

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, May 20, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Minister Michelle McCain, a member of the Ashtabula Area Ministerial Association and Associate Pastor at 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Church, offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	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)
	Mrs. Kym A. Foglio	(Ward 1 Councilor)
	Mr. Christopher J. McClure	(Vice President)
	Mr. John S. Roskovics	(President)

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** None

<b>OFFICER(S) PRESENT:</b>	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):** None

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

**PRESENTATION(S)**

At least 40 plus “Kids for Positive Change” students from Superior and Erie Intermediate Schools and St. John School presented facts about the harm single use plastics, (bags, bottles, containers and utensils used one time and discarded), are doing to people, animals and the planet. They shared two videos, provided examples of sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics, demonstrated how to use a t-shirt to make a reusable bag and gifted City officials with one. The full presentation is attached.

On behalf of City officials, the Ward 2 Councilor encouraged the students to continue their campaign to educate the community.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The President announced the City Manager requested an Executive Session to take place at the conclusion of the public portion of this meeting to discuss the Sale of Property, and that the

City Solicitor would like to discuss Pending or Imminent Court Action. Mr. Quaranta moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded to convene an executive session for the stated purposes. On the roll call to convene the executive session, as requested: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Quaranta, Mr. Speelman, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. McClure, 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 - 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 Regular City Council Meeting minutes of Monday, May 6, for consideration. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to waive the reading; motion CARRIED. Hearing no correction, the minutes were approved as presented.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **CITY MANAGER**

The City Manager presented the following requests:

##### **Wine & Walleye Festival**

An ordinance granting permission to the Lift Bridge Community Association to hold the 2019 Annual Wine & Walleye Festival. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

##### **Ashtabula County Transportation Improvement District**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Ashtabula to participate in the Ashtabula County Transportation Improvement District (TID). Mr. Quaranta moved, Ms. Haines seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

##### **Great Lakes Chrysler Vehicle Purchase**

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Great Lakes Chrysler, of Kingsville, Ohio, for the purchase of five (5) vehicles in the amount not exceed \$22,551 per vehicle for a total of

\$112,755. Funding for this purchase will be made from the proceeds of a U.S. Bank loan and expensed from Permanent Improvement Fund 412. Mr. Pugliese moved, Ms. Haines seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

#### **Public Works Department Tractor Purchase**

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Bortnick Tractor, of Conneaut, Ohio, for the purchase of two (2) tractors for the Public Works Department in an amount not to exceed \$31,807.00. Funding for this purchase will be transferred out from the Workers' Compensation Fund 622 and expensed from Permanent Improvement Fund 412. Mr. Pugliese moved, Ms. Haines seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

#### **Planning & Community Development Department Lawn Mower Purchase**

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Bortnick Tractor, of Conneaut, Ohio, for the purchase of (1) zero turn lawn mower in the amount not to exceed \$12,755.22. Funding for this expense will be taken from Code Enforcement Fund 291. Ms. Haines moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to approve this request. The Manager reported that when the City has to mow a private lot we charge \$150 per mow and the first mow is also billed administrative charges. These amounts are certified to the property owner's tax duplicate for collection if not paid before the amounts are certified. However, revenue recovery is minimal because these are folks who usually do not pay their property taxes, as well. The motion CARRIED.

#### **Public Works Department Truck Purchases**

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Brobst Maintenance Inc., for the purchase of a 2006 International Dump Truck in the amount not to exceed \$48,000. Funding for this purchase will be transferred out from the Workers' Compensation Fund 622 and expensed from Permanent Improvement Fund 412. Ms. Haines moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve this request. When asked the book value amount, the City Manager said it is hard to get estimates on these type vehicles. The motion CARRIED.

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Valley Freightliner & Western Star for the purchase of a 2005 Freightliner 106 V in an amount not to exceed \$47,500.00. Funding for this purchase will be made from the proceeds of an U.S. Bank loan and expensed from Permanent Improvement Fund 412. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve this request. The Manager reported the City's Maintenance crew and Public Services Superintendent John Melnik looked this vehicle and its maintenance records over, and the dump truck in the above request, and felt confident the vehicles will "get us by". The vehicle runs \$120,000 to \$150,000 new. The City has Internationals and Freightliners in our fleet, so performing maintenance is no problem. The motion CARRIED.

#### **Walnut Beach Concession Building Roof Replacement**

An ordinance to enter into an agreement with Building Technicians Corporation of Geneva, Ohio, for the replacement of the Walnut Beach Concession Building Roof in the amount not to exceed \$64,900 as the most responsible bid. Funding for this expense will be taken from Parks & Recreation Fund 233. Mr. Quaranta moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve this request.

According to the Ward 2 Councilor, the roof, which is flat, is about 17 years old, was reroofed for \$29,000 and the building was built in 1953. The life of a roof is about 15 years, depending on its pitch and the weather. The motion CARRIED.

#### **Jefferson Health Plan Health Insurance Renewal**

An ordinance to renew the Health Insurance Plan for City Employees with Jefferson Health Plan effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Mrs. Foglio moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

#### **Board of Health Reappointments**

The reappointment of Mr. Terence Guerriero and Ms. Ruth Simon, to the Board of Health effective immediately, with a term to expire on May 1, 2024, was presented. Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to approve these reappointments; motion CARRIED.

#### **Health District Licensing Council Appointments**

The appointment of Mr. Mark Brockway to serve on the Health District Licensing Council as Campground Representative effective immediately to fill an unexpired term to end on February 4, 2023, was presented.

The appointment of Mr. Alex Asteinza to serve on the Health District Licensing Council as Retail Food Establishments effective immediately to fill an unexpired term to end on February 4, 2022, was presented.

The appointment of Mr. Chris Rhodes to serve on the Health District Licensing Council as Tattoo Representative effective immediately to fill an unexpired term to end on February 4, 2020, was presented.

Mr. Quaranta moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve the appointments; motion CARRIED.

#### **Former Carlisle's Property – Main Avenue**

The City Manager is a member of the Ashtabula County Land Reutilization Corporation (a.k.a. Land Bank). They have been working with Messrs. Shawn Neece and Charles Borsukoff and crew on redevelopment plans for some of the Main Avenue buildings. These same gentlemen are responsible for the renovation of the Hotel Ashtabula, now home to Signature Health, on a lease contract. The same gentlemen purchased the Castle Block properties on Center Street (between Park Avenue and Elm Avenue) and are in the midst of renovating those structures. They shared their desire to recondition, refurbish and put back into use the former Carlisle property. Their proposal to remove the Zombie status of the property and repurpose it was sent to the Land Bank, and was approved. A Zombie property is one without ownership. The former Carlisle building was forfeited to the State, but the State did not take title of the building and maintain it. Messrs. Neece and Borsukoff's goal is to construct apartments on the upper floors and a combination of commercial, possibly retail or office space, on the first floor and would also like to reopen the basement restaurant. It will be called the Carlisle Allan, LLC, which name has been approved by Mr. Ren Carlisle, who was "ecstatic" that something will be

done to the building. He put his support behind the project. It will take about nine months to a year to complete the paper work, which includes applying for historic tax credits, getting the building placed on the National Registry of Historic Places, and laying the foundation to begin construction. We have been talking for about 6 months, so we, in the municipal building, are really, really excited.

**CITY SOLICITOR**

No Report

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

No Report

**CLERK OF COUNCIL**

No Report

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

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

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

The Chair reported on the committee's Tuesday, May 14, at 3:30 p.m., meeting, as follows:

**Homelessness**

- The discussion was lively
- Guests were:
  - Ms. Kathy Thompson, Ashtabula Juvenile Court
  - Mr. Steve Sargent, Director, Samaritan House
  - Ms. Jill Valentic, Director, Catholic Charities
  - Ms. Penny Neubauer, Director, Ashtabula County District Library
- Biggest take-aways were:
  - There is more than one definition of homelessness.
  - Some people may be couch surfing, living in cars, outside, shelters, tents or make-shift shelters.
  - There are many at-risk school age children who do not share their circumstances with authority because they do not want to become a part of the system
  - Even with help from various resources, people chose to live their lives the way they want to.
  - The agencies involved with homeless are more concerned with the growing drug problem that is primarily responsible for people's precarious living situations.

- There are four to six organizations that work closely with the population in need of a home or shelter. They are: Samaritan House, Catholic Charities, Community Action, Homesafe and Beatitude House.
- Meth and heroin are the biggest cause of unstable living conditions.
- Looking homeless is not an indicator of homelessness.

**Invasive Species Removal Project – Walnut Beach – Mr. Kris Erickson, Ecology and Environment**

- The project encompasses 44 acres of invasive plant species
- It is a 5 year-long project
- Great improvements have been made
- The project will end this year
- Mr. Erickson's firm would like to collaborate with the next person/organization to continue ridding the beach of unwanted plant life.

**Ashtabula County Transportation Improvement District (ACTID)**

The City Manager gave the committee details about the District. He asked for legislation to authorize Ashtabula City's participation.

**Walnut Beach**

The committee discussed the new roof mentioned during this evening's City Manager's report.

**Questions / Comments for CD/ED/P & R Committee**

**"Take it to the Curb – Clean-up"**

In response to the Ward 3 Councilor's inquiry, the Chair announced the "Take it to the Curb" event had over 25 participants. She said Downtown has and always will have her heart, and it is nice to see so many people help out who deeply care about bettering the City.

**Bike Share / Scooters**

The Vice President told of his visit to Warsaw Indiana, a northern Indiana lake community with lots of lakes on which is bike trails. Because we live on a great lake and have a Western Reserve Greenway Trail that's over 100 miles, it just makes sense to capitalize on it. One program idea is "bike share", the other is "bird scooters". He suggested a private entity look into the viability of a bike trail in Ashtabula City. He asked is it something the City of Ashtabula government needs to begin thinking about in terms of possible designed areas. The bird scooter concept is a little different than bike share and would take separate consideration. He suggested the discussion, with regarding possible designated areas, is referred to committee because both programs would have to be legislated, if not already. The City Manager responded that he would like to do some outreach to see what other communities have the programs and made mention of the Geneva-on-the-Lake bike and golf cart rentals. He would most assuredly get input to determine what legislative action is required. He would definitely get the input of our Police Department. He believes it is a very timely moment to have the discussion because the Metropark trail slated to go through our City is being discussed. He agrees a private entity

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should operate it. The Manager said the biggest difference is our streets are narrow, comparably, and we don't have rideable sidewalks for the scooters. Bike and scooter friendly communities usually also have enacted "share roads". This means sharing roads with bikers and alternative motorized traffic. The concept is part of the discussions regarding the bike trail slated to come through our City. Educating the public on the rights of motorized bike/scooter traffic is essential.

**Roundabouts**

The Manager reminded the Vice President of his comment regarding the benefit of roundabouts. He said last weekend he was in his college home town of Kent, OH, where some of busiest roads "through campus" now have roundabouts. His recall of how traffic was when he attended Kent in the late 90s versus what the traffic is now, leads him to believe the roundabouts have made a big difference. He said, "It was very interesting."

**June Meeting**

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, at 3:30 p.m.

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

The Chair announced the committee is scheduled to meet Friday, June 14, at 8:00 a.m.

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

The Chair announced the committee is tentatively scheduled to meet Friday, June 7, at 8:00 a.m.

**SAFETY FORCES - (SF)** (Speelman/Harley)

The Chair announced the committee would not meet in May, but will meet Monday, June 24, at 8:00 a.m.

**WORK SESSION - None**

**LEGISLATION AGENDA**

- Formal Legislation Request(s)
- Form and Correctness: None
- Overview: The Clerk provided a brief overview of the legislation to be presented.
- Public Discussion (Legislation Only): None

- Consent Agenda Format: Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Quaranta 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. 2019-56, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GREAT LAKES CHRYSLER FOR THE ACQUISITION OF POLICE VEHICLES.  
(City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-57, AN ORDINANCE GRANTING THE LIFT BRIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PERMISSION TO HOLD THE ANNUAL ASHTABULA WINE & WALLEYE FESTIVAL IN THE ASHTABULA HARBOR HISTORIC DISTRICT ON JULY 26 THROUGH 28, 2019, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY OF ASHTABULA. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-58, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH ZAMBELLI FIREWORKS MANUFACTURING COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,500 TO PROVIDE A FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR THE 2019 WINE & WALLEYE FESTIVAL. (City Solicitor)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-59, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF OBSOLETE AND UNNEEDED VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-60, AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE CITY OF ASHTABULA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ASHTABULA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (ACTID). (City Manager)

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Annual Salary – City Manager and City Solicitor**

The President reported some members of Council will be absent from the June 3, Regular Council Meeting where the topic of the annual salary for the elected positions of City Manager and City Solicitor was scheduled for a vote. He asked Council's pleasure regarding the amount of the increase. Mrs. Haines suggested the increase be 5% effective December 1, 2019 and 1.5% every year thereafter. The President reported Council was told the salary for neither position had been increased for at least 10 years; during which time employees have received increases ranging from 1 to 2 percent each year. The President announced Ms. Haines would



like to propose a 5% increase effective December 1, 2019, and a 1.5% increase effective on that day for the following three years. Mr. Pugliese seconded.

### **Discussion**

The Vice President suggested the consideration of a financial direst or distress provision in case “the City’s going off the rails” and the Manager, at that time, does not take a volunteer pay reduction, as the sitting Manager, Solicitor and some department heads have done.

The Vice President said because we are the only one in the nation who elects its City Manager, is there any incentive compensation, over and above that for a City Managerial position that may be offered. In other words, rather than an initial percentage raise and a prescribed percentage thereafter, is there an incentive component where variables could be considered, such as, a balanced budget, or surplus fund, which those in said positions could receive in addition to... He said it is not present in a Mayoral form of government, but that it could be possible in an appointed City Manager form of government. The President suggested because the position is elected the freedom does not exist like it does in places where the position is an appointment.

The Ward 3 Councilor pointed out the benefits the City of Ashtabula gets in a City Manager who is only paid \$80,000, annually. He urged his colleagues to consider the Manager’s salary in relationship to what he does and how the same caliber of office holder may not be secured, down the road, if the salary is not commensurate with the responsibilities. He said to hire a professional city manager will cost well a minimum of \$100,000.

The Vice President said comparing an elected city manager to one that is appointed is like it is really “apples and watermelons”.

It was noted that our elected City Manager’s salary is not much more than the hired City Manager in the City of Conneaut; and that in larger cities it is much more – but that it is all relative to the specifics of the area, in which, a City Manager serves.

The President said once union contracts are approved, raises are given, even if the City is in the red. He asked the City Solicitor if the City has any way to go to the unions to ask them to forego a scheduled increase. The Solicitor said it has been tried and the universal answer has been no.

The City Solicitor said the general rule for elected officials whose salaries are set by a legislative body, as he and the Manager are, is that during the term of office the compensation may not be decreased; but it can be increased. The ideal is once the electorate has spoken and someone is in the positions of Manager and Solicitor, the legislative body may not starve people out of the positions by cutting their salaries.

The City Solicitor said, in the spirit of full disclosure, the Ashtabula City Solicitor receives an annual stipend of \$7,500 from Ashtabula County for the prosecution of cases in municipal court. Currently the City Solicitor’s annual pay is about \$84,100, which is more than the City Manager receives. The Solicitor said, “I am satisfied with my compensation at its current level.

And, I would be satisfied with having it kept at that for the next four years. While he has no opposition in this November election, it cannot be said that he is going to be the City Solicitor for the next four years.” He reiterated the President’s sentiments that “you have to think about the position and not about the person.”

The Ward 2 Councilor said while the legislative body may not decrease the salary of the City Manager and City Solicitor during a term, the persons sitting in those seats may voluntarily decrease their salaries.

Call of the Question: The President announced Ms. Hainès moved, for a 5% increase for the two positions (City Manager and City Solicitor) and a 1.5% increase for the following three years. The Ward 4 Councilor reported a 2% increase for the following three years was also discussed. The President asked that legislation to permit City Council to cast their vote. The motion CARRIED.

### **The Ward 1 Councilor**

- **Clerk of Council Retiring – Accepting Resumes**

Serving as the Chair of the Clerk of Council Search Committee announced the sitting Clerk of Council is retiring, the committee is advertising for a new Clerk, and the call for resumes will appear in the Star Beacon newspaper tomorrow.

- **Commendation - St. John High School Students**

The students who, on Saturday, provided community service by helping about 80 people clean up their yards were commended.

The President echoed the Ward 1 Councilor’s sentiments by commending “Project Grow” students. He said the Ward 1 Councilor was involved and the mass is his favorite of the year and that the music is great.

The Ward 5 Councilor reported the students hand washed all the Main Avenue flower pots.

- **Ashtabula Music World’s Loss**

Last week the Ashtabula music world loss a very good person due to the passing of Mr. Francis Montenegro. He was responsible for the Kent State University at Ashtabula’s outdoor concert series. Condolences were offered to the family.

- **Wine and Walleye Festival Volunteers**

Volunteers may sign-up on line.

- **Graduates**

Congratulations to all high school and college graduates; good work and good luck in the future.

**Amendment – City Council Rules of Order**

Mr. Speelman moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to adopt the following new Council Rule:

**Rule 3(a) – Drug Free Safety Program (DFSP)**

Ashtabula City Council members are expected and required to follow the City of Ashtabula's Drug Free Safety Program (DFSP), including submitting to screening for alcohol, illegal drugs or drugs of abuse, and seeking counseling/treatment in the event there is a positive test as defined by the DFSP. In the event of a deliberate violation of the DFSP by a Councilor, the remaining Councilors may vote to expel the violator from meetings and deliberations, as a Council member, until the violator comes into compliance. No vote of expulsion shall be effective until after the alleged violator has been given notice of the allegations against him/her and an opportunity to be heard on the allegations. No vote of expulsion shall be effective unless two-thirds (2/3) of all the members of Council concur.

The President said, "From the very beginning I haven't been comfortable with the origins of this whole ordeal. And, I think there's a reason, like I mentioned earlier, that hardly any communities have such a vehicle in their legislation."

The Ward 4 Councilor said, "Really we wanted to do this so it didn't end up... and this has been over a year we've been trying to do this... so, if we had someone that failed a drug, that sat in this chair and refused to resign (it's not Quaranta, it's Holman) – he refused to resign; we had no way of holding him accountable for his failed drug test. This gives us an opportunity to do that. And, it's not kicking him off the Council; we can't vote someone off the Council. It just bars them from the meeting until they are in compliance with the Drug Free Safety Program for the City. That's all it does."

The President called for the vote to amend the Council Rules; motion CARRIED.

**Tell Us Something We Don't Know**

Ward 4 Councilor

- Monday is Memorial Day. It is not about mattresses and car sales. It is about people who died in the service of this Nation. It is not for veterans who are living, but for those who died. He said, "Remember the reason we have Memorial Day."

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

**Mrs. Wanda Rose** (said her late Joseph Rose served as Ward 1 Councilor for 28 years). She addressed the sitting Ward 1 Councilor by asking:

- If the Councilor has driven through Ward 1, from Walnut Boulevard to West 9<sup>th</sup> Street (said her late husband drove through these areas three times a week);

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- What the Councilor has seen, because the way everything looks is deplorable, and
- If the Councilor has made reports.

The Councilor responded:

- She regularly rides through Ward 1
- She has made reports on high grass and houses and has people call her all the time
- She regularly makes reports, and
- She is aware of the condition of the roads and housing.

### 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.

### Reconvene Public Portion

The President announced the public portion of the meeting reconvened.

### ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

June 3, 2019

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics  
John S. Roskovics  
President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

LaVette E. Hennigan  
LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC  
Clerk of Council

#1 : Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_ANDRE\_\_\_\_\_

Good evening Ashtabula City Council. We are Kids for Positive Change 4th grade students from St. John School and Superior and Erie Intermediate School.

Tonight we will present facts about single use plastic bags, single-use plastics and share sustainable alternatives!

Single use plastic bags are harming animals, people and the planet.

Single use means the bag, bottle, container or utensil is used one time and thrown away.

Single use plastic bags and single use plastics, like straws, bottles, cups and containers are clogging landfills and waterways.

#2: Hello my name is ALLYSON

Human exposure to the chemicals in plastic can lead to cancers, birth defects, endocrine disruption and impaired immunity in humans.

Every minute 1 million plastic bags are used

The United States goes through over 38 billion single use plastic bags each year.

Single use plastic pollution is no longer a problem. It is a crisis.

**St. John: POLLUTION SOLUTION- video- L**

#3: Hello my name is JAYDON

Plastic production is forecast to double by 2040, and may account for 20 percent of the world's oil production by 2050.

Plastic bags do not break down and are not biodegradable. Studies show plastic bags and other single use plastics can last 500 years or more!

#4: Hello my name is REAGAN

Plastic bags, made of polyethylene, can be recycled BUT plastic bags are among the least recycled plastic products. In the United States, few sorting facilities accept them, because they jam machinery because they are so flimsy.

#5: Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_CLARA\_\_\_\_\_

Plastic bags are one of the top five items found in beach and river cleanups. Plastic bags sit in landfills. Plastic bags are use instead of wood to make cooking fires in some lower and middle income countries.

As a result, the toxic chemicals, in plastic bags, are harming the environment, wildlife and people by polluting the water, soil and air.

The 2019 report titled, **No Time to Waste**, by charities Tearfund, Fauna & Flora International and WasteAid, warns of a growing public health emergency, link to plastic.

There are many places in the world with no trash collection. Plastic trash, especially plastic bags, end up discarded in the environment and blocking waterways and drains. This leads to flooding and toxic chemicals in the water. In countries with poor sanitation flooding leads to outbreaks of cholera and other diseases.

**ST. JOHN LIFESAVERS - V**

**ST. JOHN TEAM OCEAN LIFE- V**

#6: Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_OPEN\_\_\_\_\_

When plastic bags are burned it releases toxic fumes into the air.

The World Health Organization estimates that air pollution is responsible for 3.7 million premature deaths a year.

#7: Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_OPEN\_\_\_\_\_

Plastic bags are also consumed whole by sea turtles, dolphins and whales.

In 2019, plastic bags and other plastic trash were responsible for the death of a sperm whale found with over 48 pounds of plastic trash in her stomach. She was pregnant.

Three other dead whales have been reported between 2018 and 2019 with 13 to 88 pounds of plastic, many of which were plastic bags, in their stomachs.

In Africa, endangered elephants are victims of plastic bags!

**ST. JOHN NO BAGS LEFT BEHIND - L**

**ST. JOHN JACOB VIDEO- Video- L**

**ST. JOHN MARINE LIFE STARS- V**



#8: Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_ SADIE \_\_\_\_\_

So far, we have presented a lot of bad news. The good news is there are solutions to the single use plastic bag crisis!

**Four main solutions to the plastic bag crisis are:**

#1 Use biodegradable bags made from bioplastics, plastics made from renewable biomass sources, such as vegetable fats and oils, corn starch, straw, woodchips, food waste.

#2 Reuse and then recycle plastic bags

#3 Ban single use plastic bags

#4 Use reusable bags

**ST JOHN SOLUTION to the POLLUTION - video- L**

SADIE: Solution: #1: Use Biodegradable Bags made from Bioplastics

A first-of-its-kind study published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, documented the deterioration of five types of biodegradable shopping bags that were immersed in water, buried in soil, or exposed to outdoor air as if litter. The study concluded that none of the bags deteriorated enough to use them over conventional bags.

#9: Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_OPEN\_\_\_\_\_

### Solution #2 Reuse and then recycle plastic bags

The United States only recycles 8-9% of its plastic. And, recycling is expensive.

The bag industry is trying to improve recycling through legislation.

The bag industry has invested in bins to place at store entrances to encourage shoppers to drop off used bags that can be remade into new ones. BUT, getting shoppers to recycle and drop off used bags is not that easy. Stores need to have their cashiers tell shoppers to bring their bags back.

#10: Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_MALIA\_\_\_\_\_

### Solution #3 Ban single use plastic bags

The country of Denmark passed the world's first bag tax in 1993. Denmark residents use an average four plastic bags per year.

In the United States, Americans use almost one bag per person daily.

In 2019, United Nations counted 127 nations that have banned or taxed plastic bags.

The European Union took steps to ban plastic bags and in United States, New York became the second state, after California, to ban plastic bags. Hawaii has a defacto statewide bag ban because every county banned them. And a minimum of 95 bills relating to bags were introduced in state legislative sessions this winter, more than any other year.

#11: Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_MICHELLE\_\_\_\_\_

Bag bans have started bans of other plastic products, including plates, cups, cutlery, straws and bottles, as part of an expanding effort to reduce single-use plastics.

The state of Maine just passed the first U.S. ban on foam food packaging.

New York City just opened a plastic-free grocery store where food is not wrapped or contained in plastic!

#12: Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_LAYLA\_\_\_\_\_

Solution #4 Use reusable bags

A simple and effective solution to the single use plastic bag problem: **Use reusable bags!**

Reusable bags are environmentally friendly and reduce pollution from plastic bags and reduce the pressure to recycle. You can use well-made reusable bags for years!

There are reusable bags made from environmentally friendly materials, so they don't harm humans! Some reusable bags are made from use plastic water bottles!

You can also make reusable bags from an old t-shirt.

**T-SHIRT DEMONSTRATION by AACCS students**

#13: Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_ OPEN \_\_\_\_\_

As Kids for Positive Change we continue to work with local businesses to raise awareness about single use plastic bag pollution and other single use plastics.

Currently, we are working on raising community awareness about single use plastic bags by making flyers and giving them to shoppers outside businesses and grocery stores that use plastic bags. We are also giving away and selling reusable bags!

**ST. JOHN MARINE TEAM - flyers- L**

**ST. JOHN THE PLASTIC POLICE - bag box and reusable bags- V**

#14: Hello my name is \_\_\_\_\_CONNER\_\_\_\_\_

City Council, we would like to work with you toward a resolution to ban plastic bags in the city of Ashtabula.

We understand we first we need to continue to raise community awareness!

We would like to begin by writing a joint letter, to businesses and stores, about single use plastic bags to raise awareness and list the 4 solutions presented tonight.

We are also open to thoughts and suggestions!

We ask everyone in this room and everyone watching to please make conscious choices! Please recycle, reuse and use reusable alternatives like reusable bags!

City Council members and staff and City Manager and City Council President, we'd like to gift you with a reusable bag! Please use it and share your knowledge!

**#15. ALL KIDS**

Together, we are taking positive action for the planet! The time is now.

The choices we make today, will determine our future and the future of generations to come!

Together, let's continue to create positive change for Ashtabula and the planet!

We are Kids for Positive Change! If we can take positive action, so can you!

Thank you!

**References:**

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Ban:

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Biodegradable Bags:

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Plastic Kills:

[https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/plastics-killing-million-people-year-warns-sir-david-attenborough/Biodegradable Bags:](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/plastics-killing-million-people-year-warns-sir-david-attenborough/Biodegradable%20Bags:)

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/biodegradable-shopping-bags-buried-for-three-years-dont-degrade/>

Maine Foam Container Ban:

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Plastic Free Grocery Stores:

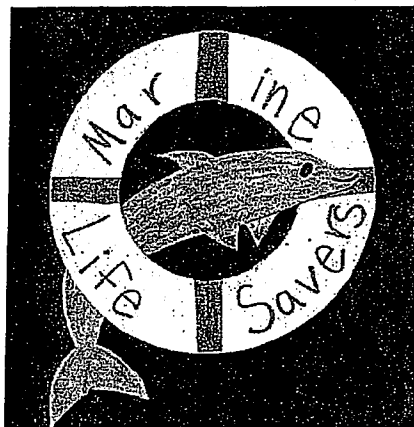
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/plastic-free-supermarket-grocery-shopping/>

**FACTS:**

Single use plastic bags became popular after World War II. By the end of the 1980s grocery store in the United States switched from paper to plastic.

"The UN estimates that between one and five trillion bags are produced worldwide every year. That translates into two million bags used per minute, according to the Earth Policy Institute."

5/20/19



The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are focusing on reducing single use plastic bags by selling reusable bags. In a year, one trillion plastic bags are used. The plastic bags are killing marine life everyday.

Each bag costs \$2.00 and will be delivered during your child's homeroom. Please send money and order form back with you child before Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

We can accept cash or checks only (checks made out to Saint John School).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

How many bags do you want: \_\_\_\_\_

**The sea turtles & dolphins thank you for your support!!**