

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, July 6, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., the Ward 1 Councilor offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Kym A. Foglio	(Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. Calvin C. Crawford	(Ward 2 Councilor)
Ms. Laydean Young	(Ward 3 Councilor)
Ms. Octavia V. Harris	(Ward 4 Councilor)
Ms. Jane E. Haines	(Ward 5 Councilor)
Mr. Michael D. Speelman	(Vice President)
Mr. John S. Roskovics	(President)

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** None

**OFFICER(S) PRESENT:**

Mr. James M. Timonere	(City Manager)
Mr. Michael Franklin	(City Solicitor)
Mrs. Stacy H. Senskey	(Clerk of Council)

**OFFICER(S) ABSENT:** Ms. Traci R. Welch (Director of Finance)

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**PRESENTATIONS:**

--The City of Ashtabula Animal Control Officer, Stephen Lanham reported the accomplishments of the Community Cats Coalition. They held three large scale Trap Neuter Release (TNR) events. They were held in March, May, and June. There was no April TNR event due to the ban on non-elective surgeries as a result of COVID. The spaying/neutering of cats represents a longer-term solution which will result in fewer community cats. All cats released have been seen by a vet, the first time for most. These events led to the spay and neuter of 105 cats. Twenty-three were from the mobile home park on Woodman Avenue in Ward 4, twelve were from Thayer Avenue in Ward 1 and twenty-four were from West 34<sup>th</sup> Street in Ward 3. Other cats were fixed from

Albino's Fish Market, McDonald's in Ashtabula Township, in the Harbor and from Walnut Boulevard. All the cats received a rabies shot and if needed, were treated for fleas. Finding no owner, four friendly adult cats and one kitten have been rehomed. Cats and kittens went to a rescue or sanctuary for care and rehoming. Other kittens are currently in foster care and will be rehomed. Additional medical care was provided to several cats and the colony caretaker of the cats at Woodman Avenue was given a more secure shelter to a favorite cat named "Bob in the Box". Outreach has been made to the Barn Cat Placement Community, where semi-feral cats may be relocated. These processes remain ongoing. The Animal Welfare Center of Ashtabula County (AWC) added a link on their webpage <https://awcashtabula.org/> for City and County residents to request assistance. There is also a link for individuals to donate directly to Community Cats Coalition. Individuals who catch a friendly stray cat, whether in a carrier or in a trap, should contact AWC and register it as a community cat. The cat can then be fixed through PetFix for \$31 and the left ear will be tipped. A fourth large scale TNR even is planned for July 24 through July 26. Thirty spots are reserved for Community Cats Coalition. To fund this clinic, the Coalition is co-hosting a "Birthday Bash" with the AWC. The event is Sunday, July 12 from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Tourist Pavilion at Lakeshore Park. Food, raffle baskets and prize wheel, corn hole, as well as many opportunities to raise awareness for Community Cats are scheduled. The Coalition is in the midst of planning monthly TNR events. Members of Council and the general public are encouraged to visit their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Community-Cats-Coalition-of-Ashtabula-County-108492080641743/> for more information and to stay up-to-date on events. Please remember the Coalition is 100% volunteer and donation driven. Any assistance is valuable. The Ward 1 Councilor stated she follows the group's Facebook page closely and some family members have adopted cats from the rescue group. She and Council President thanked Mr. Lanham personally for his role with the Coalition and the Coalition itself for going over and above for the Community Cats.

--The Health Commissioner of Ashtabula City Health Department, Christine Hill shared current COVID-19 statistics. The State of Ohio has a total of 54,232 positive cases, 8,249 hospitalizations and 2,677 deaths. In Ashtabula County, there are 435 positive cases, 77 hospitalizations and 44 deaths. In the City of Ashtabula, there are 65 positive cases, seven probable positive cases, and five deaths. The City Health Department has issued 267 orders of quarantine to date. Ms. Hill explained the release of the new public health advisory system in Ohio. It is a color-coded map of Ohio; each county receives one of four colors representing the level of COVID-19 exposure. Ashtabula County is yellow, meaning Level 1 Public Emergency: active exposure and spread. There are 53 Ohio counties at the yellow level. The color orange indicates Level 2 Public Emergency: increased exposure and spread. Exercise high degree of caution. 28 Ohio counties are colored orange at this time. Red specifies Level 3 Public Emergency: very high exposure and spread. Limit activities as much as possible. Seven Ohio counties are currently colored red. There are no Ohio counties colored purple, which indicates Level 4 Public Emergency: severe exposure and spread. Only leave home for supplies and services. Franklin County is Level 3 but marked with a star meaning it is quickly approaching Level 4. There are seven data-driven indicators used to identify the risk level for each county such as: case rates by population, sustained increase in new cases, proportionate cases not in congregate settings (for identifying



community spread), increases in COVID related emergency room visits, increased healthcare visits with COVID symptoms resulting in COVID diagnosis, hospitalization rates of county residents, and ICU COVID admissions. The State of Ohio is working to use three additional indicators to enhance communication and public understanding of this evolving system. The basic public health orders for persons in all levels should follow are: conduct daily health and symptom checks, maintain 6 foot social distancing, wearing face covering in public, increase caution with persons not social distancing, avoid travel to high risk areas, follow good hygiene practices and stay home if feeling ill. As levels go up, more restrictions are suggested. Ms. Hill and City Manager Timonere are on a newly formed county-wide committee which monitors and discusses the level assigned to the county. The advisory system is updated weekly on Wednesdays, results are published on Thursdays. More information about the system is on the website <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov>. Also new this week, the final planning guide developed by Ohio Department of Health to help Ohio school districts restart schools. Ms. Hill read from the guide, "Ohio's education system must be nimble, flexible and responsive to ensure the safety of all students and adults. Schools will need to have the capacity to operate in various modes at different times and, sometimes, with minimum advance notice. When schools are operating with students in the building, they will need to adhere to health and safety guidelines set forth by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and local health departments. Guidance may change as circumstances change throughout the year. The traditional school experience as it was known prior to the onset of the pandemic will be different, as will many of the day-to-day practices of schools." The very first word in the planning guide is "unprecedented: never done before; novel" demonstrating this new experience. There is a meeting set in July with county superintendents and health departments to discuss the upcoming school year. Ms. Hill concluded the presentation with a concern from a resident who spoke with the Clerk of Council about local testing for COVID. Testing is available at both Ashtabula County Medical Center (ACMC) and University Hospital (UH), via primary care physician orders. ACMC has a nurse triage line for those with no primary care physician. Signature Health on Main Avenue and State Road Medical Facility offers testing. Prospect Urgent Care on Route 20 offers curbside testing. The State of Ohio formed a Minority Health Strike Force and Ms. Hill is in preliminary discussions with the strike force to bring a Pop-Up Testing Site to Ashtabula. If Ashtabula is chosen to host a Pop-Up Testing Site, testing is free. Ms. Hill would ensure at least 200 people are pre-registered in order to host and scheduling is dependent on the availability of the Ohio National Guard. She would like to partner with a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Signature Health is a FQHC, and she's in discussions with them to provide more testing opportunities. The Ward 5 Councilor expressed her sincere appreciation to Ms. Hill when she discovered a person in her salon tested positive for COVID. She advises all business owners that Ms. Hill is wonderful. She emphatically said, "Mask-wearing works!" as no spread of COVID occurred. She encourages everyone to wear masks. Ms. Hill responded by saying the Councilor handled the situation well because she had her COVID plan in place and utilized it which makes contact tracing easier. The Vice President voiced his concern about schools beginning training for contact sports but running events are not allowed. Ms. Hill agreed, it is confusing and a daily struggle understanding some of the "do's and don'ts". She has seen wonderful plans for 5k running which was approved by City and County Health Department. The City Manager sent the local plan to ODH for approval. He explained Lakeside Football Team is keeping the groups

small and only conditioning at this time. He is also frustrated with the inconsistencies and people not following basic guidelines. He continues to recommend wearing masks and social distancing. Ms. Hill feels being cautious is the best defense. The Council President suggested Council create an ordinance or resolution in support of wearing masks in public places. The City Manager recommends the language be in the form of a resolution since it is not easily enforceable. Most people coming in to the Municipal Building are wearing masks. Ms. Hill cautions some cannot wear masks due to medical conditions and encourages leading by example. Ms. Hill confirmed there are no hospitalizations due to COVID in the City at this time. The Ward 4 Councilor is practicing mindfulness when encountering people who aren't wearing masks but does have concerns after seeing crowds of people not wearing masks. Ms. Hill recapped by inviting phone calls for concerns and questions.

### **REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA**

#### **PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

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

- June 15, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines 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:**

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Infinity Paving Company with a mailing address of 50 E. Highland Road, Northfield, OH 44067 as the most responsible bid for the Walnut Boulevard Tennis Courts Project in the amount not to exceed \$142,855.30. Funding for this project will be taken from the Parks fund 233. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to approve the request. **Discussion:** The Vice-President asked if the tennis court/pickle ball court would be open. The City Manager believes tennis and pickle ball are allowable sports but does not foresee the court project being completed in time to use the courts. The motion CARRIED by a 6 to 1 vote: Mr. Speelman cast the nay vote.

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Hugh's Excavating, with a mailing address of 570 Whitney Road, Conneaut, OH 44030 for the demolition of property located at 4012 Station Avenue in the amount to exceed \$13,720; paid in part by the Ashtabula County Land Bank in the amount of \$3,570. Funding for this demolition will be taken from fund 290. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager requested an ordinance to execute Change Order #1 with Sidley Truck Group with a mailing address of 7123 Madison Road, Thompson, OH 44087 for additional material and services for the repair of a 2012 Mack Truck utilized in the Sanitation Department in the amount not to exceed \$1,623.71. The cost for this Change Order will be taken from fund 225. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.



The City Manager requested an ordinance appropriating from unappropriated Law Enforcement Trust Fund 217 the sum of \$35,000 into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund Operating Account. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED. This item was added to the legislation agenda.

Koski Construction started preliminary work on the 2020 paving project and will begin grinding within the next two weeks. The actual paving can commence afterwards.

The City of Ashtabula will receive approximately \$800,000.00 from CARES Act funds allocated through the State of Ohio. There are many requirements and restrictions limiting the expenses the funds can be used to support. The regulations state the funds cannot be used for budgeted items as of a particular date in March of 2020 and are meant to be used for expenses related to COVID-19. The City Manager is hoping the United States Treasury will revise the guidance in order to use the funds for income replacement for laid-off employees. He feels more layoffs could happen for various government entities due this restriction. Ashtabula County offered small businesses a new grant program with some of their CARES Act funding and the City Manager is considering offering grant programs as well. The money must be spent, and in the manner required, or it will be returned to the State of Ohio. The Ward 5 Councilor asked if the funds can be used for PPE expenses incurred by City business owners. The City Manager explained he doesn't want to duplicate the programs currently available and is eager to retain the funds for use in the City.

**CITY SOLICITOR:**

The City Solicitor informed City Council about "bad behavior" by residents of the City over the Fourth of July weekend. He defined "bad" as "disrespectful, anti-social, violent, and just downright childish." Explosive devices were detonated frequently and in many locations throughout the City. The Ashtabula Police Department was notified and issued several tickets. The City Solicitor clarified those people who received tickets are faced with first degree misdemeanor, the penalty for which is up to a \$1000.00 fine and up to six months in jail. He reported a block party which resulted in a young man being shot. The suspect was caught and was charged with felonious assault and using weapons while intoxicated. He challenged residents to "behave better than that" during these frustrating times. He thanked those residents who behaved respectably over the holiday weekend. "For the other folks, I'll see you in court."

**CLERK OF COUNCIL:**

The Clerk of Council announced the Ashtabula County Land Bank is looking for volunteers to assist with property condition surveys throughout the City of Ashtabula. Volunteers will start mid-July during the weekdays from 9a to 3p. Residents who are interested and want more information should contact Eddy Eckart, Executive Director of the Ashtabula County Land Reutilization Corporation by calling 440-576-1450 or by email at [landbank@ashtabulacounty.us](mailto:landbank@ashtabulacounty.us). The City Manager, who serves on the Land Bank board, added companies conducting property condition surveys charge upwards of \$30,000. Instead, the Land Bank is able to train volunteers to rate every parcel in the City by identifying issues such as sidewalk disrepair or code

violations. The Land Bank successfully surveyed the City of Conneaut last year. There is virtually no cost to the City since volunteers are used. The City Manager encourages residents who are able, to volunteer, or spread the word to others. The volunteers will be given proper credentials so residents can easily identify them. An announcement will be made once the program is ready to begin, so residents aren't alarmed. Since funding is gone for demolishing blighted properties, this second phase of the Land Bank is renovating and reselling properties. The Ward 5 Councilor signed up and asked to survey her ward and encourages the other Councilors to help if they are able.

### **CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

- **Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation**  
The Parks & Recreation Board is meeting July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6p at Kadon Park.  
The CD/ED/P&R Committee's next meeting is July 14, 2020 in Council Chambers. A representative of The Greater Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce is scheduled as the guest speaker.
- **Finance & Personnel**  
The next meeting is July 17, 2020 at 8a in Council Chambers.
- **Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools**  
The next meeting is July 27, 2020 at 5p in Council Chambers.
- **Safety Forces**  
Safety Forces met June 22, 2020. The Vice-President briefly recapped points from the meeting. The minutes from the meeting are available upon request. The next meeting is July 27, 2020 in the Council Chambers. Beth Brown, Community Outreach Manager for BrightView Addiction Treatment Center is scheduled as the guest speaker.

### **LEGISLATION AGENDA**

- Formal Legislation Request(s): no additional requests
- Form and Correctness
- Legislation Overview –  
The Clerk of Council provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda.
- Public Discussion (on legislation only) – None  
Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation in Consent Agenda; motion CARRIED.

### **LEGISLATION READING**

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-55** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH J. SEVERINO CONSTRUCTION CO., FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TIVISION PLACE PUMP STATION PROJECT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$303,228.78



**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-56** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO A CONTRACT WITH CAPP STEEL ERECTORS, INC. FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AND DEMOLITION SERVICES TO ABATE AN ADDITIONAL ABANDONED AND BLIGHTED STRUCTURE

**ORDINANCE NO. 2020-57** AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FROM UNAPPROPRIATED LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND 217 THE SUM OF \$35,000 INTO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND OPERATING ACCOUNT

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

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Council President made a motion to request the City Solicitor to draft a resolution requiring wearing masks in public buildings and public spaces within the City of Ashtabula. **Discussion:** Several Councilors discussed creating a resolution and discussed particular wording of a resolution with the City Solicitor and City Manager. Though not restated by the Council President, the motion previously made to request the City Solicitor draft a resolution in support of wearing masks was seconded by Ms. Haines. The City Solicitor deemed the motion and second was all that was required for him to draft a resolution.

## **TELL US SOMETHING WE DON'T KNOW**

- The Ward 5 Councilor announced the Ashtabula Arts Center launched the "Dining for the Arts" fundraiser. The details are online, <https://ashtabulaartscenter.org/event/dining-for-the-arts-2020-online/>. Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> is Downtown's "Take it To the Curb" event from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Residents can assist with street cleaning and sidewalk care of Main Avenue. She applauded The Bakery on Main. "They are doing marvelous." Also recently opened is restaurant called Turpial Flavors. Despite COVID 19, new businesses are opening Downtown and the Councilor is very encouraged.
- The Ward 2 Councilor reported there is a take-out cavatelli dinner at the Mt. Carmel Community Center Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup> after the noon Mass until 3:00 p.m. for \$8 per meal.
- The Ward 5 Councilor recapped the Juneteenth Celebration celebrating the emancipation of slavery held June 20<sup>th</sup> at Lakeshore Park. The event was well attended by residents and elected officials, many local people were honored at the event, and some received awards. The Councilor emphasized the conversation of racial injustice is uncomfortable for some but remains a continuing dialog in the City. She invites all to stay aware of upcoming events and be a part of the unity in our community.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters):** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President thanked the community for understanding the situation and declared the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: 7-20-2020

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

ATTESTED BY: Stacy H. Senskey  
Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council

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