

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 6, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Pastor Chris Bell of the First United Methodist Church on Elm Avenue offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Kym A. Foglio (Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2 Councilor)
Mr. Richard A. Quaranta (Ward 3 Councilor)
Mr. Michael D. Speelman (Ward 4 Councilor)
Ms. Jane E. Haines (Ward 5 Councilor)
Mr. John S. Roskovics (President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)

OFFICER(S) PRESENT: Mr. James M. Timonere (City Manager)
Mr. Michael Franklin (City Solicitor)
Ms. Traci R. Welch (Director of Finance)
Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC (Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: None

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to excuse the Vice President from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

SUNSHINE LAW: The Clerk of Council certified conformity to the Ohio Sunshine Law.

PRESENTATION(S)

The President presented the following resolution to Mr. Bret Cimorell:

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-51

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO
BRET J. CIMORELL**

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, that a very special recognition is in order; and,

WHEREAS, Bret J. Cimorell is a life-long resident of the City of Ashtabula who has also practiced law in the community for, at least, three decades; and,

WHEREAS, Bret Cimorell has served as the Chairman of the City of Ashtabula Civil Service Commission from January 5, 1991 to October 13, 2014; and continued his service as Commission Chairman and Secretary from October 2014 through March 5, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, Bret Cimorell, as the Commission Chairman, ensured the Commission carried out its responsibilities with integrity, while working closely with the Ashtabula Fire and Police Chiefs and various other City Divisions and organizations to offer quality entrance and promotional testing for Ashtabula City's Fire and Police Divisions; and

WHEREAS, Bret Cimorell's leadership was instrumental in the Commission enacting the policy of granting extra credit to Police entrance test applicants who possess a college degree; and,

WHEREAS, Bret Cimorell, for 28 years, has served with the highest level of commitment, ethics and moral character; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this City Council and these Public Officials of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, do hereby extend our sincere appreciation to **BRET J. CIMORELL** for his time-honored legacy of dedication to his calling as a public servant for the City of Ashtabula.

Well done, thou good and faithful servant!

ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST: _____

John S. Roskovics
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: _____

Christopher J. McClure
VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Kym A. Foglio
WARD 1 COUNCILOR

August A. Pugliese
WARD 2 COUNCILOR

Richard A. Quaranta
WARD 3 COUNCILOR

Michael D. Speelman
WARD 4 COUNCILOR

Jane E. Haines
WARD 5 COUNCILOR

James M. Timonere
CITY MANAGER

Michael Franklin
CITY SOLICITOR

Traci R. Welch
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Mr. Cimorell thanked City Council, the Clerk of Council, Commission members and the Police and Fire Chiefs for their assistance over years. "I enjoyed every bit of it. And, to anybody who is ever considering volunteering for one of the boards that the City has, I would highly recommend it. It's easier to be a part of the solution than a part of the problem. So, if you have a little time, it will be very fulfilling to you; I promise you that. Thank you."

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to adopt the resolution; motion CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Manager requested an Executive Session at the conclusion of the public portion of this meeting to discuss the sale of property. Mrs. Foglio moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to convene an executive session for the stated purpose. On the roll call to convene the executive session, as requested: Ms. Foglio, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Quaranta, Mr. Speelman, Ms. Haines, Mr. Roskovics voted aye; motion CARRIED.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES

The Clerk of Council presented the April 15, 2019 Regular City Council meeting minutes. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- Formal Legislation Request(s): None
- Form and Correctness: None
- Legislation Overview: The Clerk of Council provided a brief overview.
- Public Discussion (on legislation only): None

Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-46, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH 4726 MAIN AVENUE, LLC, FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAX ABATEMENT AT 50% FOR 10 YEARS FOR RENOVATION AND REMODELING OF THE 5TH FLOOR OF THE FORMER ASHTABULA HOTEL. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-47, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CARPET MART IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,108.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACING WORN TILE FLOORING IN THE FRONT AND REAR ENTRANCE AREAS OF THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL BUILDING. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-48, AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXISTING SECTION 1361.07 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, ENTITLED INSPECTIONS; CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY; FEES. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-49, AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW SECTION 1361.07 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, ENTITLED INSPECTIONS; CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY; FEES. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-50, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH ERIC GOODWIN AND MADELINE GOODWIN FOR TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS UPON IMPROVEMENTS AT RESIDENTIAL PREMISES KNOWN AS 3420 BROOKE LANE. (City Manager)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to waive the reading of the legislation. The President announced the renovation of the 5th floor of the former Ashtabula Hotel is a project slated to be over 1 million dollars. He announced another residence is being constructed in the City, as well (3420 Brooke Lane), and believes that to be the second one this year. The Clerk announced Ordinance No. 2019-46 is the Signature Health building. The President reported he read in the Plain Dealer newspaper that they applied for a preservation grant, as well; for outcome for which is unknown. The motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Quaranta, Mr. Speelman, Ms. Haines, Mr. Roskovics voted aye; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Quaranta, Mr. Speelman, Ms. Haines, Mr. Roskovics voted aye; motion CARRIED.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES - None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager presented the following requests:

Legislation Requests

Police and Public Works Equipment

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with U.S. Bank to purchase equipment for the Police Department and Public Works Department. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve this request. The Manager reported we are applying for a \$300,000, 5 year loan, at a 3.13% interest rate, which is the best we could find. The annual payment will be \$65,749.71;

the first payment is due May 2019; and a loan payment is rolling off our books this year that are equivalent to the new lease payment. The details are as follows:

- Five (5) Police cars and outfitting = \$133,000
- Two (2) used plow trucks = \$100,000
- (1) 1-ton with a dump = \$40,000 to \$50,000
- Replace 1 of 2 tractors = \$17,000.

A vote of City Council is required to make the purchases. Legislation will be presented once bids are finalized and purchases are ready to be made.

The President commended the Manager and “departments” for making these purchases in a fiscally responsible manner in that one loan is ending before this loan will commence.

The motion CARRIED.

West Avenue Paving Project

An ordinance to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Aqua Ohio, Inc. for a joint paving project on West Avenue. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

Zambelli Fireworks

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Zambelli Fireworks Manufacturing Company of Warrendale, Pennsylvania in the amount not to exceed \$12,500.00 as the most responsible bid to provide fireworks display for the Wine & Walleye Festival. The cost for this event will be taken in part from Fund 233 (Parks and Recreation), along with donations from the IAFF Local Firefighters Union fundraiser and the Lift Bridge Community Association. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve this request. The President announced that the City Manager reported that the fireworks display will be increased by fifty-percent. The motion CARRIED.

Obsolete Equipment

An ordinance to deem obsolete the following equipment for disposal through public bidding:

- 1997 Ford F-350 truck VIN 1FDKF386XVEB34966, 2001 Dodge Ram-350 truck VIN 386MF36552M275291
- 1990 International 2.5 ton truck VIN 1HTSDTV2RXLH223676
- 1995 International 2.5 ton truck VIN 1HTSDAARXSH623861
- 1998 International 2.5 ton truck VIN 1HTSDAAR3XH621876
- 1998 International 2.5 ton truck VIN 1HTSDAAR1XH621875
- 1998 GMC-3500 truck VIN 1GDJC34RXWF065426, and
- One Case Loader.

The Manager reported if bids are not received the items will be scrapped. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

Questions / Comments for City Manager

Walnut Beach Tree Planting Update

At the request of the Ward 5 Councilor, the City Manager provided the following planting update, noting that a prior engagement precluded him from attending:

- There were 20 to 25 volunteers, some from far away
- 50 to 60 plants were planted; city crews took care of the larger trees that were delivery prior to Saturday
- There will be a fall planting
- More work is planned for the Invasive Species Removal Project; this project will end this year, and a project representative is scheduled to attend the Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 14, to provide a more detailed update.

Putting Grass in Roadways – Illegal and Dangerous

At the request of the Ward 1 Councilor, the City Manager issued a reminder that blowing (or mowing) grass clippings in the road is illegal, clogs storm and sewer drains, is extremely dangerous for motorcyclists when the grass is wet, and citations will be issued.

CITY SOLICITOR

No Report

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The Finance Director presented the following:

Formal Legislation Request

A formal request for Ordinance No. 2019-54, pertaining to supplemental appropriations. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

Sewer and Trash Catch-up Billing

Finance Department staff members Kathy Nizen and Kelly Cartner were thanked for being a “big help in getting this project accomplished”. The ‘regular’ bills that were mailed total over 9,370; the ‘final’ bills mailed totaled 493. The department is making sure to let customers know [they are not behind] but rather the [City is behind] in issuing the bills. Customers think the catch-up bill is due all at once; therefore are being shown on the bill that it is not due until December 31, of this year. Over 100 voicemails have been received and each one will be returned.

The President reiterated that “communication is key” in addressing the backlog billing; said it is slow-going right now; but we have eight months to address it; and thanked everyone for their efforts. The President shared that the Finance Director reported that several people are paying

in-full, which is much appreciated. He said, "We will get through this; it's just a process; and we will make an effort to communicate with everyone."

CLERK OF COUNCIL

The Clerk of Council reported the call for volunteers to fill board and commission vacancies yielded two applications. She commented that volunteers are needed to accomplish important tasks and may even lead to someone making a run for an elected seat.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

All Council committees meet in the Municipal Building 2nd Floor Conference Room
(Chair/Vice Chair)

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

The Chair announced the committee will meet Tuesday, May 14, at 3:30 p.m., to discuss Homelessness and the Invasive Species Project at Walnut Beach.

The Chair announced

- Ashtabula City Parks & Recreation Board will meet tomorrow at 6:00 p.m., in Pre-Council Chambers.
- This past weekend was a busy one. The events that took place were: The Ashtabula Downtown Development Association's Chocolate Walk and Downtown Laughs, and; My Neighborhood Collaborative's first Reverse Raffle, which went really well.
- (Ward Merchandise is a new business that opened next door to her salon on Main Avenue. The business sells new products, at greatly reduced prices; and that the merchandise is considered 'seconds' from stores like Target.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL - (F&P) (McClure/Pugliese)

The Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet Friday, May 10, at 8:00 a.m.

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

The Chair announced the committee will not meet this month. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 7.

SAFETY FORCES - (SF) (Speelman/Harley)

The Chair reported on the committee's Monday, April 22, meeting, as follows:

Washington Avenue No Parking between West 57th and 58th Streets: The Manager sent the committee the letter that will be sent to the residents in the affected area to get their

feedback. Once the letters are returned to Police Chief Stell, he will issue a report and recommendation. The parking prohibition, as posted, is in effect.

Police Department Annual Report: The Chief presented the report, which revealed shocking numbers but nothing too surprising. The report will be posted on the City or Police Department's website.

Fire Department: Chief Gruber provided a monthly report, which included a breakdown of what has transpired from the beginning of the year up to April 18. The department responded to almost 600 calls; the vast majority being for rescue and emergency medical services.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, at 8:00 a.m. The change from the regular Monday meeting is due to the Monday, May 27, Memorial Day Holiday.

WORK SESSION

The President announced that, "The discussions which took place at Council's April 29, work session will be refined and presented at the May 20, regular council meeting."

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- Formal Legislation Request(s)

The Clerk requested Resolution No. 2019-55 be formally placed on this evening's agenda. Mrs. Foglio moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

- Form and Correctness: None
- Overview: The Clerk of Council explained that a Consent Agenda includes items previously requested by City Council or the Administration; that was the legislation City Council considered at the beginning of this meeting. The "Legislation Agenda" in the Regular Business portion of the agenda includes items that have not formally been requested on Council floor; which is required to be done prior to Council's consideration of them. The Clerk provided a brief overview of the legislation to be presented at this time.
- Public Discussion (Legislation Only): None
- Consent Agenda Format: Mr. Roskovics moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to dispose of the regular business legislation by consent agenda; motion CARRIED.

Reading

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation for Council's consideration:

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-52, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH US BANK FOR A \$300,000.00 LOAN TO ACQUIRE EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE AND PUBLIC WORKS DIVISIONS OF THE CITY. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-53, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AQUA OHIO, INC. FOR A JOINT PAVING PROJECT ON WEST AVENUE IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-54, AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT, WASTEWATER AND WASTEWATER CAPITAL FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019. (Finance Director)

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-55, A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND CONGRATULATIONS TO KATHLEEN RILEY MILFORD. (Ward 1 Councilor)

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to waive the Charter requirement of two readings. On the roll call to waive the Charter requirement of two readings: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Quaranta, Mr. Speelman, Ms. Haines, Mr. Roskovics voted aye; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Quaranta, Mr. Speelman, Ms. Haines, Mr. Roskovics voted aye; motion CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Civil Service Commission Appointment

Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to appoint Mr. Richard (Rick) Balog, Jr. as a member of the Ashtabula City Civil Service Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Bret Cimorell. The term will commence immediately and end February 2, 2021; motion CARRIED.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 1 Councilor

- Last week, Joseph Bridling, the brother of Father David Bridling, the Priest at Our Lady of Peace Parish, along with twenty-three others, were killed by the Boko Haram in a terrorist attack, in Nigeria. A mass of celebration in remembrance of his brother is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., tomorrow at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church. The public is invited. The President commented that somebody mentioned that “we think the world is so big and so out there, but anything that happens all over the world can touch us, even here in Ashtabula.”
- Ashtabula County Sheriff's, Ashtabula City Police Departments and area law enforcement were congratulated on their handling of the incident involving a gun in the Harbor, which included getting the elementary schools, Building Bridges School and Kent State University @ Ashtabula locked down.
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Ashtabula City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 6, 2019

- Congratulations to Fat Sally's Warehouse in the Harbor who will be featured on a Channel 8 News special Thursday, May 9.

Ward 5 Councilor

- Saturday, May 11, is a big City clean up day. My Neighborhood Collaborative will meet at Noon at Clifford Kadon Presidential Park. The public's participation is welcome! Bring gloves and trash bags.
- Sunday, May 19, from Noon to 3:00 p.m., Ashtabula Downtown Development Association will host their annual, "Take it to the Curb", downtown area cleanup. Volunteers are asked to gather at Ultimate Appearance Hair Salon on Main Avenue. Bring gloves, brooms and trash bags.
- Ward Merchandise is a new business on Main Avenue. The merchandise, while labeled in the industry as "seconds" from stores like Target, it is new merchandise that is just not as perfect as what would be sold in box stores. The prices are responsible and residents were encouraged to check it out and support the merchants.

Ward 4 Councilor

- Saturday, April 27, the Ashtabula City Fire Department hosted a 5k run/walk on Bridge Street to help raise money for the Wine & Walleye Festival fireworks display. Several people participated even though it was cold. Chris Stasny (a City employee), owner and operator of Stasny Road Racing did a good job managing the event; and this Councilor and City Manager ran.
- Sunday, April 28, he presented a City Resolution No. 2019-35 to the VFW (Veterans of Foreign War) Post 943 Auxiliary in recognition of their 85th year anniversary. They served a nice lunch; had a nice turnout; and is a worthy organization that supports the VFW and takes care of folks at home while their loved ones are deployed overseas.

President

- Kids for Positive Change (KFPC) will be our guests at the Monday, May 20, Regular Council Meeting. Tonight a movie called "Straws" is being shown at the Geneva Library. He believes the movie is about the KFPC and their efforts to ban plastic straws.

Clerk of Council

- The week of May 5, is the 50th Anniversary of "Municipal Clerk's Week". The Municipal Clerk profession dates back to biblical times, is the oldest profession alongside the "tax collector"; is a profession that has a representative in every city, village and township in the United States, as well as all other countries. Persons serving in the profession are known by various titles, such as: Clerk of Council, City Clerk, Municipal Clerk, Clerk/Treasurer, Fiscal Officer, Town Clerk, City Clerk, City Secretary, and many more. They have various responsibilities, but primarily serve as vital members of the Legislative branch of government as the senior legislative administrator of elected and appointed council members.

Ward 3 Councilor

- Commented that Clerk of Council was an officer of one of the municipal clerk associations. The Clerk reported she served 6 years as President of the Western Reserve Municipal Clerk's Association, whose membership covers Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga and parts of Cuyahoga Counties. She served on the Board of Directors and was the Secretary for the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association (OMCA). She reported she repeatedly and graciously turned down offers to serve as OMCA President (a 6 year commitment) and the International Institute of Municipal Clerk Association Region 5 Director (a 3 year commitment), which Region covers the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee, because it is just not her thing. The Councilor thanked the Clerk for representing the City of Ashtabula, said she is doing an excellent job and "of course we all know you're retiring and that's going to be one heck of a job to replace you." The Clerk said others have expressed the same sentiments; that sometimes it is something that is common for people to say about someone who has been in a job for so long, and that she appreciates the comments and believes them to be sincere. The Clerk said she would honestly like to see the next Clerk of Council enhance what has been accomplished in the Office of Clerk of Council; to build upon it; but not to have to fill her shoes; not to try and do as she did; but bring their touch to the position; and believes it is possible.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters)

Ms. Patricia Blum, 1540 West 17th Street

- The barricade at the end of her road has been down for one year; she would like it re-erected. She said she called the City (department unknown) when it first happened
- The City Manager said this is the first he has heard about it and will make sure it is addressed. He asked her to call his office from now on. She asked for his personal number.
- Asked for an explanation of the "Administration Charge" that now appears on the City's sewer and trash bills. The Finance Director said it is a fee that was previously included in the sewer rate, but that last year it was broken out for transparency purposes. It is the cost to mail, print and calculate the bills and for the software to produce the bills. The charge is \$3.45 per month. Ms. Blum said she does not like the term "Administration Charge". She suggested the term be one that explains to the public exactly what the charge is for. She questioned whether her sewer and trash bill is correct.
- She asked if Aqua Ohio raised water rates. It was believed they have not recently.
- She said when folks ask her about the large sewer and trash amount being deducted from their checking account, she suggests they speak with the Finance Director.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The President announced the executive session would now convene, that no decision or announcement resulting from the session will be made and that the public portion of the meeting would be adjourned off camera.

ADJOURNMENT

The President announced the public portion of the meeting reconvened. Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: MAY 20, 2019

ATTESTED BY: John S. Roskovics
John S. Roskovics
President of Council

ATTESTED BY: LaVette E. Hennigan
LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
Clerk of Council