

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 4, 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. on January 4, 2021 by the Council President. The Ward 1 Councilor offered the opening prayer; and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Council President requested a moment of silence in honor of John W. Carlson, a past employee of the City. He worked in the Waste Pollution Control Department for over 30 years and recently passed away.

Members Present

Ward 3 Councilor - Ms. Laydean Young, Ward 4 Councilor – Ms. Octavia V. 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 – John S. Roskovics

Officers Present

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

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.

Presentation

The City Manager reported current COVID-19 statistics for the City of Ashtabula. Currently, the Ashtabula City Health Department is following 79 positive cases in the City and their 116 contacts who were placed in quarantine. Also, five City residents are currently hospitalized. Last week, the waste water received high marks, indicating virus levels are substantially increasing. To date, the City has lost 16 City residents, hospitalized 67, recorded 941 positive cases, and released 829 people from isolation. The City received its first shipment of the Moderna vaccine December 22 and immediately launched clinics on December 23. The Health Department staff schedules ten people at a time for administering the vaccine due to the way it is packaged. To date they have administered 170 first doses to various health care workers, emergency medical services responders, dental practitioners, mental health and addiction services staff, who are grouped by the state of Ohio as Phase 1A of the vaccine distribution. In about a month,

these same people will receive their second dose of the vaccine. The Health Department submits vaccine reports daily to the State of Ohio and weekly surveys of the Phase 1A group. The Health Department anticipates distributing the vaccine to the Phase 1B group, residents 65 and older, by the end of January or early February, though the State of Ohio determines that timetable. The public will be notified when the Health Department can begin administering the vaccine to the Phase 1B group. The workload on the Health Department staff significantly increased and many health departments are overloaded. It is recommended to try to trace your contacts on your own and isolate yourself if you have tested positive. The City's website www.cityofashtabula.com/covid-19 has helpful COVID-19 information, weekly COVID-19 County Situation Report and will be a source of notification when and where the vaccine will be distributed. There have been no local reports of adverse reaction to the vaccine.

Approval of Minutes

The Clerk of Council presented the minutes from the December 21, 2020 Regular Meeting and the December 30, 2020 Special Meeting. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

City Manager Report and Communications

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Southeastern Equipment Company, Inc. with a mailing address of 8757 Tyler Blvd., Mentor, OH 44060 for the purchase of a loader for use in the Public Works Department through the State Purchasing Program in the amount not to exceed \$128,783.57. The cost of this purchase will be taken from Fund 412. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. Discussion: Also included in the ordinance is language declaring a John Deere loader obsolete at a trade-in value of \$15,000.00. The loader being purchased is a 2021 Case Loader. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to authorize a one-year loan through Andover Bank in the amount of \$129,283.57 for the acquisition of an Articulated Wheel Loader for use in the Public Works Department. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to approve the request. Discussion: There are additional loan fees of \$500.00. The City manager arranged a one year financing term with quarterly payments at a 1.85% interest rate with Andover Bank. The payments begin three months after acquisition of the equipment. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD Group, with a mailing address of 520 South Main Street, Suite 2531, Akron, OH 44311

for the purpose providing engineering design and construction administration for the 2021 Paving Program for the City of Ashtabula in the amount not to exceed \$85,000.00. The cost for this expense will be taken from Fund 212. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. **Discussion:** The City Manager is working on a list of roads for the 2021 paving projects with GPD and plans to present it to Council in February.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD Group, with a mailing address of 520 South Main Street, Suite 2531, Akron, OH 44311 for the purpose providing engineering design and construction administration for the Lake Avenue Resurfacing Project for the City of Ashtabula in the amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. The cost for this expense will be taken from Fund 212; and funded in part through the Ohio Public Works Commission and Community Development Block Grant. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request. **Discussion:** The City Manager explained the total project cost was estimated at \$790,000.00 and includes the stretch of Lake Avenue from the intersection of West Avenue and West 19th Street to West 9th Street. In order to extend the paving levy funds, the City Manager applied for OPWC grant/loan. Approval is forthcoming and includes a grant for \$290,000.00 and a zero interest loan for \$100,000.00. Another \$100,000.00 from the City's CDBG grant will also be used; the City's obligation of \$295,000.00 will come from the paving levy funds. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Christmas trees should be placed on the tree lawn on the normal garbage date for the Sanitation Department staff to collect. The night shift has started and will collect between the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. when they aren't plowing snow.

Many people are receiving spam emails lately. They look like they are coming from City employees and vendors. The perpetrator is cloning the names, but the email has nothing to do with @ashtabulacity.com, @cityofashtabula.com, @ashtabulafire.com or @ashtabulapolice.com. The City Manager recommends deleting any suspicious emails.

Windstream landlines are having an issue calling Verizon cell phone numbers throughout the City.

Clerk of Council Report and Communications

On behalf of the Parks & Recreation Board, the Clerk of Council formally requested a resolution to proceed with the submission to the electors of the city of Ashtabula at an election to be held on May 4, 2021, the question of the renewal of an existing tax levy at a rate of one and one-half (1.5) mills per year for a period of five (5) years for parks and recreational purposes. Ms. Haines moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. **Discussion:** The Ward 5 Councilor pointed out the request is to renew the current levy. The levy facilitated many improvements to City Parks for the past five years. During this

time of COVID, parks and recreation have proven to be important to our citizens. “I support this renewal levy and I hope the citizens of Ashtabula will.” On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

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

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. and will be held virtually.

Finance and Personnel Committee Report and Communications

The next meeting is Friday, January 15, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. and will be held virtually.

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

The next meeting is Monday, January 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. and will be held virtually.

Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications

The next meeting is Monday, January 25, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. and will be held virtually.

The City Manager added the Council Chambers are being used for the COVID vaccination clinics, so they are unavailable for any Council meetings at this time.

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. Haines moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Legislation Reading

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-01 A RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 4, 2021, THE QUESTION OF THE RENEWAL OF AN EXISTING TAX LEVY AT A RATE OF ONE AND ONE-HALF (1.5) MILLS PER YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS FOR PARKS AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES (Parks & Recreation Board)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-02 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 933.12 ENTITLED INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT ENFORCEMENT (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-03 AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 933.12 ENTITLED INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT ENFORCEMENT (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04 AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A JOHN DEERE LOADER OBSOLETE FOR TRADE AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE A CASE LOADER AND CLAMSHELL BUCKET FROM SOUTHEASTERN EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$128,783.57 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-05 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING BORROWING THE SUM OF \$129,283.57 FROM THE ANDOVER BANK, FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR AT AN INTEREST RATE NOT TO EXCEED 1.85% FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AN ARTICULATED WHEEL LOADER (City Manager)

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

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call: 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.

Unfinished Business

The Councilmembers submitted ballots to the President of Council to determine their appointment to the Parks & Recreation Board. Ms. Margaret Distler received a majority of the votes submitted. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to appoint Ms. Margaret Distler to the Parks & Recreation Board. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

New Business/Tell Us Something We Don't Know

- The City Manager reported a virtual Public Hearing for the Planning Commission is scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss Conditional Use Permits for:
 - A solar panel array being installed at Kent State University Ashtabula Branch
 - 1084 Walnut Boulevard for office use
 - 1071 Walnut Boulevard to expand the Marine Museum

Any questions can be directed to the City Manager or Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development. The regular meeting of the Planning Commission will directly follow the Public Hearing.

The Ward 4 Councilor announced she will be moderate an online discussion regarding changing the name of Station Avenue to Shelby Avenue, as proposed by Patrick Haywood and Steve Sargent to the Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee last November. The event is Thursday, January 7, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and is posted on Facebook as “Station Ave/Shelby Ave Discussion”. The host is Reverend Emory Moore, and Patrick Haywood and Steve Sargent will be in attendance to answer questions and listen to comments. There are 100 spaces available and the event will be streamed live on Facebook. People interested in getting the Zoom link can an email to ovharris.ward4@gmail.com.

The Ward 5 Councilor reported the Parks and Recreation Board is having a Zoom meeting Tuesday, January 5th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

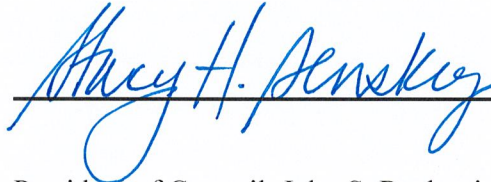
Public Discussion/Comments on General Matters

none

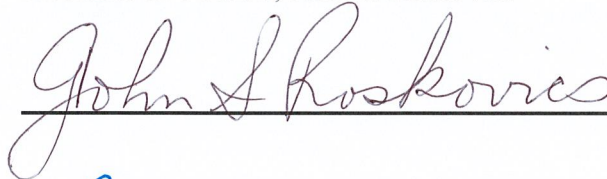
Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. by the President of Council. The next Pre-Council Meeting will be held virtually at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2020 and will be followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey



Attested by: President of Council, John S. Roskovics



Date Approved: