

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 18th, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The President of Council called the virtual meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., the Ward 4 Councilor offered the opening prayer and the Clerk of Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the recent passing of Mrs. Joanne Fowler, the mother of our Ashtabula City Health Commissioner Christine Hill. Ms. Hill stated her mother died from Covid-19. She likened the virus to being at war and said her mother would want her to stay committed to fighting the virus and helping her community while this health crisis continues. Ms. Hill thanked Council and others for kindnesses shown. The Council President expressed his sympathy on behalf of Council.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Laydean Young (Ward 3 Councilor)
Ms. Octavia V. Harris (Ward 4 Councilor)
Ms. Jane E. Haines (Ward 5 Councilor)
Mrs. Kym A. Foglio (Ward 1 Councilor)
Mr. Calvin C. Crawford (Ward 2 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)
Ms. Traci R. Welch (Director of Finance)
Mrs. Stacy H. Senskey (Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT: None

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Due to the current stay-at-home order imposed by Governor DeWine, the Council President announced the Council Rules of Order may be temporarily suspended at any meeting of the City Council. Mr. Roskovics moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to suspend the Council Rules of Order for the duration of the meeting. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

PRESENTATION:

Health Commissioner of Ashtabula City Health Department, Christine Hill shared current City Health Department actions regarding the COVID-19 situation. She reported the State of Ohio has a total of 26,646 confirmed cases, 4,998 are hospitalized and 1,504 have died. In Ashtabula County, there are 232 confirmed cases, 42 are hospitalized and 26 have died. Over half of the Ashtabula County's positive cases are related to outbreaks within congregate settings. In Ashtabula City, there are 36 positive cases, five probable cases, two hospitalized, and two deaths. The City Health Department has managed 124 people in quarantine to date and released 21 people from isolation because their symptoms resolved.

The Nursing Division remains busy with the clinical management of Covid-19 cases within the City. They received updated guidance from the Ohio Department of Health on strategies for releasing people from isolation. People will remain in isolation for at least ten days and must exhibit three days without fever or symptoms. The length of quarantine remains fourteen days. Testing in Ohio is still fairly restricted, but now available to people having surgical procedures at the hospital. Antibody testing is still limited but ongoing. The Nursing Division continues to receive PPE. They are working closely with the hospital systems and long-term health facilities to assist with their Covid-19 response plans.

The Environmental Health Division is on top of Governor DeWine's Responsible Restart Ohio initiative. An aggressive schedule to responsibly re-open our businesses is as follows:

May 15th

- Restaurants and bars for outdoor dining
- Personal care services such as hair salons, barbershops, nail salons, and tanning facilities
- Tattoo and body piercing services
- Retail stores

May 21st

- Restaurants and bars for dine-in service
- Campgrounds

May 26th

- Gyms and fitness centers
- Pools
- Adult and youth sports leagues – non contact
- Bureau of Motor Vehicles – limited services

May 31st

- Childcare providers

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The role of the Environmental Health Division is to assist the City's businesses with guidance on their Covid-19 re-opening plans. They are available for physical inspections of businesses and in-person or phone discussions. Ms. Hill commended her staff on their tireless dedication.

Questions:

The Council President asked if the City has a vehicle to monitor the restaurants and bars. Ms. Hill said Ashtabula had a quiet opening over the weekend due to the weather. All licensed facilities have submitted their Covid-19 plans. The Health Department has reviewed the plans and can refer to them when an adverse situation arises. Normal inspections will continue, and the other City departments are assisting when needed.

The Council Vice President asked about local recovery and demographics details. The Health departments meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays to share such information though Ms. Hill suggested perhaps 70 in Ashtabula County, 21 in the City of Ashtabula, and 6 or 7 in the City of Conneaut have recovered from the virus. The ages of COVID-19 cases vary from early teens to the elderly; the worst symptoms are occurring in people 65 and older. People with underlying health issues remain at risk. He asked about his particular business and Ms. Hill invited him to discuss it further privately because there are many variables to his particular business.

The Ward 4 Councilor stated many people in the community remain unsure about wearing masks. Ms. Hill explained the masks keep your droplets from spreading. Certain people cannot tolerate a mask and should not wear one. In the event social distancing cannot happen, the masks are the next best layer of protection. There are many styles available and it is important to try several to find the most comfortable.

The Council President thanked Ms. Hill and the entire Health Department for all they are doing.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA

PRESENTATION OF MEETING MINUTES:

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

- May 4, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Young seconded to waive the reading of the minutes. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER:

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Sidley Truck Group with a mailing address of 7123 Madison Road, Thompson, OH 44087 for the material and services for the repair of a 2012 Mack Truck utilized in our Sanitation Department in the amount of \$10,089.17. The cost for this repair will be taken from fund 225. Mr. Crawford

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moved; Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve the City Manager's request. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED

The City Manager formally requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Koski Construction Company Inc. with a mailing address of P.O. Box 1038, Ashtabula, OH 44004 for materials and services for the 2020 Street Paving Project in the amount not to exceed \$333,232.00. The cost of this project will be taken from fund 212. Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to approve the City Manager's request. Discussion: The 2020 project quote is based on the funds the City collected from the first half property tax this year. The 2021 project quote will include the second half property tax collection from this year and the first half property tax collection in 2021. The paving projects will cycle in this manner so that the projects are based on the funds collected and in the City's coffers. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager explained highlights of amended budget the Finance Director plans to request. They are estimating a \$987,965.00 reduction in general fund revenue comprised of 15% reduction in local income tax, 10% reduction in property tax, 15% reduction of local government fund, EMS reduction of \$90,000.00, 20% court revenue reduction, 25% reduction in gas tax. The City Manager commended the department heads for adjusting their expenses, but it is nevertheless necessary to layoff three employees from the Fire Department and one employee from Planning & Community Development Department. Furloughs in the Police Department, Lands and Buildings Department, City Manager's Office and Motor Maintenance Department mean those employees work a 40 hour week but get compensated for between 36 and 38 hours. The City Manager is closely watching Ohio Senate Bill 310 which if passed, will provide money to local governments. It deals with the funds received from the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Currently the federal guidelines are quite strict, and Ohio lawmakers are hopeful they will be eased to better serve local governments.

The Council Vice President asked if any employees chose a voluntary layoff. The City Manager explained a laid off employee is not covered under health insurance. Additionally, the City self-insures the unemployment account. The City Manager reiterated his praise for the Finance Director and the other department heads and for brainstorming creative ideas and working together to make the best of a bad situation. If money comes in any type of relief, he will eliminate the furloughs and bring employees back to work as quickly as possible. He is concerned they are not calculating enough of a loss, especially on income tax. The Council Vice President offered his pay to help bring a job back to the City.

CITY SOLICITOR: none

FINANCE DIRECTOR:

The Finance Director started by thanking the departments and the City Manager for all the help and support on the budget by saying, "Many minds are much better than just one."

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The Finance Director formally requested a resolution declaring it necessary to renew an existing three-tenths (0.3) mill tax levy and requesting the Ashtabula county auditor to certify the total current tax valuation of the city of Ashtabula, Ashtabula county, Ohio, and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by such renewal levy. Mrs. Foglio moved; Mr. Roskovics seconded to approve the Finance Director's request. Discussion: The administration of the senior service center asked for the renewal. This ordinance asks the County Auditor to certify the funds, then the levy will be put on the ballot. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

The Finance Director formally requested an ordinance to amend budget appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the city of Ashtabula, Ohio from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020 due to the covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Crawford moved; Ms. Young seconded to approve the Finance Director's request. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

CLERK OF COUNCIL:

The Clerk of Council discussed Ashtabula Local Food. They are group helping people learn about gardening and community gardens. The group's website, www.ashtabulalocalfood.org, has a local food guide which notifies the public of farm markets in the area. They are offering weekly webinars, if you attend two from the series, you can receive some free gardening supplies.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

- **Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation**
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4p
Ms. Haines, Chair said the committee may have a meeting in June.
- **Finance & Personnel**
Meetings: 2nd Friday of each month at 8a
Mrs. Foglio, Chair wants to have a short meeting to discuss moving the meeting date to the third Friday of each month
- **Public Works/Public Utilities/Cable/Schools**
Meetings: 4th Monday of each month at 5p
Mr. Crawford, Chair wants to have a meeting on June 22. He thanked the City Manager for getting the paving project underway.
- **Safety Forces**
Meetings: 4th Monday of each month at 8a
Mr. Speelman, Chair plans to meet on June 22.

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- Formal Legislation Request(s): None

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- Form and Correctness
- Legislation Overview
The Council President provided a brief overview of the Legislation Agenda, consisting of Ordinance No. 2020-43, Resolution No. 2020-44, Ordinance Nos. 2020-45, 2020-46, and 2020-47
- Public Discussion (on legislation only) – Mr. Shawn Neece from Renew Partners LLC spoke in regard to Ordinance No. 2020-43. His company successfully bid to purchase real property at the corner of Park Avenue and West 44th Street. He stated this extra parcel allows them to create a larger landscape border area on the Carlisle’s building project. The Carlisle building project includes the Masonic Temple Building and Mr. Neece anticipates creating more than 100 units. The parking lot will be able to accommodate the suites. He also announced the group plans to ask for a portion of the Progress Place alley to be vacated to allow for additional greenspace. They have started on the Castle Block building project.
- Request Legislation Presentation by Consent Agenda
Mrs. Foglio moved; Ms. Harris seconded to present the legislation as a consent agenda. On the roll call: Ms. Young, Ms. Harris, Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Speelman, Mr. Roskovics voted yea; motion CARRIED.

LEGISLATION READING

The Clerk of Council presented the following legislation:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-43 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY AT THE CORNER OF PARK AVENUE AND WEST 44TH STREET (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-44 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH KOSKI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$333,232 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAVING CITY STREETS (City Manager)

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-45 A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW AN EXISTING THREE-TENTHS (0.3) MILL TAX LEVY AND REQUESTING THE ASHTABULA COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO, AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY SUCH RENEWAL LEVY (Finance Director)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-46 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SIDLEY TRUCK GROUP FOR SANITATION TRUCK REPAIRS (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-47 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO FROM JANUARY 1, 2020, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC (Finance Director)

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

TELL US SOMETHING WE DON'T KNOW

- The Ward 2 Councilor said in an effort to get life back to normal the Ashtabula Little League reopened registration for the 2020 baseball/softball season. There is more information on the League's Facebook Page.
- The Council Vice President advised it is important to encourage the teen youth population to be active in positive ways. Monday, May 25th is Memorial Day and is a day to remember and honor those who fought in service of our country.
- The Ward 1 Councilor revealed many lunches offered by the schools through the school busses are not being picked up and not getting to the children. She encourages adults and parents to assist bus drivers to deliver the lunches to children in need.
- The City Manager revealed the Sanitation Transfer Station will now be open daily Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The recycling bins will likely be moved inside the yard, due to past misuse. He is working with other tenants of the Municipal Building to determine a date for reopening the building to the public.

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 8:00 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: June 1, 2020

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

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