

**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF ASHTABULA – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
4717 Main Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Pastor Christopher McCain of Second Congregational Church offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Notary of the State of Ohio, LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Ward 3 Councilor, Laydean Young in front of a full audience of her family and friends. During the ceremony, Laydean was accompanied by her son, Khali Young, while her very dear friend, Dr. German Womack, Jr. held the bible. Laydean said, “First and foremost, I just want to thank God, from which all my blessings flow. I want to thank our former Council Clerk Mrs. LaVette Hennigan for coming out of retirement and being here with me this evening. To my Pastor and my dearest friend, I thank you so much for being here with me tonight.” Additionally, she thanked her son Khali and granddaughter Jules, and everyone in the Council Chambers for their support, love, and for coming out to share the memorable evening. She asked the audience to continue praying for all the City Councilors and elected officials in support of their great endeavors for the City of Ashtabula. Mrs. Hennigan presented Laydean with a book called Hair Love, about a father and his daughter’s hair, because Laydean is her hairdresser. The book won an Academy Award this year. On behalf of Kids for Positive Change, Mrs. Hennigan presented Laydean with a reusable straw. The Council President welcomed Laydean to Council and congratulated her on her appointment as Ward 3 Councilor.

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Mr. Calvin C. Crawford	(Ward 2 Councilor)
	Ms. Laydean Young	(Ward 3 Councilor)
	Ms. Octavia V. Harris	(Ward 4 Councilor)
	Mrs. Kym A. Foglio	(Ward 1 Councilor)
	Mr. Michael D. Speelman	(Vice President)
	Mr. John S. Roskovics	(President)

<b>MEMBER(S) ABSENT:</b>	Ms. Jane E. Haines	(Ward 5 Councilor)
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<b>OFFICER(S) PRESENT:</b>	Mr. James M. Timonere	(City Manager)
	Ms. Traci R. Welch	(Director of Finance)
	Mr. Michael Franklin	(City Solicitor)
	Mrs. Stacy H. Senskey	(Clerk of Council)

<b>OFFICER(S) ABSENT:</b>	None
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<b>EXCUSED ABSENCE(S):</b>	<u>Mr. Speelman moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to excuse the Ward 5 Councilor from this meeting; motion CARRIED.</u>
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**SUNSHINE LAW:** Clerk of Council Senskey certified conformity to the Ohio Sunshine Law.

### CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is a means whereby Council can efficiently conduct business by grouping routine items for consideration and disposal.

**PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES** – None

**LEGISLATION AGENDA** – None

- Formal Legislation Request(s)
- Form and Correctness
- Legislation Overview
- Public Discussion (on legislation only)
- Reading

### REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

**PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

The Clerk of Council presented the following changes to previously approved minutes from:

- January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting  
Liquor Permit Request – Transfer  
From: Hil Mak Seafoods Inc, 449 Lake Ave 1<sup>st</sup> Fl , Ashtabula, OH 44004  
To: Hil Mak2 LLC dba Hil Mak Seafood, same address  
Permit Classes:  
D2 Wine and certain prepackaged mixed drinks for on premises consumption and in sealed containers for carry out until 1:00 a.m.  
D2X Beer only for on premises consumption and in sealed containers for carry out until 1:00 a.m.

*ACTION: Neither the Ward 2 Councilor nor anyone else requested a hearing.*

Mr. Roskovics moved; Mr. Speelman seconded to accept the changes as presented; motion CARRIED. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as presented.

The Clerk of Council presented the minutes from the following meeting:

- February 3, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Speelman seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

**CITY MANAGER**

**Formal Requests**

**GPD Group – 2020 Paving Program**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with GPD Group with a mailing address of 100 Federal Plaza East, Suite 200, Youngstown, OH 44503 for the purpose of providing Design Engineering and Construction Administration for the 2020 Paving Program in the amount not to exceed \$80,000.00. Funding for this expense will be taken from the Paving Levy Fund. Mr. Speelman moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

**Water Pollution Control (WPC) Industrial Pretreatment Program Professional Services**

The City Manager requested an ordinance enter into an agreement with CT Consultants with a mailing address of 8150 Sterling Court, Mentor, OH 44060 as the most responsible bid, to provide administration of the WPC Industrial Pretreatment Program in the amount not to exceed \$16,000 annually for a period of two years. Funding for this expense will be taken from the 503 Fund. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Speelman seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

**Commercial Tax Abatement – Carlisle Allen LLC**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to approve a Commercial Tax Abatement for the following parcels: 052100000100, 052100000200, 052100000300, 052100000400, 052100000500, 052100000600, 052100000700, 052100000800, and 052100000900 (Main Avenue Carlisle Building). The abatement would be for 10 years at 75%. Renovations to the existing building to accommodate senior residential and commercial tenants. The renovation is expected to create 200 construction jobs and one post construction job. Mr. Speelman moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED. Discussion: The Council President anticipates renovations soon begin at the Carlisle building.

**Commercial Tax Abatement – Castle Block Properties LLC**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to approve a Commercial Tax Abatement for permanent parcel 05-2150001000. The abatement would be for 10 years at 75%. Renovations to the existing building to accommodate approximately 20 apartments and various commercial rental spaces. The renovation is expected to create 5 full time and one part time job within one year of renovation completion. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Speelman seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED. Discussion: The Council President added the State of Ohio awarded historical tax credits for the Castle Block building on Center Avenue.

**ODOT Road Salt Contract Participation**

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The City Manager requested an ordinance to authorize participation in the ODOT contract for road salt for the 2020/2021 calendar year. Mr. Crawford moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED. Discussion: The Council Vice President asked if participation in the program is for negotiation purposes. The City Manager explained the program groups the tonnage needs of the participants in order to negotiate bulk pricing. The City must purchase the pledged amount regardless of usage. The road salt can be stored in a dome structure on West Avenue.

These items will be added to the Regular Business, Legislation Agenda for the March 2, 2020 Regular Meeting.

The Vice President praised the snow-plow crew on maintaining the roads. His daughter is a newly licensed driver and he and his wife are not as worried knowing the roads are clear.

**CITY SOLICITOR** – None

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE** – None

**CLERK OF COUNCIL**

The Clerk of Council announced the online version of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Ashtabula changed its look. She encouraged everyone to use the website and provide feedback to her.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

Council committees meet in the August A. Pugliese Conference Room – M.B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PARKS & RECREATION (CD/ED/P&R)**

*Members: Chair/Council Liaison to Parks and Recreation Board Haines; Vice Chair Harris; Roskovics*  
*Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday @ 4p*

- Report from Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting –  
In the Chair's absence, Council President reported the meeting centered around the Parks & Recreation (P&R) Board's intentions and goals for the upcoming months. One project is to paint the Walnut Beach Pavilion. The paint colors were approved at the Ashtabula Historic Preservation Commission meeting Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. The P&R Board talked about many ideas for utilizing and beautifying the City's parks. The Council President commended them on the wonderful work they do in all areas of the City. The CD/ED/P&R Committee approved the P&R Board's request to proceed with the planning and design of the tennis and pickle ball court project and asked the full Council to approve the Committee's request. Mr. Roskovics moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

Discussion: For clarity, City Council approved the request to proceed with the planning and design of one tennis court and two pickle ball courts and a seating area located at the old tennis court site next to Harbor Topky Library on Walnut Boulevard. After bids

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are received, the City Manager will formally request Council approval of a contract with the bid winner.

**FINANCE & PERSONNEL - (F&P)**

*Members: Chair Foglio; Vice Chair Roskovics*

*Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday @ 8a*

- Report from Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting –  
Highlights of the meeting:
  - The Finance Director reported the end of year finances. The budget is tight but there was some carryover.
  - There are vacancies in the Ashtabula Fire Department and Ashtabula Police Department that will be filled through the Civil Service list and lateral transfers from other departments.
  - Complaints were heard from various department heads about money desperately needed for repairs, upgrades, equipment, and staff, etc.
  - The Assistant Finance Director will be attending investment training at the Association of Public Treasurers conference. After the June conference, she and the Finance Director will proceed with updating the Investment Policy for the City.
  - The Committee requested the City Solicitor and the Finance Director to research and prepare finance department policy for approval to remove sewer leakage charges already waived by Ashtabula County.
  - Quarterly Certification of Sewer and Trash Fees to the Ashtabula County Auditor is not feasible currently due to current workload of the department. This item will be removed from the Committee's agenda.
  - Bev Dougherty inquired about charges on the Trinity Presbyterian Church's water only account. A City representative will be sent out to check the meters and report the findings. This matter remains pending.
  - A homeowner attended the meeting to ask why a portion of his property taxes are paid to Ashtabula Township. The City Manager explained to him that he lives in an area of the City annexed from Ashtabula Township but not incorporated. The minimal amount of taxes paid entitles the homeowner to vote for Ashtabula Township trustees and levies. The Committee referred this to the City Solicitor to clarify so the Committee fully understands the ramifications of the incorporation process. Since the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Solicitor responded to the Committee's questions and the topic will be discussed at their next meeting, Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 8a.

**PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC UTILITIES/CABLE/SCHOOLS - (PW/PU/C/S)**

*Members: Chair Crawford; Vice Chair Harris; Roskovics*

*Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday @ 5p*

- Next meeting is Monday, February 24, 2020 at 5p

**SAFETY FORCES - (SF)**

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*Members: Chair Speelman; Vice Chair Foglio; Haines*  
*Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday @ 8a*

- The next meeting is Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 8a.

**Communications –**

The Council President announced Laydean Young will take over as Vice Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee and is a member of the Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/School Committee.

**Miscellaneous Council Matters –**

- Council Appointments – Notice of Interest to Serve Planning Commission
  - Bonnie Cannon
  - George Toth

Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to reappoint Ms. Cannon and Mr. Toth to serve on the Planning Commission; motion CARRIED
- Council Appointments – Notice of Interest to Serve Local Board of Tax Review
  - Lisa Fuller-Grippi

Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to reappoint Ms. Fuller-Grippi to serve on the Local Board of Tax Review; motion CARRIED

**LEGISLATION AGENDA**

- Formal Legislation Request(s): No additional requests were made at this time.
- Form and Correctness
- Legislation Overview

The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda, consisting of Ordinance Nos. 2020-17, 2020-18, 2020-19, 2020-20, and Resolution No. 2020-21.

- Public Discussion (on legislation only) – None

**CONSENT AGENDA FORMAT –**

Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to dispose of Regular Business Legislation by Consent Agenda Format; motion CARRIED.

- **LEGISLATION READING**

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-17 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT A NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-18 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HAVE HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF

\$11,595.00 TO REPLACE TWO EXHAUST FANS IN THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT  
(City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-19 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT WITH RADIOACTIVE ELECTRONICS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$585.00 FOR ADDITIONAL WORK IN THE INSTALLATION OF SECURITY CAMERAS ON BRIDGE STREET (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-20 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THE CITY OF GENEVA AND THE CITY OF ASHTABULA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS (City Manager)

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-21 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ASHTABULA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (City Manager)

**DISCUSSION:** Before voting on the legislation, Council Vice President asked if the dates used in the Ashtabula County’s Emergency Management Services (EMS) agreement are accurate for Ordinance No. 2020-20. Page 2 of the EMS agreement states the duration as “commencing January 1, 2019”. The City Solicitor explained the agreement would be effective and commence upon Council’s vote of approval. During the Public Discussion segment of the meeting, the City Manager recalled from his notes the agreement was written as retroactive and up for renewal in 2021.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Tell Us Something We Don’t Know**

#### **Ward 2 Councilor**

- The Ashtabula Maritime & Surface Transportation Museum’s program, History On Tap! had quite a turnout for the filmmakers of the “1876 Ashtabula Train Disaster” event. Unfortunately, the Elks Club did not anticipate the crowd and many people were turned away. The next History on Tap! is Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Retired US Coast Guard Chief Marty Burnham is scheduled as the guest speaker. A location has not yet been announced.
- The Lift Bridge Community Association is hosting a “meet and greet event” Wednesday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. To RSVP, send an email to Gayle Michael at [gayleam23@gmail.com](mailto:gayleam23@gmail.com).

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- Bridge Street Bucks are still available for purchase at Carlisle's in the Harbor. They are available in \$5, \$20 and \$50 increments and redeemable at over 20 merchants.

**Council President**

- A new restaurant, Wade's Pastabilities, opened on West Avenue in the West Avenue Plaza.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters)**

Mr. J.P. Ducro congratulated Ms. Young on her appointment and offered assistance from the Ashtabula County Commissioners. He announced the Commissioners voted to use NOPEC grant funds to help the Lift Bridge Community Association host this year's Wine and Walleye Festival. He came to the meeting to remind residents the RAM Clinic is coming back to Ashtabula Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 6a for most of the day. The RAM Clinic offers free medical, dental and vision services. There is no income requirement for Clinic services, though it is designed to help disadvantaged members of the community. Starting in March, homes will begin to receive postcard invitations to complete the 2020 Census. There are three ways to respond; online, by phone, or by mail. April 1<sup>st</sup> is Census Day. Census results help determine how state and federal funding is shared in our community programs. Both the City and County of Ashtabula could lose an estimated \$2000 per year for ten years for every person who does not respond to the Census. The County Library system is available to assist people who don't have access to a computer, and those who are unsure how to respond.

Ms. Sandy Renke requested a written, comprehensive plan for paving projects be posted on the City website for the benefit of City residents. She has safety concerns for children who must stand in the middle of the street because of the poor condition of Deerfield Drive and Pleasantview Avenue. She asks City Council to consider the neighborhoods input of the road conditions. The response from the Council President reminded Ms. Renke the engineering firm did survey the roads and listened to input from the Superintendent of Public Works. Ms. Renke feels a published plan informing resident of an estimated timeline will reduce their frustration.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

March 2, 2020

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics

John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy H. Senskey

Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council