

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 16, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Pastor Christopher McCain of Second Congregational Church offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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:

Mr. Richard A. Quaranta	(Ward 3 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. Stacy H. Senskey	(Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT:

None

EXCUSED ABSENCE(S):

Mr. Roskovics moved, Ms. Haines seconded to excuse the Ward 3 Councilor from this meeting; motion CARRIED.

SUNSHINE LAW:

Clerk of Council Senskey certified conformity to the Ohio Sunshine Law.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council President requested an Executive Session at the conclusion of the public portion of this meeting for the purpose of a conference with the City Manager to discuss the sale of property.

Mrs. Foglio moved, Mr. Crawford seconded to convene an executive session prior to adjourning the public portion of the meeting. On the roll call to convene the executive session as noted: Mrs. Foglio, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Haines, Mr. Speelman, 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: Clerk of Council Senskey presented the December 2, 2019, Regular City Council Meeting minutes. Mr. Speelman moved, Mrs. Foglio 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

Formal Requests

The City Manager requested an ordinance to apply for and execute documents for the FFY2020 Certified Local Government Grant through Ohio History Connection for design guidelines. This will be used for design guidelines for the landmark properties and the historic district. Mr. Speelman moved, Ms. Haines seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

The City Manager requested to appoint Maria Fowler as a member of the Board of Health effective immediately to fill an unexpired term to end on 9/1/21. Mr. Roskovics moved, Ms. Haines seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

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The Council President commented there is talk of the state adding a rest area on the westbound lane of Route 90 in Ashtabula County. He asked if the City could request it be between Routes 11 and 45 for closer proximity to the City of Ashtabula. The City Manager will find out more information.

CITY SOLICITOR - None

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Formal Requests

The Director of Finance requested:

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-137 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, POLICE LEVY, STATE HIGHWAY, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING, AUTO REGISTRATION/PERMISSIVE TAX, LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST, FIRE PENSION, POLICE PENSION, CDBG, HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT, SELF INSURANCE AND JEDD-1 FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019. Mr. Speelman moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-129 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2019-108, ENACTED ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2019, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING A 2% INCREASE FOR ALL CLASSIFICATIONS EXCLUDING MANAGER, SOLICITOR, FINANCE DIRECTOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL (NON-CERTIFIED). Mr. Speelman moved, Mrs. Foglio seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-130 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT. Mrs. Foglio moved, Ms. Haines seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-138 AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2019- 03, ENACTED ON JANUARY 7, 2019, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING THE 2020 SALARY AND WAGES FOR THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT AND THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMENDED MUNICIPAL COURT SALARY AND WAGES JOURNAL ENTRY NOS. 28-18 AND 28-19. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-139 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS. Mr. Roskovics moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

Requests for Friday, December 27th Special Meeting

The Director of Finance requested the Solicitor draft legislation for:

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A NEW FUND (212) "PAVING LEVY" IN ORDER TO ACCOUNT FOR RESOURCES DESIGNATED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF STREETS, ROADS, AND BRIDGES IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA. Mrs. Foglio moved, Mr. Crawford seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO FROM JANUARY 1, 2020, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020. Mrs. Foglio moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to approve this request; motion CARRIED.

Announcements

The Director of Finance announced the last day to pay any sewer & trash bills issued through November 2019 is December 31, 2019, to avoid property tax assessment. Any bills issued in December 2019 and moving forward will be subject to the penalty and assessment process if not paid by due date. The sewer and tax window will be open until noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

CLERK OF COUNCIL - None

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

Council committees meet in the August A. Pugliese Conference Room – M.B. 2nd Floor

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

Members: Chair/Council Liaison to Parks and Recreation Board Haines; Vice Chair Quaranta; Roskovics
Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday @ 4p

- The next meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 4p.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL - (F&P)

Members: Chair Foglio; Vice Chair Roskovics; Quaranta
Meetings are held the 2nd Friday @ 8a

- The Chair reported the Finance & Personnel Committee met Friday, December 13, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. The committee discussed the 2020 budget. Council held a Public Hearing earlier today to present and discuss the budget. The City Council arranged a Special Meeting Friday, December 27th at 8:00 a.m. to vote on the proposed budget and other related legislation. The committee also discussed 2020 payroll that includes 27 pay periods. After hearing options at the work session Thursday, December 12, the committee recommended authorizing a 27th pay in 2020 for non-union, salaried and contractual personnel. Mrs. Foglio moved, Mr. Speelman seconded to request the Solicitor to draft the legislation; motion CARRIED.
- The next meeting is Friday, January 10th, 2020 at 8a, if needed.

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

Members: Chair Crawford; Vice Chair Roskovics; Quaranta

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday @ 5p

- The next meeting is Monday, January 27th, 2020 at 5p.

SAFETY FORCES - (SF) (Speelman/Foglio)

Members: Chair Speelman; Vice Chair Foglio; Haines

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday @ 8a

- The Chair reported the Safety Forces Committee met this morning. The Committee learned that investigations by the Crime Enforcement Agency of Ashtabula County (CEAAC) drug task force continue to be productive. Ashtabula City police officers are wearing body cameras. All officers are now carrying a standardized Glock semi-automatic pistol, purchased using proceeds from the sale of seized weapons. The Fire Department continues the search for a new ambulance. The Fire Chief and City Manager are seeking cooperation from State officials and the Coast Guard to keep the Ashtabula station open for longer than Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- The next meeting is Monday, January 27th at 8a.

LEGISLATION AGENDA

- Formal Legislation Request(s): No additional requests were made.
- Form and Correctness: Satisfied
- Overview: The Council President gave a brief overview of the proposed legislation.
- Public Discussion (Legislation Only): None

Consent Agenda Format

Mr. Speelman moved, Mr. Roskovics seconded to dispose of the Regular Business Legislation by Consent Agenda; motion CARRIED.

Reading

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-129 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2019-108, ENACTED ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2019, FOR THE PURPOSE OF 2% INCREASE FOR ALL CLASSIFICATIONS EXCLUDING MANAGER, SOLICITOR, FINANCE DIRECTOR AND CLERK OF COUNCIL (NON-CERTIFIED) (FINANCE DIRECTOR)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-130 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA AND THE ASHTABULA CITY HEALTH DISTRICT (FINANCE DIRECTOR)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-135 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH PAUL AND MARY ELLEN DOVENOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT RESIDENTIAL PREMISES KNOWN AS 1409 BRIDGE STREET (CITY MANAGER)

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ORDINANCE NO. 2019-136 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH WILLIAM AND CASEY BILLINGTON FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAX ABATEMENT AT 100% FOR 7 YEARS FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT RESIDENTIAL PREMISES KNOWN AS 1411 BRIDGE STREET (CITY MANAGER)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-137 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL, POLICE LEVY, STATE HIGHWAY, PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING, AUTO REGISTRATION/PERMISSIVE TAX, LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST, FIRE PENSION, POLICE PENSION, CDBG, HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT, SELF INSURANCE AND JEDD-1 FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, STATE OF OHIO, FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019. (FINANCE DIRECTOR)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-138 AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2019-03, ENACTED ON JANUARY 7, 2019, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING THE 2020 SALARY AND WAGES FOR THE ASHTABULA MUNICIPAL COURT AND THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMENDED MUNICIPAL COURT SALARY AND WAGES JOURNAL ENTRY NOS. 28-18 AND 28-19 (FINANCE DIRECTOR)

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-139 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE ASHTABULA CITY MUNICIPAL COURT AND PROBATION DIVISIONS. (FINANCE DIRECTOR)

The City Council discussed removing 2019-138 and 2019-139 from consent agenda to allow Council to vote on them separately after Ward 1 Councilor opposed paying stipends to Municipal Court employees. The stipends are paid out of Special Projects Fund at the discretion of the Municipal Judge. The Solicitor upheld the lawfulness of this procedure. The City Manager and the Finance Director explained that 2019-139 does not actually include the stipends as part of the replacement payroll ordinance. The Councilors agreed to keep the Regular Business Legislation in Consent Agenda Form.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Liquor Permit – Change of Corporate Stock Ownership – Ward 2

- Liquor Permit Number 35930670001: Harbor Supply Inc dba Sonny II 620 East 6th Street Rear & Patio, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

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- Permit Classes: D1 Beer only for on premises consumption and in sealed containers for carry out, until 1:00 a.m. and D2 Wine and certain prepackaged mixed drinks for on premises consumption and in sealed containers for carry out until 1:00 a.m.
- 100 shares transferred from James M. Parker to Jayne A. Parker

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

Tell Us Something We Don't Know

Council President

- Ashtabula County Medical Center celebrated serving Ashtabula for 115 years earlier this year. ACMC also noted that they have been a Cleveland Clinic affiliate for 25 years.
- The Highland Beach area looks very nice since clearing the trees and brush. Many people agree it enhances the view of the lake.
- Downtown Ashtabula and Main Avenue looks festive for the holiday season.

City Manager

- The cameras are active and music is playing on Bridge Street, providing a safe and pleasant community experience.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS (General Matters)

Dr. Irene Fiala, animal welfare advocate, summarized activities she and other concerned citizens organized regarding the stray cat population in Ashtabula. Committed members of existing animal welfare groups combined with many other individuals created a new group called "Community Cats Coalition of Ashtabula". The group focus is to reduce the stray, abandoned, and feral cat population through humane methods. They developed a vision and a mission statement and recognized group goals. They created a closed Facebook group page to administer to group needs. A public Facebook group page is forthcoming and will serve to notify, educate, and coordinate with other like-minded citizens in the community. The President of Council congratulated Dr. Fiala and expressed his appreciation of the extensive efforts she and the Community Cats Coalition of Ashtabula exhibited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- **Convene:** The President announced the executive session would convene and reconvene off camera.
- **Reconvene:** The President reconvened the public portion of the meeting, with no action taken.

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ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before this Council, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: January 21, 2020

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

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