

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 3, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., the Ward 2 Councilor offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OATH OF OFFICE

Clerk of Council LaVette Hennigan administered the Oath of Office to Newly Appointed Clerk of Council Stacy Helene Senskey. During the ceremony, Stacy's husband Gregory Senskey and her mom Cheryl Petro accompanied her, while her friend Lisa Richmond held the bible. Stacy said, "Thank you all for the opportunity to be the Clerk of Council. I'm very excited. Thank you, Dawn, for coming and passing on that baton to the City and I'm looking forward to it."

(NOTE: Ashtabula County Treasurer, Dawn Cragon is Stacey's former employer.)

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Ms. Jane E. Haines	(Ward 5 Councilor)
	Mrs. Kym A. Foglio	(Ward 1 Councilor)
	Mr. August A. Pugliese	(Ward 2 Councilor)
	Mr. Richard A. Quaranta	(Ward 3 Councilor)
	Mr. Christopher J. McClure	(Vice President)
	Mr. John S. Roskovics	(President)

MEMBER(S) ABSENT:	Mr. Michael D. Speelman	(Ward 4 Councilor)
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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)
	Mrs. Stacy H. Senskey	(Clerk of Council)

(NOTE: Clerk Hennigan will remain on staff to provide instructions to Clerk Senskey on the duties and responsibilities of the Office of the Clerk of Council.)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT:	None
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EXCUSED ABSENCE(S):	<u>Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to excuse the Ward 4 Councilor from this meeting; motion CARRIED.</u>
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SUNSHINE LAW:	Clerk of Council Hennigan certified conformity to the Ohio Sunshine Law.
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PRESENTATION(S)

Mr. Larry Frimerman, Executive Director of the Ashtabula County Metroparks, provided an extensive update/overview the parks, distributed brochures and touched on several points, some of which were:

- This is his 3rd year with the Metroparks
- 2019 marks the 60th Anniversary of Ashtabula County Metroparks; founded in 1959 by the Ohio Legislature; Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1545 governs the county-wide metroparks system
- Up until 2014, a few local government funds dollars and some grants were received, along with a lot of volunteer effort
- After the passage of the very first Metroparks Levy in 2014, there is still an active volunteer core, but now there are also (3) full-time, paid staff members
- Prior to the Metroparks Levy, there were 3 metroparks: Harpersfield Metropark, Western Reserve Greenway Trail (WRGT) and Grand River Covered Bridge – totaling 386 acres and 27 miles of trails
- The 10th park was just opened – 7 since the 2014 passage of the levy; covering 1250 acres and about 45 miles of trails; parking, bathroom, picnic bench and pavilion amenities have been added throughout the parks
- We also had the pleasure/privilege to partner with Ashtabula City on the development of the WRGT's natural termination at Bridge Street and Walnut Beach in Ashtabula Harbor through what has been known for the past 30 years as the North Shore Trail; City Council approved a memorandum of agreement between the Metroparks and itself to work out details of control, maintenance and management of the Trail because the last 4.25 miles of the Trail is primarily over City streets (a much more urban landscape) with the exception of the off-road portion located on Michigan Avenue between West 19th and West 16th Streets; the project is slated for completion at the end of spring 2020
- The Metroparks Levy renewal will appear on the November 2019 general election ballot; and
- A public event is scheduled for Saturday, September 14, at Harpersfield Covered Bridge.

The City Manager elaborated on the 5.25 miles of park area located on the former Country Club Golf Course (currently where Martini's restaurant is located). Through the leadership of Steve Wychock, a local physical therapist, volunteers have mowed the park area. Even though there is a lot of "nature's work to still do; it is absolutely beautiful how the gulf course has grown up and reverted itself back to its natural habitat." He commented on the bird and wild life species and deer and coyote that may be seen at this park. "We can't wait for it to terminate in the City, all the way down where it was intended to." With the Trail ending in the City, we have the opportunity to attract even more people to visit and spend tourist dollars in our community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Solicitor requested an Executive Session, after the General Public Portion of the meeting, to discuss Pending or Imminent Court Action. Mr. McClure moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to convene the Executive Session, as requested. On the roll call to convene the

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Executive Session: Ms. Haines, Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Quaranta, Mr. McClure, Mr. Roskovics voted aye; motion CARRIED. The members of Council and City Manager were asked to attend.

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

Clerk of Council Hennigan presented the following City Council meeting minutes for Council's approval consideration:

- August 19, 2019 Regular Meeting
- August 26, 2019 Special Meeting

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to waive the reading of the minutes; motion CARRIED. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

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 - None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager presented the following:

Reminders

- Trash and recycling pick-up will be delayed by one day due to yesterday's observance of the Labor Day Holiday.
- The week of September 30, curbside yard waste bag pick-up will resume. Pick-up will begin in the Harbor area. The following week pick-up will be in the Wards and alternate each week, thereafter.
- The schedules for trash, recycling and yard waste bag pick-up are on the City's website.

Questions / Comments for City Manager

The Ward 2 Councilor asked to have Aqua Ohio water company give attention to their street cut by the Lake Avenue Rite Aid. Better attention should be given to street cuts on highly travelled roads. The City Manager reported he has spoken with Aqua who hired Koski Construction to

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make all their permanent street cut repairs. Usually when Koski has a group of cuts to repair is when they perform the work. The cut mentioned is about three weeks old, is past its settling time, and he hopes they get on it soon.

CITY SOLICITOR

No Report

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The Director formally requested the following legislation for consideration this evening:

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-107, AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2019-104, ENACTED ON AUGUST 26, 2019, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CORRECTING THE ASHTABULA FIRE DIVISION MATRIX. (Assistant Finance Director)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-108, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT. (Assistant Finance Director)

Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to approve the Finance Director's request; motion CARRIED.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

Clerk of Council Hennigan formally requested the following legislation for consideration this evening:

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-109, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO ACT AS THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL FOR PURPOSES OF REQUIRED PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING. (Clerk of Council / City Council)

Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Quaranta seconded to approve the Clerk of Council's request. Clerk Hennigan reported the last ordinance that was enacted naming the Clerk of Council as the Legislative Division's designee for public records training was in 2013 for years 2014 and 2015. The Clerk asked the Solicitor if the legislation has to be year specific or if it could be in perpetuity. The Solicitor said it can be forever. The motion CARRIED.

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/Quaranta)

The Chair announced the committee will meet Tuesday, September 10, at 4:00 p.m. Their guest will be Ms. Meeghan Humphrey, Executive Director of the Ashtabula Arts Center. The topic of discussion will be how the arts can transform a community.

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

The Chair announced some members of the Finance Department will be in training the day of the regularly scheduled committee meeting. Therefore, the committee will meet Friday, September 20, at 8:00 a.m.

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

The Chair announced the cancellation of the committee's Friday, September 6, meeting.

SAFETY FORCES - (SF) (Speelman/Foglio)

The Vice Chair reported on the committee's Monday, August 26, meeting, as follows:

Crosswalk at Burroughs Court and West 55th Street

The crosswalk has been painted. The Manager and Police Chief Robert Stell went on record to say they are not in favor of the crosswalk because it is not in an intersection and not associated with a traffic light, thereby posing a danger because motorist will not be prompted to slow down.

Washington Avenue (between West 57th and West 58th Streets)

The Manager will make sure the parking prohibition signs are posted as required by Ordinance No. 2019-16.

Crime Enforcement Agency of Ashtabula (CEAA) - County Task Force

Police Chief Stell reported the newly formed CEAA has caused an uptick in activity, including the recent seizure of several marijuana plants. The Chief is happy with the press CEAA has received and with the combined efforts of the County departments involved.

Medical Marijuana Cards and Concealed Carry Permits

The Chair asked if persons issued a Medical Marijuana card could also have a Concealed Carry Permit. The Vice Chair reported, "We are not sure and will have to ask the Sheriff's Department."

The hemp v. marijuana debate continues, as it pertains to arrests, prosecutions, and other matters of the law.

Bike Licenses Required

The Police Chief told the committee a bike license is required for all bikes. They may be purchased for \$5 at the Ashtabula City police station. The Chief said a license helps when searching for a loss bike.

Police and Fire Entrance Test

- 1 application has been received for the police entrance test
- Nationally, there has been a 63% drop in police officer recruitment; and
- The Fire Department received 7 or 8 applications for the fire entrance test.

New Ambulance

Fire Chief Shawn Gruber told the committee the department needs a new ambulance. It will cost about \$200,000 and he is looking at creative purchasing options.

Next Committee Meeting

Monday, September 23, at 8:00 a.m.

LEGISLATION AGENDA

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

Consent Agenda Format

Mr. Quaranta moved, Mr. McClure seconded to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by consent agenda; motion CARRIED.

Reading

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-106, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DESIGN SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PETMIN PLANT RESURFACING PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$79,450. (City Manager)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-107, AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2019-104, ENACTED ON AUGUST 26, 2019, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CORRECTING THE ASHTABULA FIRE DIVISION MATRIX. (Assistant Finance Director)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-108, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT. (Assistant Finance Director)

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-109, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO ACT AS THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL FOR PURPOSES OF REQUIRED PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING. (Clerk of Council)

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

NEW BUSINESS

Liquor Permit Transfer – Ward 4

From: Geetanjali Ashtabula Gas Inc., dba Uni Mart No. 04768, 4000 Park Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

To: Fazal Inc., same dba, company name and address

Hearing no objections, a hearing on the permit request is not required.

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Ward 5 Councilor

- Saturday, September 7, from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., will be the "Art in the Alley" festival, sponsored by Ashtabula Downtown Development Association. There will be 35 artists, lots of children activities, music, sip-n-paint, food trucks and vendors, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) fried fish, art sale and raffle, and Chef Lisa Delgado will make braciolo and provide free tastings.

Ward 1 Councilor

- Congratulations to Miss Sydney Gilbert, Lakeside Sophomore, Cheerleader and Majorette, who, last night, was crowned Miss Ohio Junior Teen in Dayton, Ohio, at the USA National Miss Ohio Pageant.

President

- Reporters from the Erie Magazine spent the day in Ashtabula, from which came a really nice article. He has also seen Ashtabula Harbor on a list of one of the top 10 places to go in Ohio.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters) - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The President announced the Executive Session, as requested by the Solicitor earlier in this meeting, would convene, and that no action will be taken after the session.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned.

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DATE APPROVED: September 16, 2019

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

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