

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 5, 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 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, Ward 3 Councilor – Ms. Laydean Young, 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

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. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Resolution Request, Adoption and Presentation

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to request a resolution in recognition of distinguished service to our Ashtabula City Health Department. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

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

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The Clerk of Council recited and presented to the Ashtabula City Health Department Health Commissioner ***RESOLUTION 2021-29 A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO OUR ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT***

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this Ashtabula City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, that April 5th through April 11th is National Public Health Week; and

WHEREAS, our local public health workers of the Ashtabula City Health Department have worked diligently since March 2020 with state and local partners to coordinate response to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic by implementing science-based public health mitigation efforts including case investigation and contact tracing, promoting and providing testing, providing technical assistance, crucial data, and support to

government, business, schools and other entities to provide safe environments for their employees and customers, enforcing state-issued orders to limit the spread of COVID-19 and promoting and providing vaccination clinics throughout the City of Ashtabula; and

WHEREAS, while COVID-19 created significant disruptions to everyone in our community, our local public health workers of the Ashtabula City Health Department continued to perform their necessary work, at times, with the risk of exposing themselves and their families to COVID-19, and at times, while being subjected to harassment and hostility by members of our community; and

WHEREAS, although we wish we could relieve you of the burden you are carrying and join you on the frontlines, we are with you in spirit, fighting for you, praying for you, sending our support, love and never ending hope; the heroic efforts and sacrifices of our local public health workers of the Ashtabula City Health Department are worthy and deserving of acknowledgement and appreciation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 This Ashtabula City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, express great appreciation, and heartfelt gratitude to our local public health workers of the Ashtabula City Health Department for their selfless sacrifices and efforts to combat and respond to the unprecedented challenges facing our communities as a result of COVID-19; and

Section 2 This Ashtabula City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, recognize the value and dedication of our local public health workers of the Ashtabula City Health Department to the viability, economy, safety, security, and well-being in our community, both through their outstanding performance during this pandemic and through their general ongoing work to keep our residents healthy and our City vibrant and thriving; and

Section 3 This Ashtabula City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, do hereby recognize our local public health workers of the Ashtabula City Health Department, not only from April 5th through April 11th during National Public Health Week, but we recognize past years and celebrate future years of continued dedication and service to the City of Ashtabula. We call upon the people of Ashtabula to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and leaders to better understand the value of public health and supporting our local public health workers of the Ashtabula City Health Department by adopting healthy preventive lifestyle habits.

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The Health Commissioner thanked City Council and Administration for the resolution and recognized her dedicated staff: Peggy Ducro, Colleen Jones, Terri Collett, Mariangeli Montalvo, and contact tracers: Cheryl Petro, Nicki Teed, Carolyn Holden, Ali Kister, Lori Albrecht, Taylor Vanek, Danielle Melnik, and Stacy Nelson. She stated every Ashtabula City Department aided the Health Department throughout the course of the pandemic and she thanked them all. She appreciates City Council for their support and allowing her time during Council meetings to deliver COVID-19 updates and recommendations.

COVID-19 Update

Health Commissioner of Ashtabula City Health Department (ACHD), Christine Hill reported positive covid cases are slowly climbing; currently the City has 21 active cases, three patients hospitalized. The City's totals are 1,299 positive cases, 1,225 people released from quarantine, 86 hospitalized patients, and 26 deaths. Within the next two days, ACHD will have administered 5,000 vaccines in three months. Vaccination clinics are ongoing at our local Kent State University branch and Superior Elementary School. The Ward 3 Councilor has partnered with ACHD to organize another clinic at the Peoples Baptist Church on West Avenue on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Appointments for this clinic can be made by calling the ACHD directly at 440-992-7123. A joint clinic between ACHD and the Ashtabula County Medical Center (ACMC) is scheduled for Saturday, April 17th. The team-up will allow staff to administer 600 vaccines at the Wellness Plaza. ACMC's website (<https://www.acmchealth.org/>) has an online registration process. ACHD is planning closed clinics in businesses and factories and vaccinating Kent State students. Staff continues to follow positive cases, quarantine work and contact tracing. ACHD is waiting to hear the latest changes in guidance from the Ohio Department of Health. Ms. Hill asks us to remain vigilant, keep up with social distancing and mask protocols. The Waste Water Treatment Plant study showed a spike in numbers, showing ACHD that COVID is still in the community.

Approval of Minutes

The Clerk of Council presented minutes from the March 15, 2021 Public Hearing and Regular meeting. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. 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 Glazier Insurance Agency, with a mailing address of 41 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH 44047 for the purpose of providing consulting services for the City of Ashtabula's liability, property, and auto insurances in accordance with the submitted proposal.

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

The City Manager formally requested to enter into an agreement with ODOT, with a mailing address of 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43223 for the purpose of providing reimbursement in the amount of \$50,000 for the Route 531 Drainage Pipe Replacement Project. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested to enter into an agreement with Hudson Communications, LLC through State Purchasing for the replacement of mobile radios for the City of Ashtabula Fire Fighters in the amount not to exceed \$19,174.00. Funding will be taken from account 264-124-5550. This expense is funded 100% through the State Fire Marshall's grant program. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Hudson Communications, LLC through State Purchasing for the replacement of portable radios for the City of Ashtabula Fire Fighters in the amount not to exceed \$29,235.00. Funding will be taken from account 264-124-5550. This expense is funded 100% through the State Fire Marshall's grant program. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with American Transmissions Systems, Inc. for authorizing a utility easement over City property on East 5th Street and East 3rd Street around Minnesota Street and Mariska Avenue. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into a CRA 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. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

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The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to deem the following equipment as obsolete:

A Cub Cadet Mower; SN 20643, 1999 Chevy 3500 Van; VIN-1GAHG39RXY1169605, 2004 Ford Crown Victoria; VIN-2FAFP71W34X150991, 2008 Chrysler VIN-2B3KA43T19H519264, 2008 Chrysler VIN-2B3KA43T39H519265, 2008 Ford Crown Victoria VIN-2FAFP71VX8X125972, 2000 Chevy Cavalier VIN-1G1JC5244YZ451226, 2008 Chrysler VIN-2B3KA43TX9H519263, 1993 Chevy Blazer VIN-1GNCS13W9R2130283, 2008 Jeep Liberty VIN-1J8GN28K69W527674, 2007 Crown Victoria VIN-2FAFP71V18X125973, 2004 Crown Victoria VIN-2FAFP71W54X150989, 2006 Ford Crown Victoria VIN-2FAFP74V36X164301, 2004 VIN-1FTRE14W44HB18847, 444H Loader; SN OW444HX570478

Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve the request. Discussion:

Information about a public auction and viewing for these items will be posted, or people can submit prices up to the City Manager's office. Any remaining items will be sold for scrap. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager formally requested to enter into a contract with the Ashtabula County Y.M.C.A. to provide lifeguard services at Walnut Beach for the 2021 season in an amount not to exceed \$32,565.00. Funds for this expense will be taken from the Parks & Recreation Fund 233. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. Discussion: Starting Saturday, May 29th, 2021, lifeguards will watch the beach on weekends only until Saturday, June 12th, 2021 from 11 o'clock a.m. to 7 o'clock p.m. Lifeguards will be on hand Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st, 2021. Beginning Monday, June 14th through Sunday, August 22, 2021 lifeguards will be on duty daily (Mondays through Sundays) from 11 o'clock a.m. to 7 o'clock p.m. Lifeguards will go back to weekends only starting the week of August 23rd with the exception of Labor Day, Monday September 6th. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager reported confirmed cases of the COVID-19 variant B117 have been discovered in Ashtabula County and asked community members to continue being cautious.

Curbside leaf bag pickup starts next Monday, April 12 in the wards and the Harbor Monday, April 19 for the months of April and May. Bringing leaf bags to Public Works is still acceptable but will be discontinued if garbage continues to be comingled.

The City has been and will continue enforcing City code by removing junk vehicles.

The City Manager requested an executive session prior to the meeting adjournment for the purpose of discussing the purchase or sale of property. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion

CARRIED. All Council members and Officers present should attend the executive session.

Finance Director Report and Communications

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance to make supplemental increases and/or decreases to appropriations in the General and Fire Grants Funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Ashtabula, State of Ohio, for the period January 1 through December 31, 2021. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The Finance Director formally requested Council to decide by vote on whether or not to refund each of the following properties:

1. 3327 Lake Rd W

Customer paid all tap-ins and past sewer charges prior to tie in. The County has refunded amounts paid prior to tie in. Council shall vote on whether to refund City charges in the amount of \$4,070.82.

2. 3331 Lake Rd W

Customer paid sewer charges prior to tie in. County has not refunded amounts paid prior to tie in.

Council shall vote on whether to refund City charges in the amount of \$957.26.

3. 3331 Lake Rd W

Customer paid sewer charges prior to tie in. County has not refunded amounts paid prior to tie in. Council shall vote on whether to refund City charges in the amount of \$171.71.

4. 3333 Lake Rd W

Current customer paid sewer charges prior to tie in and County did not charge their tap or ours (\$500). Customers current bill has a balance of \$1,120.17. Council to vote on whether to refund City charges in the amount of \$2,182.50 (\$3,802.67 less \$500 tap-in and current balance on customer account).

5. 3335 Lake Rd W

Current customer paid sewer charges in the amount of \$151.62 prior to tie in and County did not charge their tap or ours (\$500). Recommendation is no refund due to no tap in charge.

Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to direct the City Solicitor to prepare legislation according to reimburse the five residents. Discussion: Council Vice-President noted the Finance Director's recommendation for the fifth customer is not to refund charges. The City Solicitor's advised that the customer did not pay the tap-in fee so the paid sewer charges would be refunded as a credit against the tap-in fee, which the customer would still owe. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

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The deadline to submit City income tax returns has been extended to May 17 coinciding with the IRS and State of Ohio. Due to this change, The Finance Office has changed extended hours to the week before the May 17 deadline. Beginning Monday, May 10 through Friday, May 14 and again on Monday, May 17, our office will remain open until 6p for individuals to file City tax returns.

The Finance Office will be submitting delinquent service billing charges to the County for assessment the first week of June. Deadline to pay delinquent charges that were billed through December 31, 2020 will be Monday, May 24, 2021. Because our office must have the assessment list to the County by the first week of June, there will be no extension of the May 24, 2021 deadline.

City Solicitor

The City Solicitor, after hearing the Finance Director's say she will be submitting delinquent service billing charges to the County for assessment, will report to the Clerk of Council his recommendations on how to handle the assessments this year.

Clerk of Council Report and Communications

The Clerk of Council announced May 2nd through 8th, 2021 will be the 52nd Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week. Initiated in 1969 by IIMC and endorsed by all of its members throughout the United States, Canada and 15 other countries, the week is a time of celebration and reflection on the importance of the Clerk's office. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation that officially declared Municipal Clerks Week the first full week of May. In 1994 and 1996, President Bill Clinton also signed proclamations confirming Municipal Clerks Week. She continues to gain her Certified Municipal Clerk education points, still needing 30.5. She has taken several ethics classes and shared the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Code of Ethics.

Believing in freedom throughout the world allowing increased cooperation between Municipal Clerks and other officials, locally, nationally and internationally, I do hereby subscribe to the following principles and ethics which I affirm will govern my personal conduct as a Municipal Clerk:

- *To uphold constitutional government and the laws of my community;*
 - *To so conduct my public and private life as to be an example to my fellow citizens;*
 - *To impart to my profession those standards of quality and integrity that the conduct of the affairs of my office shall be above reproach and merit public confidence in our community;*
 - *To be ever mindful of my neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all and to extend the same treatment I wish to receive myself;*
 - *To record that which is true and preserve that which is entrusted to me as if it were my own; and*
 - *To strive constantly to improve the administration of the affairs of my office consistent with applicable laws and through sound management practices to produce continued progress and so fulfill my responsibilities to my community and others.*
- These things I, as a Municipal Clerk, do pledge to do in the interest and purposes for which our government has been established.*

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13th, 2021 at 4 o'clock p.m. via Zoom.

Finance and Personnel Committee Report and Communications

The Committee Chair gave a report on the March meeting (minutes attached). The City Manager added he and the Finance Director are signed up for a webinar through the Ohio Municipal League regarding guidance on the American Rescue Plan Act. He has plans and ideas for the funds to help City residents, businesses and meet other needs of the City. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 19th, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

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

The Committee Chair gave a report on the March meeting (minutes attached). He said his Committee highly recommended the City Manager's Waste Water Treatment Plant Capital Improvement Plan, Condition Assessment Study and Waste Water Rate Analysis for a vote of full Council pending the City Manager's plan for financing its \$500,000.00 cost. The City Manager explained since the Waste Water Treatment Plant uses Enterprise Funds, he would prefer not to use any American Rescue Plan Act funds for the proposal. There are some financing options available through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 26th, 2021 at 5 o'clock p.m. via Zoom.

Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications

The Committee Chair gave a report on the March meeting (minutes attached). He said his Committee recommends prohibiting parking on the west side of Cleveland Avenue after resident complaints. Mr. Speelman moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to request legislation prohibiting parking on the west side of Cleveland Avenue. On the roll call: Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Young, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovich voted yea; motion CARRIED. 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)

The homeowners who's dwellings are situated on East 3rd and adjoining streets in the Lake Shore Park area recently discovered that First Energy Corporation is in the process of installing a 134,000 volt power line on the south side of East 3rd Street. We learned of this when a crew came through and spray-painted a red X on each of twenty large trees on city property adjoining the street. We do not believe that a high power line should be constructed on that property, in close proximity to homes along East 3rd.

We are unanimous in the belief that there are much better alternative routes available that would not have the dire consequences presented by the current planned placement. We are

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also unanimous in the contention that we should have been notified of the plan prior to the beginning of construction, that is, the denuding of the property by the felling of the trees. There are strong arguments backed by scientific data that indicates that living in close proximity to high voltage lines is unhealthy over long periods of time. Some of the aforementioned arguments and data are disputed by those who are in the business of generating and distributing high voltage electricity. Go figure! One point is absolutely indisputable. That indisputable point is this; the value of our homes is markedly diminished due to the proximity of those power lines. I always dreamed of having a nice little home in an industrial setting said no one, ever! If I were addressing the council in person I would, at this point ask, by a show of hands, who here would relish having a 134KV power line within 65 feet of your home? Anyone? Anyone?

I get it. I understand that the CEO of First Energy, one Mr. Steven Strah, is required to do the best he can for the stock holders of the company, and of course, his own generous compensation package. However, I take issue that First Energy should be allowed to maximize their profits by significantly diminishing the meager wealth of the denizens residing in the area adjoining Lake Shore Park. It not only is not fair, it is wrong; I would hope that the city fathers of Ashtabula would take up our cause and go to bat for us. I don't have hard facts regarding the demographics of the people inhabiting this area but, anecdotally I can say that there are not a lot of Porsches or Mercedes-Benz in their driveways or garages. We are, generally speaking, retirees, and would find it very difficult financially to suffer a significant loss to the value of our meager real estate holdings. I thank you for your time in hearing our complaint. I assure you, you will be hearing more from us.

*Thomas Lind
253 Mariska Avenue
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004*

The City Manager understands Mr. Lind's concerns and explained public notification started in September 2020. Direct mailings went to households, County officials, Township officials, City officials, and the information was readily available through many other means. Only two poles will be erected on the section of City land on Maruba Avenue and Mariska Avenue. Existing and upcoming infrastructure prevents the power poles and lines from being placed along other roadsides.

- Legislation Overview –
The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda.
- Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris 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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-30 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ACTION TO ALLOW THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2021-2022 ODOT CONTRACT FOR ROAD SALT (City Manager)

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ORDINANCE NO. 2021-31 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GRISE AUDIO VISUAL FOR PURCHASE OF POLICE DIVISION CAMERAS, SYSTEM CONTROLS, AND VIDEO AND AUDIO SYSTEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,666.77 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-32 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GPD GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DESIGN ENGINEERING, BID DOCUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR THE WPC PLANT BAR RAKE PROJECT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$37,500.00 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-33 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS, INC. FOR AN ELECTRIC UTILITY EASEMENT OVER CITY PROPERTY ON EAST 5TH STREET, AND ON EAST 3RD STREET IN THE AREA OF MINNESOTA STREET AND MARISKA AVENUE, IN ORDER TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-34 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL INCREASES AND/OR DECREASES TO APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL AND FIRE GRANTS FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021 (Director of Finance)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-35 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HUDSON COMMUNICATIONS, LLC, THROUGH STATE PURCHASING, FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF PORTABLE RADIOS FOR CITY OF ASHTABULA FIRE FIGHTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,235.00 (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-36 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HUDSON COMMUNICATIONS, LLC, THROUGH STATE PURCHASING, FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF MOBILE RADIOS FOR CITY OF ASHTABULA FIRE FIGHTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,174.00 (City Manager)

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris 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. Young 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.

New Business

The Clerk notified Council that Big Daddys Pool & Spa Supplies LLC dba Big Daddys Pool and Spa Supplies completed the necessary paperwork requested by the Planning and Community Development Department and asked if Council wished to rescind the request for a hearing with the Ohio Department of Liquor Control on the advisability of issuing a Class C2 Liquor permit. The City Manager added the owner of the business did indeed completed the requested paperwork. Mr. Roskovics moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to rescind the request. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. The Clerk of Council will contact the Ohio Department of Liquor Control.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor

- Ms. Haines announced The Ashtabula County Solid Waste District is hosting a Tire Amnesty Day May 15th, 2021 from 9 o'clock a.m. to 1 o'clock p.m. at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds.

Ward 1 Councilor

- Motorists are not stopping at the crosswalks on Bridge Street and Main Avenue. She asked motorists to please be aware of people waiting at the crosswalks in the City. The City Manager said paint has been ordered and the crosswalks will stand out better soon.
- The nets are up on the Tennis Court and Pickle Ball Courts and ready to be used. She reminded residents that funds from the Parks Levy paid to rebuild the courts and will pay for the lifeguards on Walnut Beach. She asks for public support of the Park Levy Renewal on the May 4th ballot.

President of Council

- All residents can be involved in economic development by being respectful of each other and having a safe summer.

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. The City Manager formally requested an ordinance allowing him to enter into a lease agreement with Norfolk Southern to lease the property that the conveyor belt sits on (36 acres on the west side of the Ashtabula River) and execute documents to sub-lease the property to the new owner of the conveyor belt. **Discussion:** The City Manager explained negotiations took place since November 2020 to save the conveyor belt from destruction, and he has successfully come to terms with the other parties involved though certain details need resolved. Another party will actually own the structure and the City

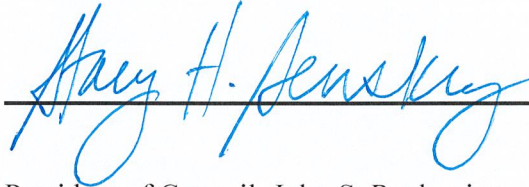
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will sub-lease the property. More importantly, the City Manager will be partnering with Norfolk Southern on the redevelopment of the west side of Ashtabula River, where lies 36 acres of land, vital to the future of the City of Ashtabula. He plans to work with the City Solicitor and the other parties involved to have the details resolved by the next Council meeting. The lease agreement and partners can be introduced at that time. Mr. Roskovics moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the City Manager's request. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Adjournment

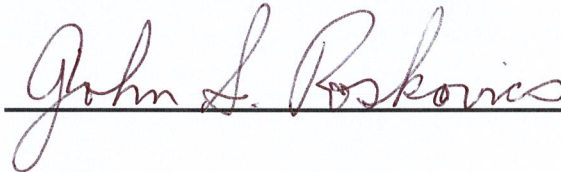
Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m. by the President of Council. City Council will meet virtually at the Pre-Council Meeting on Monday, April 19th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The Regular Council Meeting will follow at 7 o'clock p.m.

Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey

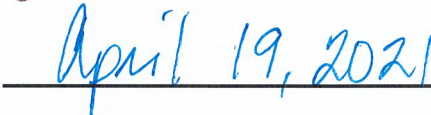


Attested by:

President of Council, John S. Roskovics



Date Approved:



Attachments:

March Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

March Safety Forces Committee Meeting Minutes

March Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools Committee Meeting Minutes

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Name of Committee: Finance & Personnel

Date: Friday, March 19, 2021

Time & Place of Meeting: 830a via Zoom

Members Present: Mrs. Kym Foglio (Chair/Ward 1 Councilor)
Ms. Jane Haines (Vice Chair/Ward 5 Councilor)
Mr. John Roskovich (Member/President)

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

Department Heads & Ashtabula Fire Department Chief Shawn Gruber
Ashtabula Police Department Chief Robert Stell

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

Finance Director's Report

The Finance Director presented the February month end financial reports. There are a few reasons the Permanent Improvement (PI) Fund shows a negative ending balance. Departments tend to encumber their entire budgeted amount before the money has actually been received by the City. The City Manager stated the final payment for the Petmin Road Surface Project was made in February, but the grant reimbursements are forthcoming and will be reflected in the PI fund at that time. First half property taxes were recently distributed and will be included in the March financial reports. The Finance Director said the financials aren't showing anything concerning at this point. The City Manager and the Finance Director are aiming to avoid using carryover funds, but 2021 shows more expenditures than revenue. Income tax revenue remains uncertain. The American Rescue Plan Act will mean more funds to for the City of Ashtabula. Guidance remains unclear as to when the funds will be distributed and how the funds may be spent. This plan's expenditure deadline is December 31, 2024. The City Manager will report on those details when they become available.

Some property owners have seen an increase in property taxes due to revaluation, but others have seen a decrease. Revenue to the City does not fluctuate based on values but is dependent on the money collected. If the Park Levy is renewed, the taxes collected for the levy remain the same, though individual property owners may see an increase or decrease as the percentages are redistributed throughout the City.

Ashtabula City Council
Finance & Personnel Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 19, 2021

Overdue and uncollected sewer and trash bills through December 31, 2020 will be sent to Ashtabula County and added to property tax bills. The County plans to add assessments in June of 2021. Subsequent assessments will include unpaid bills from January 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022, then ideally, a schedule of every six months thereafter.

Five City sewer customers have unsettled accounts from previous tap-in fees and sewer charges. Changes between Ashtabula County and the City resulted in complications to these accounts. The Finance Director, City Manager and City Solicitor have researched each account individually to find the appropriate way to reach a fair resolution for all, the details were presented to the Committee. Ms. Haines made a motion; Mr. Roskovics seconded to present the issue to full Council in order to make final decisions for each account.

At Monday's Regular Council meeting, the Finance Director announced extended hours for the Finance Department for Income Tax Collection prior to April's due date. Since then, the Internal Revenue Service extended the due date to May 17, 2021. Council will need to decide at the next Regular Council meeting to keep the City due date consistent with the IRS (May 17) or keep the original due date (April 15). Mr. Roskovics made a motion, Mrs. Foglio seconded to extend the deadline to May 17 and bring the issue to full Council. The Clerk of Council shared legislation from 2020 pertaining to the same issue.

City Manager's Report

The City Manager is filling positions at the Waste Water Treatment Plant after some changes in personnel were made. Eight persons applied to take civil service test for the police department on March 21, 2021. There are three open positions. Chief Gruber requested an entrance exam for the fire department in September.

The City Manager reiterated he would be examining guidance for monies from the American Rescue Plan Act. He plans guarding funds in case of decreased revenues and addressing needs that have been delayed due to COVID.

The 2021 paving project bid request has been publicized. The Lake Avenue paving project will be ready in July when funds are released from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC).

A reminder, the Parks Renewal Levy is on the ballot for spring and has allowed the City to hire summer help to maintain the City's Parks. City employees will begin working in the parks in April. The City Manager plans to post job openings for Parks & Recreation, Public Works and Sanitation Departments.

The next Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting will be held April 16, 2021 at 830a via Zoom.

ADJOURN: The meeting ended at 909a.

Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Date: Monday, March 22, 2021

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

Member(s) Present: Mr. Calvin Crawford, Chair/Ward 2 Councilor
Ms. Octavia Harris, Vice Chair/Ward 4 Councilor
Ms. Laydean Young, Member/Ward 3 Councilor

Officers Present: Mr. James Timonere, City Manager
Mrs. Stacy Senskey, Clerk of Council

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)

GPD Group is preparing the bid packet for the purchase and installation of the Bar Rake project. The City Manager recommended the Committee approve the \$500,000 evaluation of the plant and collections system (Waste Water Treatment Plant Capital Improvement Plan, Condition Assessment Study and Waste Water Rate Analysis), pending financing. He introduced financing options through Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) and possible utilization American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds. Once the City Manager receives ARP guidance, he will make his recommendation. It is urgent the evaluation occurs soon, so he has been working with the Finance Director and GPD Group to flesh out the most beneficial option.

A typical service billing includes a breakout for refuse of about \$15.50 plus fuel costs, the rest of the bill is sewer usage charge, capital charge, administrative fee which totals between \$30-\$35 that go towards the WWTP. There is usually a sewer rate increase every three years, two reasons it is a year behind is COVID and the rate analysis part of the \$500,000 evaluation.

Ms. Young toured the WWTP and saw the inoperative bar rake. Currently, plant employees remove the debris by hand and mainly looks to be assorted rags. She also noticed a lot of grease and oil on the water's surface. She is proud the City owns the WWTP and while she understands repairs are expensive, the plants equipment needs repaired or replaced. She believes rates would go up if the plant were sold because it costs so much to operate. The City Manager agreed rates will go up, but no matter who owns the plant. Ms. Young was equally impressed with the lab area. The City Manager recommends getting license in waste water. There are only 80 people in the state of Ohio with a Class 4 license. Entry level jobs for people with a Class 1 license is quite lucrative. Books are available and people can study on their own. The City Manager allows up to one year to take the test. Tests are offered monthly. Mr. Crawford moved; Ms. Young seconded to present the City

Manager's recommendation for the plant evaluation to full Council. On the Roll Call: Mr. Crawford, Ms. Harris, and Ms. Young voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Public Works

Staff is preparing Smith and Massucci Fields for the season. Basic park cleaning has begun. Crews are also patching streets and operating the street sweeper. They are preparing the roads on the 2021 paving list by jetting sewer and storm lines and catch basin repair to keep them from being added expenses in the paving contract. This also helps employees identify issues early enough to add to the paving contract. They are readying spring and summer machinery. All staff is back on the day shift and together can get these tasks completed efficiently. Sanitation is doing a really nice job, but illegal trash dumping is excessive on county and state levels as well. Many clean-ups are scheduled throughout the City and County, but if people would put the trash where it belongs, it wouldn't be needed. Mr. Crawford reported the recycling bins are so light, the wind is blowing the bins over. The City Manager recommends using a bungee cord over the top helps keep the lid on tight. The City no longer has a City-wide clean up day. It ended many years because so much trash was brought to sanitation, it took two weeks to remove and cost the City roughly \$65,000. The transfer station is open on Saturdays and people can bring large items or bulk trash. Leaves and yard bag pick up will start the week of April 12 in the Wards, April 19 in the Harbor route and will continue to the end of May. Starting in June, bags can be brought to the transfer station until the pick-up schedule begins again in September.

ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:
Safety Forces (SF)

DATE: Monday, March 22, 2021

MEETING TIME & PLACE: 8:30 a.m. – Zoom Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair/ Vice President Michael Speelman, Vice Chair/ Ward 1
Councilor Kym Foglio, Member/ Ward 3 Councilor Laydean Young

COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION/STAFF:
City Manager James Timonere, Chief of Police Robert Stell, Fire Chief
Shawn Gruber, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

REPORT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED

Ashtabula Police Department (APD)

Chief Stell submitted statistics for the month of February 2021. There was nothing out of the ordinary to report. Calls for service were down slightly, which is typical when it is cold.

Ashtabula Fire Department (AFD)

Chief Gruber submitted the Annual Report for 2020. There was one fatality in 2020. Call volume is back to normal, at levels pre-COVID. People are more comfortable going out in general and sanitation practices help people feel at ease. Goals for 2021 include forming a water rescue squad to protect citizens when the Coast Guard Station is not manned and resuming the fireworks normally displayed during the Wine and Walleye Festival.

4611 Main Avenue, the recently burned building, was purchased by a local developer. The new owner plans to demolish the building sometime this spring and intends to renovate the Marble Building and add green space. The City Manager said activity will be happening on Main Avenue this year.

Parking Issue of East 16th Street

The City Manager recommends passing an ordinance designating the side of the road with fire hydrants as “No Parking”. Chief Stell will send letters for neighborhood feedback.

Parking Issue on Cleveland Avenue

Residents were not in favor of prohibiting parking on both sides of the road. Six out of eight responses are in favor of prohibiting parking on the side of the road with fire hydrants. Mr. Speelman made a motion; Mrs. Foglio seconded to bring the issue to full Council. Roll call: Mr. Speelman, Mrs. Foglio, and Ms. Young voted yea; motion carried.

New Business

- Concerns of several young men roaming the area of East 44th, East 45th, East 46th Streets and Valley View Boulevard area during night to early morning time were reported. In the same general area, gunshots were heard, and APD was notified. Chief Stell will increase patrol in the area during nighttime hours as the residents requested.
- The City Manager reported eight people took the APD civil service exam yesterday. The applicants who pass will be considered for the three positions available. Extra outreach and opportunity for scholarships helped attract those who applied. Chief Stell reported the diverse group included one female and two African-American candidates. Emory Moore, who is involved with the scholarship program, joined the review board, and will assist with the interview process. Chief Stell reported the scholarship program for minority candidates raised donations of more than \$15,000, \$5000 which Molded Fiberglass contributed, enough for three minority applicants. Mr. Speelman and Ms. Young commended Chief Stell and Chief Gruber for being receptive to change and encouraging interaction with community members.
- Chief Gruber requested an entrance exam for AFD. The City Manager is preparing for a date in September.
- Chief Stell formed a Narcotics Investigative Unit (NIU) within the APD. The unit works closely with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and other federal, state, and local agencies. Chief Stell reports the unit has been successful by sending officers who have shown aptitude in the field to detective school. Some of the training is currently offered at no cost. With this additional training, they have learned new techniques such as using pre-paid debit cards or digital cash applications instead of cash. A recent bust uncovered such cash cards, which were seized. The cards will be forfeited to the Law Enforcement Trust Fund once the court process has been finalized. Since the beginning of the year, Chief Stell estimates the unit has uncovered drugs with a street value of \$250,000.00.

Next Meeting – The next meeting is Monday, April 26, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Adjourn – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

Scribe: Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council