

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, March 15, 2021

ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 15, 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 2 Councilor – Mr. Calvin Crawford, 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, 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, Director of Finance – Ms. Traci R. Welch, Clerk of Council – Mrs. Stacy H. Senskey

Executive Session

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 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. All Council Members and Officers present were asked to attend the Executive Session.

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

Approval of Minutes

The Clerk of Council presented minutes from the March 1, 2021 Regular meeting. Mr. Roskovics moved; Mrs. Foglio 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; motion CARRIED.

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, March 15, 2021

City Manager Report and Communications

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to approve the re-zone of five (5) parcels of land on Laird Drive between W8th Street and W9th Street from R-4 Residential to C-1 Commercial. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines 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.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with ODOT for the purpose of participating in their road salt (sodium chloride) bid, for the 2021-2022 year. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris 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.

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Grise Audio Visual with a mailing address of 2402 Cherry Street, Erie, PA 16502 for as the most responsible bid for the Police Department Operations Command Room, Systems Upgrade in the amount not to exceed \$35,666.77. The funding for this expense will be taken from the Law Enforcement Trust fund 217. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines 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.

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 44311-1010 for the purpose of providing the design and construction administration, as well as bid documents for the WPC Plant Bar Rake Project in the amount not to exceed \$37,500.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the WPC Capital Fund. 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.

Director of Finance Report and Communications

The Director of Finance reported the Finance Department is extending their office hours Monday, April 5th through Thursday, April 15th from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to file income tax.

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

The Committee Chair reported on the March meeting with special guest Professor Ned Hill. She felt energized from his economic development presentation and further discussion. She encourages everyone to take time to watch the video on the City website

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, March 15, 2021

and Facebook page. One important point he made was there is no silver bullet, no free lunch, and it is a ten to twenty year process to create value in a municipality. Along the way, you have to create little victories in the City people can see and appreciate. On how to create value in the City, he said we need to utilize four important things, people, products, productivity and placemaking. Ingredients of a competitive community within a region are economic purpose, delivering the basics well, connection to the region, education, leadership, vibrancy, diversity, sense of place, and investment from the local community. The Council President and Committee member added what resonated with him was a statement by the City Manager. Everybody in Ashtabula can get involved in economic development simply by cutting grass, keeping yards tidy, regularly maintaining home and property. The City Manager thanked the Committee Chair for bringing Dr. Hill in, saying “That was one of the better, if not one of the best economic development presentations we have sat through.”, including the Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development, Mary Church who also attended the meeting. The City Manager says there is a lot happening, some projects started a few years ago and take time, like the hotel, planning for Petmin, the Bridge Street townhouses, sales of Main Avenue buildings like the Carlisle building. Soon these projects will become visible to the public. The ten to twenty year process is realistic and important to keep in mind. The Committee Vice Chair added Dr. Hill brought up six questions communities and cities should ask themselves. The City should focus on being distinctive, be welcoming to newcomers, and investing in ourselves. She hopes continued discussion arise from the presentation and noted we should be welcoming to residents of our own community. Community development is not enough for economic development but does play a huge role. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March April 13th, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Finance and Personnel Committee Report and Communications

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 19th, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22nd, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Safety Forces Committee Report and Communications

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22nd, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

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: 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.

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, March 15, 2021

Legislation Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-27 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED EQUIPMENT (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-28 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONING CHANGE OF FIVE (5) PARCELS OF LAND ON LAIRD DRIVE BETWEEN W. 8th STREET AND W. 9th STREET FROM R-4 RESIDENTIAL TO C-1 COMMERCIAL (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. 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 of the two liquor license notifications, both within Ward 2 boundaries.

- 1) Big Daddys Pool & Spa Supplies LLC located at 914 East 6th Street in Ashtabula filed with the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a New Class C2 Permit which allows wine and certain prepackaged mixed drinks in sealed containers for carry out only until 1:00 a.m. **Discussion:** The Ward 2 Councilor expressed concerns as the business owner has not filed certain City permits as required by the Planning and Community Development (PCD) Department. The Clerk of Council received communication with the owner just before the meeting stating he owns the pool and spa supplies business but hopes to have a food trailer on site in the future. And applied for the liquor license through the state for beer and wine carryout. Later this week when he returns from out of town work, he plans to visit the PCD Department to fill out the City's required paperwork. The City Solicitor explained the burden is on the City and Council to provide reasons why the transfer should not be allowed. The Department of Liquor Control does go along with negotiations between the parties. The City Manager asked Council to consider if having a liquor license is harmonious to the area. PCD began working with the owner since June 2020 and they (PCD) still doesn't know the owner's business intentions. It is a simple process, the paperwork is in the PCD office and on the City's website. The response must be postmarked no later than April 5th, the date of the next Regular Council Meeting. The City Solicitor said Council can vote to request a hearing now, and withdraw the request once owner fulfills the requirements with PCD. The City Manager will keep Council informed of the status. Mr. Crawford moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to request a hearing on the advisability of issuing a permit to Big Daddys Pool & Spa Supplies LLC. Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, March 15, 2021

- 2) Trophy Social LLC located at 1035 Bridge Street in Ashtabula filed with the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for a Transfer of Ownership Permit from Rockin Johnnys LLC located at 1001 Bridge Street in Ashtabula. The permit covers classes D1 - Beer only for on premises consumption and in sealed containers for carry out, until 1:00 a.m., D2 - Wine and certain prepackaged mixed drinks for on premises consumption and in sealed containers for carry out until 1:00 a.m. and D6 - Sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and Midnight. Neither Mr. Crawford, nor any other Councilmembers raised objections or concerns and will not be requesting a hearing on the advisability of issuing the permit.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

The Council President heard from many people about Amtrak saying they want to know the names and contact information of the legislators. The City Manager reminded the Council President that at the state and federal level, the issue has yet to be discussed in committee and legislation has yet to be drafted. The City Manager applauds the grass root efforts and will put the addresses on the website when the time is most appropriate.

The Ward 2 Councilor announced Ashtabula Little League is open for online registration on their website <https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/ashtabulall> or the Ashtabula Little League's Facebook page. The deadline for registering is March 26th. Tryouts start Saturday March 27th.

The Ward 3 Councilor expressed her appreciation to Ashtabula City Health Department's Christine Hill and Peggy Ducro, with help from nurse Kristy Cunningham. The care and compassion they exhibited while administering vaccines to about 40 people at People's Missionary Baptist Church last Friday was inspirational to her. She also thanked everyone who supported her food drive.

The Council President asked people to continue to support local businesses as much as possible.

Public Discussion/Comments on General Matters

- 1) Donations for the Park Levy can be sent in care of Earl Tucker at 1317 Walnut Boulevard, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004. Checks should be made payable to "Renew the Park Levy". Please remember it is a renewal levy at no additional cost to City taxpayers.
- 2) An email from RoLesia Holman of 1303 West Prospect Road, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 reads as follows:

This email is submitted as a congratulatory statement and question for the Council. On January 19, most members of Council signed Resolution No. 2021-11, a Resolution Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis. Thank you to members who acknowledged this crisis.

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, March 15, 2021

My question is- now that Council has signed the document, what will be the next steps? What will Ashtabula City do to address racism and act in ways that create more equitable policies and opportunities for residents most impacted by racism?

The Council President said passing the resolution was a good first step and liked Ms. Holman's idea of continued discussion. The City Manager pointed out the Ashtabula Police Department (APD) reached out to Reverend Emory Moore to establish a scholarship fund for minority recruits to become police officers. Since the City Manager's tenure in Ashtabula, he has hired a diverse City staff. The City Health Department assisted with the vaccine clinic and other events for the People's Missionary Baptist Church. A takeaway from the economic development presentation, it takes community collaboration. The Ward 4 Councilor said Ms. Holman is a new local business owner of Bula Beauty, active with voter registration and NAACP. She believes continued conversation is important because people look to Council and City leaders for direction. She appreciated Ms. Holman's email and the Council President and City Manager's responses. The Vice President added the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Department drug taskforce invited Steve Sargent to ride along as a watchful eye during arrests and serving warrants, as he is a well-respected member of our community. The City Manager said Reverend Moore is part of the APD as a liaison between the community and APD. He will also sit in on the Civil Service interview process. Because of City Council's Resolution No. 2021-11 Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis, the Ashtabula Area City Schools reached out to the City Manager and Council President for a letter of support to obtain a grant to hire a diversity coordinator. The position is responsible for recruitment of staff members in the schools.

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 7:57 p.m. by the President of Council.

City Council will meet virtually on Monday, April 5th, 2021. The Pre-Council Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and the Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, March 15, 2021

Clerk of Council, Stacy H. Senskey

Stacy H. Senskey

Attested by:

President of Council, John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics

Date Approved:

April 5th, 2021