

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 17, 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.

Members Present

Ward 3 Councilor – Ms. Laydean Young, Ward 5 Councilor – Ms. Jane E. Haines, Ward 1 Councilor – Mrs. Kym A. Foglio, 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 2 Councilor – Mr. Calvin Crawford, Ward 4 Councilor – Ms. Octavia V. Harris

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to excuse the Ward 2 Councilor's absence and the Ward 4 Councilor's absence from the meeting. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Executive Session

The Council President announced a request for an Executive Session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of discussion of the purchase or sale of property. Mrs. Foglio moved. Ms. Young seconded to approve the City Manager's request. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, 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. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to suspend the Council Rules of Order for the duration of the meeting. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; Mr. Speelman voted nay; motion CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes

The Clerk of Council presented minutes from the May 3rd, 2021 Regular meeting. Mr. Roskovics moved; Ms. Haines seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

City Manager Report and Communications

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with the law firm of Bricker & Eckler for legal services in connection with the formation or expansion of an Energy Special Improvement District (“ESID”). Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager announced the Ashtabula City Health Department (ACHD) Drive-Thru Clinics have been successful and two more have been planned. Thursday, May 20th between 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Johnson & Johnson and Moderna vaccines will be offered. Forms will be available in Spanish and a translator will be on hand for the Drive-Thru Clinic on Saturday. ACHD staff will be set up in the City Hall parking lot for both clinics.

The City Manager shared a photograph of leaf bags dropped inappropriately in front of the Public Works garage doors instead of to the left of the doors as indicated. Garbage and other non-yard waste were found again mixed in with the leaf bags. It is preferred City residents take advantage of curbside leaf bag pick-up. The schedule is updated and available on the City’s website.

Prompted by Ward 1 Councilor’s four questions, the City Manager (1) reported using up the remaining paint to repaint crosswalks and is waiting for this year’s supply ordered through Ashtabula County. The high-traffic crosswalks are priority, and not all streets need crosswalks. (2) Walnut Boulevard, Myrtle Avenue and Union Avenue have substantial potholes in need of repair. The asphalt plant is now open so the potholes will be addressed. (3) So many political signs are still displayed. The City Solicitor advised the political signs are akin to political speech and regulation cannot be tied to an election date. City Council has sign regulations in the Codified Ordinances. City Council could consider legislation to say when a sign deteriorates and begins to negatively impact the neighborhood it should be removed or refreshed. (4) Signs for various advertisements placed on utility poles and street signs are prohibited. City staff will remove them, and residents my contact Planning and Community Development or the City Manager’s Office. The Ward 5 Councilor thanked the City Manager for swiftly handling the complaints she’s shared. A resident complained about motorists speeding on West 58th Street and requests more speed signs along the road. The City Manager placed a four

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way stop at Adams Avenue to correct the speeding motorists. He will check on signage. Another concern is the sidewalk on the overpass by Busy Beaver. On the northern end of the bridge has some issues with a manhole. The GPD Group will review how extensive the issues actually are and report back to the City Manager.

Finance Director Report and Communications

Monday, May 24th, 2021 is the last day to pay delinquent sewer and trash accounts billed through December 31, 2020. A list of delinquent accounts will be submitted to the Ashtabula County Auditor's office for property tax assessments.

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance to create new fund (261) "Local Fiscal Recovery Fund" in order to account for costs consistent with the requirements of Section 9901 of the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", as described in 42 U.S.C. 801, in the City of Ashtabula. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Clerk of Council Report and Communications

The Clerk of Council earned 4.4 education points for the month of May, with 21.6 left to earn to become a Certified Municipal Clerk. She was chosen to serve on the International Institute of Municipal Clerks 2021/2022 Records Management Committee which develops informational resources to assist with records management needs.

She reminded the meeting attendees about the North Shore Trail Dedication Ceremony scheduled for Saturday, June 5th at 9:00 a.m. On Monday, June 7th, at 6:00 p.m. Council planned a Public Hearing to hear testimony about the new proposed zoning district called Lakefront Residential Zone for the North Side of Walnut Boulevard. The Clerk asks those interested in being heard to please email a Councilor, the City Manager or her at clerkofcouncil@cityofashtabula.com with questions, comments, or concerns. All notices will be read during the Public Hearing held via Zoom.

Council will soon receive new email addresses and be using Chromebooks for meeting purposes. The Clerk is working on a project to implement a meeting management service for all Council meetings.

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

The Committee Chair gave a brief report of the last meeting (minutes attached). Ms. Haines moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to formally requested legislation to approve erecting signage of honorary significance to the section of Lake Avenue from Carpenter Road to West 32nd Street by naming it "Dr. Shelby Way". Discussion: Details of the signs and placement will be discussed between the City Manager, Mr. Sargent, Mr.

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Haywood and the Shelby Family. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8th, 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 may be cancelled but is scheduled for Monday, May 24th, 2021 at 5 o'clock p.m. via Zoom.

Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24th, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. It will be held in person in Council Chambers.

Legislation Agenda

- Formal Legislation Request(s): no additional requests came before Council.
- Form and Correctness – met per City Solicitor.
- Public Discussion (on legislation only)
- Legislation Overview –
The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda.

Legislation Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-52 First Reading AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP AND FILE TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF EAST 16TH STREET BETWEEN HARBOR AVENUE AND COLUMBUS AVENUE (Safety Forces Committee & City Council) Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to waive the reading of the legislation. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mr. Roskovics moved; Ms. Haines seconded to dispose of Ordinance Nos. 2021-53 and 2021-54 by consent agenda. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-53 AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF BRICKER & ECKLER FOR LEGAL SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORMATION OR EXPANSION OF AN ENERGY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (“ESID”) (City Manager)

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ORDINANCE NO. 2021-54 AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE NEW FUND (261) "LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND" IN ORDER TO ACCOUNT FOR COSTS CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 9901 OF THE "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", AS DESCRIBED IN 42 U.S.C. 801, IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA (Finance Director)

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

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

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

New Business

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor – On Sunday, May 23 at 9:00 a.m. a local Girl Scout Troop will be cleaning up Walnut Beach. Volunteers are welcome.

Council President – Although the AACS School Levy failed, he was encouraged by the vote tally from the citizens of the City of Ashtabula in support of the levy. He and the Clerk of Council delivered some welcome letters to newly opened businesses on Bridge Street. Congratulations to Star Beacon reporter, Shelley Terry. She recently won Associated Press Media Editors awards for her writing. She has won awards two years in a row.

Public Discussion/Comments on General Matters

None

Executive Session

The Council President announced the executive session would convene off camera. After the executive session was over, the Council President reconvened the public portion of the meeting, with no action taken.

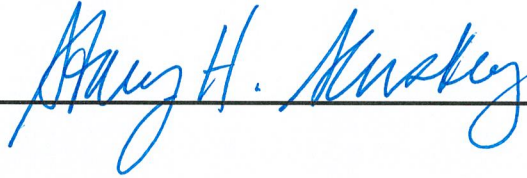
Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. by the President of Council.

City Council will meet virtually for a Public Hearing on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The Pre-Council Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey

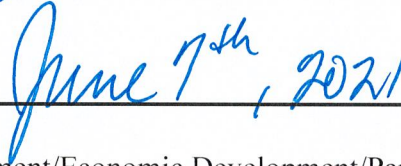


Attested by:

President of Council, John S. Roskovics



Date Approved:



Attachments:

- May Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:

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

DATE: Tuesday, May 11, 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/ President John Roskovics

COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION/STAFF:

City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

VISITORS:

Patrick Haywood – spokesperson for honoring Dr. R. W. Shelby, Jill Valentic – Executive Director of Catholic Charities, Michael Franklin – City Solicitor, Paul Bolino – Chief Executive Officer of Community Counseling Center, Joleen Sundquist – Chief Clinical Officer of Community Counseling Center, Steve Sargent – Director of Samaritan House, Christina Thompson – Office-Based Case Manager/Team Lead/Crisis Triage for Signature Health, Colleen Jones – BSN, RN, DON, for ACHD, Margaret Distler, Board Member of Parks & Recreation

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

Special Guest: Patrick Haywood & Steve Sargent – Honoring Dr. R.W. Shelby

Mr. Haywood and Mr. Sargent agree with the City Manager’s idea of placing honorary significance to Dr. Shelby on the section of Lake Avenue from Carpenter Road to West 32nd Street. The proposal is to designate the stretch of Lake Avenue as Dr. Shelby Way, which would not require residents to change addresses. Kathy Shelby and the family agree with the designation. Mr. Franklin added the legislation should be drafted in the form of an ordinance. The Vice Chair would also like a plaque to identify the history and reason for the honor. Mr. Roskovics moved, Ms. Haines seconded to bring the proposal to erect signage of honorary significance to the section of Lake Avenue from Carpenter Road to West 32nd Street by naming it “Dr. Shelby Way” to full Council; motion CARRIED.

Special Discussion Panel – Topic: Homelessness in the City of Ashtabula – Guidance for the average citizen and/or business owner

Chairman Haines asked the panel members to the meeting to discuss concerns in the downtown area about people who appear to be homeless or on the streets.

Patrick Haywood assists Rick Turner by helping homeless people who don't have a specific place to go for food and hygiene at the First Baptist Church. He feels the main problem is the people don't have a place where they could easily spend a night.

Steve Sargent added many of the people who appear to be homeless and qualify to for shelter but fail to follow through because of a variety of reasons, such as substance abuse problems, and mental or emotional problems. The Samaritan House is funded through the State of Ohio, United Way, FEMA, area groups, businesses, and churches. Applicants for the Samaritan House must meet the HUD requirements for homelessness, and other requirements from funding entities. The intake interview includes 14 pages of questions and can be daunting to those experiencing other problems. The past solution of allowing less requirements for the homeless and opening a gymnasium filled with cots for them is no longer feasible because of safety concerns and liability. The Samaritan House admits men, women and families and would not allow access for a person who could not comfortably co-exist with families. The Samaritan House can normally house fourteen (14) people, but because of COVID, can only house eight (8). With CARES Act funding, he has been able to house people in a local motel as long as they qualify under current guidelines. The goal is to get potentially homeless people into an adequate dwelling. He works with the other local services, to achieve permanent solutions for them and help them follow through.

Jill Valentic agreed that local services collaborate well with each other in Ashtabula County. Homeless people are sometimes referred to as an "invisible population" because you may not realize who is homeless by how they appear. They often do not share the fact they are homeless out of pride and trust. Until the person is ready for a program and prepared to change, the services and programs may not help. Catholic Charities gives long and short term assistance to homeless and those at risk of homelessness, but funding sources for the programs and services is never enough. People are living in vacant buildings, downtown especially. Collaborating with the services when they are being removed is helpful. Steve Chase, Captain of Fire Prevention for the City of Ashtabula does an excellent job of informing the local services when homeless are living in or about to be removed from the area's vacant buildings. The homeless are human beings trying to deal with a situation, and although it can be unsafe to reside in vacant buildings, they deserve care if they are willing to receive it.

Christina Thompson said her position was created specifically when people need emergent services. She meets every Tuesday with a coalition made up of members of other local agencies to discuss the homelessness situation and review each person's status and how best to help as a team of agencies. She is front line for people with mental health needs, drug, and alcohol abuse needs, or they may already be clients. She has daily contact with the other local agencies, including community members like Rick Turner, who volunteers a lot with the homeless. She gets the clients immediate needs met and works with the entities to administer to the clients ongoing needs. Homelessness has increased and COVID has not helped the situation.

Joleen Sundquist also provides urgent access case management and coordinate with all the same agencies. One key component is supported employment. They help clients identify meaningful and sustainable work in fields of their choice so clients can engage in recovery while working and contributing to the community.

Paul Bolino pointed out the community network of diverse services and programs offered by local agencies provide a "robust safety net" for clients. The many variables of each client pose potential challenges to the agencies, but the local agencies work well together to manage the clients. The challenge is the people who don't fit in to the services and programs for whatever reason and he is concerned how best to reach those people.

Colleen Jones offered the assistance of the Ashtabula City Health Department (ACHD). At this time, she is especially concerned with communication about COVID to the homeless population. **Michael Franklin** spoke to the issue from the law enforcement side. City law enforcement receives and responds to calls reporting homeless people taking refuge in a vacant structures. The person is encouraged to find an appropriate place to stay but they are trespassing if the property they are occupying is not their own. There have been some arrests for trespassing. The persons creating disruptions and frightening the public or hurting business traffic don't often recognize they are creating disruption or in need of help. He said the homelessness is a by product of mental illness and frequently coupled with substance abuse. The officers try to assess the person while in police custody, but the jail is not a substitute for the needed services. The goal is to utilize the services available and not put them in jail and see their lives improve. Often, they are the ones who do not want assistance from the programs and services available and unfortunately, they tend to be the most visible and concerning to the community. **Committee Chair Haines** thanked the panel, "not just for being here but for what you do for our community every single day. We appreciate it."

Questions:

JR: In the winter when it gets cold, churches open to allow homeless to spend the night to get out of the cold. In these instances, do they need extra liability and supervision? **SS:** It does come down to liability because of the risk being taken. Which is why it's so important to screen the people who need to stay in the group type of setting. **JV:** The Ministerial Association was looking about having a warming station about ten years ago and what stopped the whole process was the liability issue.

OH: When agencies or law enforcement are alerted of individuals residing in inappropriate places, and mental health is a reason they are unwilling to accept health, can law enforcement and the mental health workers join to go out to the vacant buildings or the parks to assess the individuals. **MF:** This would be welcome idea if it could be worked out. There would need to be 24/7 response, knowing the officers are dealing with the issues day and night.

Parks & Recreation (P&R) Board Communications

Maggie Distler said P&R wants bike racks at Walnut Beach, Kaden Park, and Smith Field. The City Manager is collecting quotes and finds the cost to be between \$300 and \$500 each. The Board minutes from the last meeting are attached.

City Manager's Report

In a prior meeting, the City Manager brought up proposed language for a Chapter 1339 New Construction and Additions. The language was added to the updated agenda for this meeting. The City Manager wants to get it in front of full Council. He 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. He introduced the Pace (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Financing Program. It is meant to be used for energy upgrades to a facility or new construction. Special assessments are used to secure financing without the property owner taking on debt. He will bring more information to Council soon. The City Manager learned of a change in zoning for an Ashtabula Township property whose

owner intends to make an ATV and dirt bike track. One concern is people will be riding on the roads rather than trailering the sport vehicles to the site. Another issue is the people may try to ride on the Greenway Trail. Committee Chair Haines and Member Roskovics wrote letters in opposition to the change of zoning.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjourn – The Chair adjourned meeting at 4:57 p.m.

Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY May 5, 2021 6:00PM

Board members present: Earl Tucker, Mary Kiehl, Mary Graves, Margaret Distler,
Absent: Ken Vanyo, Trevor Sprague

Guests: Jane Haines, Ward 5 Councilperson, Luanna Hale

Minutes: minutes of the April meeting were read, motion to accept by Margaret D.; second by Mary G., motion carried.

Earl opened the meeting with a welcome to Luanna Hale. Miss Hale presented our committee with information regarding community wide commitment to making Ashtabula a "tree conscience area". Many people are removing trees for the wrong reasons and not replanting. There will be a discussion on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 4:00pm at the Ashtabula Public Library, 10 people can attend in person, others can join by Zoom. How can Ashtabula become a "Tree City" and nurture trees.

Earl: reported the light at Massucci Field has been replaced and is working, covered by insurance.

Discussion on basketball court: Nappi Field estimate of \$110,000 for a new basketball court and parking area. Parks and Rec would like to see a basketball court in the Harbor area. Two (2) areas recommended are Nappi Field or Walnut Beach.

Can the current area at Nappi Field just have an overlay with new fencing and poles? If so, is it possible to combine resurfacing the court at Nappi and resurfacing the court at Kaden Presidential Park at the same time?

Parks and recreation committee would like Mr. Timonere and city council to look into the best options to having a basketball court in the Harbor. We feel this would be a project for next summer and in the meantime reach out to get matching funds and/or grants to help with this project?

Signage: P&R would like to request a new sign for Kaden Presidential Park. Signage in the harbor at Lake Ave/SR 531 and Lake Ave and Bridge Street showing directions to Walnut Beach, Point Park and other tourist areas along Walnut Blvd.

West 38th Street Park: can netting be purchased for the basketball hoop at this park?

Walnut Beach: in discussing extending the boardwalk- Mary Graves recommended an accessibility mat for the beach. This mat is 5 ft wide x 100 ft long, cost is roughly \$3575. Mat can be rolled and staked into the sand and rolled up for the winter. Please google: <https://www.marine-rescue.com/accessmat-beach-access-surface>
Mary Graves made a motion to recommend to City Manager to purchase an access mat for the beach, 5'x100', blue, not to exceed \$5000. Maggie D seconded the motion, motion carried.

Bike racks: P&R recommend to City Mgr to purchase 3 bike racks, one each for Walnut Beach, Kaden Park and Smith Field. Earl made the motion to purchase 3 bike racks, Maggie seconded the motion, motion carried.

Walnut Beach clean-up day: Saturday, May 22, 2021 9:00am to noon All volunteers welcome.

Concession stand paint day for the outside railing and doors: Sunday, May 16, 2021 9:00 am
Please advise how we can purchase our needed supplies for painting?

Parks and recreation would also like to ask that the asphalt grindings from the city paving project be placed on the drive to the breakwall.

Meeting adjourned 7:30. Next meeting Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

Mary Kiehl, Secretary

1339 NEW CONSTRUCTION AND ADDITIONS

(a) For purposes of this Section, “new construction” shall mean a residential structure that is being erected on a new foundation on an empty or vacant lot.

(b) For purposes of this Section, “addition” shall mean any work or construction that adds any interior square footage to an existing residential structure, whether improved or unimproved and whether heated or unheated.

(c) All new construction must meet all building and zoning codes, including setbacks, heights and minimum lot sizes, in existence as of the date application is made for a building permit. Variances may be granted only with the affirmative consent of the owners of all properties within 200 feet of the nearest point of the property upon which the proposed new construction will take place. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, consent of all affected owners does not limit the authority or discretion of the Planning Commission or the Administrative Board to deny a variance if it finds granting the same is contrary to the best interests of the City of Ashtabula or any of its residents.

(d) Any addition that increases the interior square footage of a residential structure by thirty-five percent (35%) or more, or that increases the height of a residential structure by nine (9) feet or more, shall be subject to the requirements of paragraph (c), above. For purposes of the foregoing calculation, the square footage of any previous addition completed within ten (10) years of the date of the permit application shall be added to the square footage of the proposed new addition.