

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 3, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Calvin C. Crawford (Ward 2 Councilor)
Ms. Octavia V. Harris (Ward 4 Councilor)
Ms. Jane E. Haines (Ward 5 Councilor)
Mrs. Kym A. Foglio (Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. John S. Roskovics (President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Ms. Laydean Young (Ward 3 Councilor)
Mr. Michael D. Speelman (Vice President)

OFFICER(S) PRESENT: Ms. Traci R. Welch (Director of Finance)
Mr. James M. Timonere (City Manager)
Mrs. Stacy H. Senskey (Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: Mr. Michael Franklin (City Solicitor)

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S): Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Haines seconded to excuse the Ward 3 Councilor from this meeting; motion CARRIED. Ms. Harris moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to excuse the Vice President from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

PRESENTATIONS:

Ashtabula City Health Commissioner, Christine Hill – COVID-19 Update

Ms. Hill reported Ashtabula County remains yellow or level one on Ohio's public health advisory system. Yellow means active exposure and spread. The color system map is updated once each week. Ashtabula County has had 539 positive cases, 88 hospitalizations, and 45 deaths. The City has had 94 positive cases and 9 probable positives, for a total of 103. Nobody is currently hospitalized, but 5 people passed away. The City Health Department issued 345 orders of quarantine and released 71 people from isolation.

Case counts are steadily increasing and trending toward a younger demographic and seen state-wide. There is a misconception about testing if you've been exposed to COVID-19. Test is just one sample of time. An exposed person MUST quarantine for 14 days to watch for symptoms and reduce the risk of transmission. The Health Department continues to work closely with businesses and is now educating them about return to work criteria. Patients testing positive can re-swab positive for weeks, so based the return to work on time and symptom improvement is a better tool than testing. Recent public health orders required wearing face coverings for the State of Ohio. Masking does help prevent the spread. Another order was signed and includes guidance for contact sports and a new order for school systems is coming soon. On Friday, July 31st, an executive order to put an emergency rule in effect to stop the spread of COVID-19. Alcohol sales are prohibited after 10p and on premises consumption is prohibited between 11p and 530a. Ohio Liquor Control Commission agents performed compliance checks over the weekend and will continue.

The Health Department is also helping superintendents of the local school systems with their school restart plans. This work is ongoing. Ms. Hill's is continuing to stress respiratory etiquette and washing hands helps stop the spread. The City Manager asks citizens to be mindful of interactions with others to make contact tracing easier for the staff of the Health Department. Contact tracing is time intensive work for the five employees. CARES Act funding may be used to hire temporary help to assist the Health Department with contract tracing if the numbers continue to increase.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES:

The Council President presented the minutes from the following meeting:

- July 20, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Roskovics 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 authorize the vacation of property of an unconstructed street, located west of Harbor Avenue extending north from East 21st St. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager requested an ordinance to authorize the vacation of property of an alleyway located at Progress Place for use by an adjoining real property owner. Ms. Haines moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Jack Doheny Companies, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio for materials and services to repair the Public Works Street Sweeper in the amount not to exceed \$11,036.45. Payment for this service will be taken from fund 412. Mr. Crawford moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Sidley Truck and Equipment of Thompson, Ohio for materials and services to repair the Sanitation Mack Garbage truck in the amount not to exceed \$16,428.28. Payment for this service will be taken from fund 225. Mr. Crawford moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager requested an ordinance to approve a CRA for permanent parcel 05-0220006300, 4135 State Road. The abatement would be for 10 years at 50%. Demolition of the wood frame of the building, renovations to the existing brick portion of the building to create a Drive Through Carry Out Store. The project is expected to create one full time and two to three part time jobs upon completion. Ms. Haines moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve the request; motion CARRIED. **Discussion:** 4135 State Road is the former Moses Building.

Questions/Comments

The Ward 5 Councilor reported a dumping problem at the Goodwill property. The City Manager recalls there is a \$500 fine for dumping and possible jail time. To assist the City to keep areas clean, he suggests taking video or a picture of the dumping and a license plate or call the City immediately.

A resident called the Ward 5 Councilor about a tree stump in the treelawn. The City Manager explained the company who removed the tree would also remove the stump. There is not a program to replant trees in the treelawn. A resident should call the City if desiring to plant a tree in the treelawn.

The Ward 5 Councilor read an email from a resident about an ongoing problem of speeding on West 58th Street. The City Manager explained anywhere a speed limit sign is not posted within the municipality, the speed is 35 MPH but will request patrol in the area and determine if signs are needed. The Ward 5 Councilor suggested the issue be on the agenda for the next Safety Forces Committee meeting.

The Ward 1 Councilor wanted to give kudos to the Ashtabula Police Department for ticketing speeders on Bridge Street but is also concerned about jaywalking. The City Manager agreed

jaywalking is a problem which may result in a ticket. Another problem is motorists not stopping at crosswalks for pedestrians, which is a state law. He is looking for signage to bring attention to crosswalks.

CITY SOLICITOR: None

FINANCE DIRECTOR:

By shifting the Health Department salaries and half of the Fire Department salaries out of the general fund and instead paid with CARES Act funds through the end of the year, the Finance Director reported the finances are close to the amended budget projections. All employees laid off or furloughed have been restored to their former positions because of this change. She will have another amended budget prepared before the next Council meeting.

Questions/Comments

The President of Council expressed gratitude for jobs being restored.

CLERK OF COUNCIL:

The Clerk of Council reported the Ashtabula City property condition surveys started last week. The Ashtabula County Land Bank asked for volunteers to walk the streets while taking pictures of all 11,000 parcels in the City. Persons assisting the Land Bank wear neon safety vests, have a landbank button, and are carrying an iPad for the visual inspections. They do not enter homes or set foot on private property. City and County departments will be able to use the information collected to improve neighborhoods and obtain grants. Contact Eddy Eckart for more information at 440-576-1450 or landbank@ashtabulacounty.us.

She attended a virtual open house hosted by BrightView Health, an outpatient addiction treatment facility that opened in April. A few highlights from the “visit” include:

- Brightview takes any and all insurance and also help those with no insurance.
- Clients will see a physician the same day they call.
- Walk ins are welcome until 3p Monday – Friday and someone will answer the phone 24/7.
- They have Medical Assistant Treatment (MAT).
- They can help with transportation on day one and two of appointments.

Beth Brown is the Community Outreach Manager here in Ashtabula and she can be reached by calling 440-812-4628 or emailing be.brown@brightviewhealth.com

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation

The Committee Chair, Ms. Haines made a formal request by way of a motion to present to full Council a resolution of appreciation for Wisdom Davis, who organized a peaceful protest in Ashtabula. Ms. Haines moved; Ms. Harris seconded the motion CARRIED by a four to one voice vote, and the resolution was added to the legislative agenda. The next meeting is August 11, 2020

at 4p. The featured guest speaker is Ashtabula County Medical Center, Chief Executive Officer, Michael J. Habowski.

Finance & Personnel

The next scheduled meeting is August 21, 2020 at 8a, but the Finance Director requested it be changed to August 14 as she will be unable to attend the August 21 meeting.

Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools

The next meeting is August 24, 2020 at 5p. The City Manager wants to discuss changing streetlighting to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) at the meeting.

Safety Forces

The next meeting is August 24, 2020 at 8a. The featured guest speaker is Beth Brown, Outreach Manager for BrightView Addiction Treatment Center.

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- Formal Legislation Request(s): no additional requests
- Form and Correctness – met per City Solicitor
- Legislation Overview –
The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda.
- Public Discussion (on legislation only) – None
Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda: Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to dispose of Ordinance Nos. 2020-64 through 2020-67 by consent agenda; motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-64 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JACK DOHENY COMPANIES, INC., FOR STREET SWEEPER REPAIRS (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-65 AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE CITY'S INTEREST IN A PORTION OF PROGRESS PLACE (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-66 AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE CITY'S INTEREST IN A PORTION OF AN UNCONSTRUCTED STREET LOCATED WEST OF HARBOR AVENUE AND EXTENDING NORTH APPROXIMATELY 155 FEET FROM EAST 21ST STREET UPON CERTAIN CONDITIONS (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-67 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SIDLEY TRUCK AND EQUIPMENT, FOR TRUCK REPAIRS (City Manager)
Ms. Haines moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED.

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

Mr. Roskovics moved; Mr. Crawford seconded to approve Ordinance 2020-58. On the roll call to adopt the legislation: Mr. Crawford, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-63 A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO WISDOM DAVIS
(Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee)

Ms. Harris moved; Ms. Haines seconded to request the Clerk of Council to present the resolution.

Mr. Roskovics moved to waive the reading of the legislation; motion CARRIED.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Tell Us Something We Don't Know:

- The Ward 5 Councilor gave kudos to the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association (ADDA) for holding a clean-up day on South Main Avenue last Saturday.
- The City Manager revealed he and the Clerk of Council are revamping the City's website.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters):

The Clerk of Council read an email from the Vice-President of Council, which is attached.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

DATE APPROVED:

August 17, 2020

ATTESTED BY:

John S. Roskovics
John S. Roskovics, President of Council

ATTESTED BY:

Stacy H. Senskey
Stacy H. Senskey, Clerk of Council