excessive amplified sound coming from vehicles. It is a non-moving traffic violation, which is a minor misdemeanor, and could result in a citation and fine of up to \$150.00. Enforcement is difficult as the violation should be witnessed by uniformed police officer while in a marked vehicle. Residents witnessing loud cars in their neighborhood should call the APD non-emergency line 440-992-7172 and explain the situation. If a police car is in the area and the officer observes the violation, he will attempt to issue a citation. An alternative may be video the incident so the car and driver can be clearly identified, and the sound is plainly audible. Report it and make it difficult for the residents violating the code. The City Manager simply asks people to grow up because fellow residents are tired of putting up with the excessively loud noises. Using the same non-emergency line, residents can also report loudly barking dogs to Animal Control.

The Ward 5 Councilor brought up the problem of large, bulk items on the lawns. The City Manager explained the practice is not acceptable, instead contact Sanitation at 440-993-8101 and arrange to allow them pick up the items at a minimal cost. Citing a resident for leaving bulk items on the lawn can cost much more than allowing Sanitation to assist. If you are able to bring the items to the transfer station, 500 pounds of refuse costs \$40, 200 pounds is \$16, 100 pounds is \$8, up to 50 pounds is \$4. These are very inexpensive rates compared to the charges of local landfills. The rates and contact information can be found on the City website.

Finance Director Report and Communications

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance authorizing adjustments to balances due and refunds of overpayments on certain sewer accounts in Saybrook Township. Mr. Roskovics moved; Ms. Haines seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The Finance Director formally requested a resolution opposing Sub. House Bill 157 amending the law regarding withholding municipal earned income tax for those working virtually and/or at home. Ms. Haines moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Clerk of Council Report and Communications

There are several planned clean-up days around the City in honor of Earth Day. Ashtabula Kiwanis is hosting a clean-up day April 24th on Griswold Rd and Ohio Ave. Extension from 9 o'clock a.m. to noon. Lunch is available for volunteers, masks and physical distancing are required. For more information, contact Kevin Grippi at 440-812-4032. The "I'm In... Amazing Ashtabula" Facebook group is hosting a clean-up day May 1st from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Interested people should meet at the North Park Fountain. For more information, contact Jim McKee at 330-807-9945. Also, on May 1st, Sticky Fingers BBQ and Café is promoting a Neighborhood Clean-up Challenge. They will be cleaning up their neighborhood from 9 o'clock a.m. to 11 o'clock a.m. and are challenging other businesses to do the same. For more information contact Sticky Fingers at 440-650-5479. Arbor day is April 30th this year and is always celebrated the last Friday of April. On Thursday, April 22 the Ashtabula County District Library (ACDL) is hosting a discussion about raising awareness of the importance of our trees. They will explore steps to encourage a community-wide commitment to making the City of Ashtabula and surrounding areas more tree conscious. Up to ten people can meet in the library from 4 o'clock to 6 o'clock p.m. Anyone else interested can contact Louanna Hale at ljbhale7@windstream.net or the library at askus@acdl.info for a Zoom link. This information is also on the library's website, <https://www.acdl.info/>.

The Ward 5 Councilor added Sal Jackson and My Neighborhood Collaborative are also having a clean-up day April 24th at Clifford Kadon Presidential Park from 8:30a.m. to 2 o'clock p.m. Just bring a mask, they will provide clean-up supplies.

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

The Committee Chair gave a report on the April meeting (minutes attached). **Discussion:** The Vice President asked about the process of what will be chosen to paint. The Ward 4 Councilor responded, the picture shown was not an exact replica of the project, which would include vibrant colors similar to the downtown mural. Meeghan Humphrey can be contacted at the Ashtabula Arts Center for more information. The City Solicitor felt there could be a safety issue if pedestrians pay more attention to the artwork than to the traffic or that motorists would be confused by the artwork. The artwork will be offset by each crosswalk's standard white lines. Once the final design is chosen, the City Manager or Council can review and decide. This is a new and unique practice in some communities. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th, 2021 at 4 o'clock p.m. via Zoom.

Finance and Personnel Committee Report and Communications

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

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 26th, 2021 at 5 o'clock p.m. via Zoom. Guest speaker is Ms. Christine Seuffert, Ashtabula Area City School Board President to talk about the school levy.

Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 26th, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Legislation Agenda

- Formal Legislation Request(s): no additional requests came before Council.
- Form and Correctness – met per City Solicitor.
- Public Discussion (on legislation only)
- Legislation Overview –
The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda.
- Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mr. Crawford moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to dispose of Ordinance No. 2021-38 to 2021-43 and Resolution No. 2021-44 by consent agenda. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Legislation Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-37 - First Reading AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE WEST SIDE OF CLEVELAND AVENUE (Safety Forces Committee & City Council) Ms. Haines moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve reading the legislation a second time at the next City Council meeting. On the roll call: Ms. Haines, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-38 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ADJUSTMENTS TO BALANCES DUE AND REFUNDS OF OVERPAYMENTS ON CERTAIN SEWER ACCOUNTS IN SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-39 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ODOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING REIMBURSEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 FOR THE ROUTE 531 DRAINAGE PIPE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-40 A AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH DARYN CAPITENA FOR THE PURPOSE OF A TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR SEVEN YEARS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING KNOWN AS 1311 EAST 16TH STREET, ASHTABULA, OH 44004, PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 05-511-00-019-00 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-41 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED EQUIPMENT (City Manager)

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, April 19, 2021

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-42 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ASHTABULA COUNTY Y.M.C.A. FOR LIFEGUARDS (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-43 AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GLAZIER INSURANCE AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING INSURANCE CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF ASHTABULA (City Manager)

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-44 A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SUB. HOUSE BILL 157 AMENDING THE LAW REGARDING WITHHOLDING MUNICIPAL EARNED INCOME TAX FOR THOSE WORKING VIRTUALLY AND/OR AT HOME (Finance Director)

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

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

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

New Business

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

President of Council

- The State of Ohio is considering doing away with our local Health Department and asks the Councilors and the public to be ready to defend against.

Public Discussion/Comments on General Matters

Letter from League of Women Voters' of Ashtabula County – attached

The Council President added election day is May 4th but you can vote any time at the Board of Elections. The Park Levy Renewal and Issue 8 for the Ashtabula Area City Schools. There are also a couple Ward Council races.

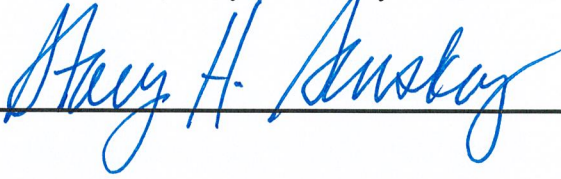
Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. by the President of Council.

City Council will meet virtually at the Pre-Council Meeting on Monday, May 3rd, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The Regular Council Meeting will follow at 7 o'clock p.m.

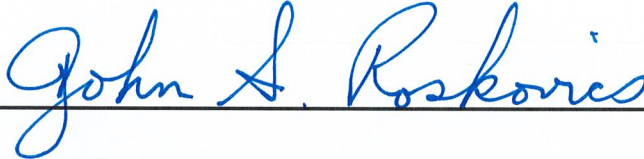
Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, April 19, 2021

Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey

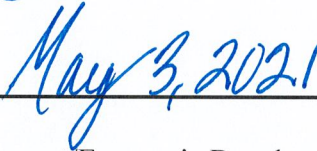


Attested by:

President of Council, John S. Roskovics



Date Approved:



Attachments:

- April Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
- Letter from League of Women Voters' of Ashtabula County

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:

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

DATE: Tuesday, April 13, 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 ABSENT: Member/ President John Roskovics

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

VISITORS: Meeghan Humphrey, Executive Director of the Ashtabula Arts Center

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

Special Guest: Meeghan Humphrey, Executive Director of the Ashtabula Arts Center

Meeghan Humphrey presented a pavement art project planned for three Main Avenue crosswalks this summer. She explained pavement art is simply painting done on streets. She believes the project will have a positive effect on Downtown Ashtabula in a few different ways. By drawing more attention to the crosswalks, the area will be safer. The project will enliven the area with the project’s whimsical aesthetics. Community members will be able to assist in the project and provide a sense of pride. She provided some examples of creatively painted crosswalks from other communities. She explained the painting would stay within the white borders of the existing crosswalks. Her idea is to paint three layers, the bottom layer would be black, the second layer would be stenciled areas of blue to resemble a flowing river, and the third layer would also use stencils to paint wildlife reported to be native to the Ashtabula River. Her vision is to enhance Ashtabula’s “River of Many Fish” theme already present on Main Avenue. Ms. Humphrey has already spoken with several community organizations for assistance with the artwork and the City Manager for his cooperation and use of City services while the painting is taking place, but the project will be open to anyone who wants to get involved. Like any street paint, the crosswalk art will need refreshed, providing a yearly occasion to include the community in the project. A specific date has not been chosen, but will be sometime during this summer, preferably a weekend. She said the project will take one day to complete and together with the City Manager and area merchants, will choose a convenient day so as not to disturb area commerce. She’ll likely need six weeks ahead of time to publicize the event to the community and purchase and prepare materials. She estimates the total cost of the project to be roughly \$2300 and donations are encouraged. The ideal situation to paint the three crosswalks would be to close the entire street between Collins Boulevard and West 44th Street for the day. Each layer of

paint takes about three hours between coats to dry. Because of COVID, masks, gloves and sanitizer will be available and social distancing will be encouraged for this outdoor project, but the City Health Department can provide COVID protocol. Project preparation will also include cleaning stations, proper refuse disposal and pop-up tents for shade. The City Manager said city staff can paint the borders with a fresh coat of white and the bottom layer between borders early in the morning to minimize time spent with the road closed.

Example of proposed crosswalk art



City Manager's Report

Grass is starting to grow, high grass complaints should be directed to Planning and Community Development Department (PCD) by calling 440-992-7118. Part-time help will soon be hired to assist with Parks and Recreation and to handle the high grass complaints. Old furniture or large bulk items should not be arbitrarily placed on tree lawns for Sanitation to remove. Residents who require bulk item removal are asked to make arrangements with the Sanitation Department by calling 440-993-8101. A nominal fee is charged for this service, but failure to make the proper arrangements results in a citation. Residents are also able to bring bulk items to the transfer station themselves which is open Monday through Friday from 7 o'clock a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 9

o'clock a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Bulk items delivered to the transfer station weighing up to 50 pounds costs \$4.00, between 51 to 100 pounds costs \$8.00, 150 pounds cost \$12.00, 500 pounds cost \$40.00. Please use the City's services properly.

The City Manager would like this committee and full Council to consider updating Chapter 759, Temporary Stores of the City's Codified Ordinances. With food trucks becoming popular, changing the ordinance would make it easier for the temporary stores to operate while still protecting the interest of brick and mortar businesses. Further research and discussion will take place between the City Manager, Planning and Community Development Department, and Council to come up with updated language.

Parks & Recreation (P&R) Board Communications

The P&R Board requested guidance for scheduling a park clean-up day and a paint day for the Walnut Beach Concession stand. The City Manager advised they can pick a day and let him know.

The Board requested an estimate for a basketball court at Nappi Field.

The Board asked if the City donating the West 38th Street Park to Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA). The City Manager does want to discuss donating the park with the new Executive Director and plans to meet with AMHA soon.

The Board collected quotes from Fit Trails for exercise stations for Smith Field. They intended to recommend to the Committee to purchase them, but due to a lack of affordable lumber there are no kits available at this time.

The Board approved moving the stone donated by the Civic Development Corporation currently located at Pairings in Geneva, to the terminus of the Greenway Trail at Walnut Beach. The City Manager was waiting for P&R Board approval and has discussed it with the Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission (Architectural Review Board). It was also approved by the Planning Commission and the next step is to coordinate getting the stone moved.

The LED fixtures needed for fixing the light poles at Massucci Field should arrive this month. The repair is covered by insurance.

The Committee Chair announced the next P&R meeting is Wednesday May 5th, at 6:00 p.m. Park Renewal Levy signs are available through Earl Tucker and he encourages everyone to vote for the Park Renewal.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council



ORIGINAL

Hello,

The League of Women Voters of Ashtabula County is proud to offer citizens access to an on-line Voter Guide, VOTE411.org. It is a nonpartisan site available to the public 24/7 that allows people to search for candidates appearing on their Primary and General Election ballot.

League will invite all registered candidates to participate. The candidate's answers and biographical information will appear alongside their opponents.

It is simple to use , just log into VOTE411.org and enter your street address.

Please spread the word to your constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia Nagy".

Cynthia Nagy, Voter Service Chair
League of Women Voters of Ashtabula County

RECEIVED

APR 19 2021

Ashtabula City Council