

Council met in a **REGULAR MEETING**. The Council President called the meeting to order; the Ward 4 Councilor offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

Members Present: Mrs. Julie A. Lattimer (Ward 4), Mr. James M. Trisket (Ward 5)
Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2), Mrs. Ann I. Stranman (Ward 3)
Ms. Betty S. Kist (Vice President), Mr. Charles P. Brockway (Council President)

Member(s) Absent: Mr. Joseph L. Rose (Ward 1)

Officer(s) Present: City Manager Anthony J. Cantagallo, City Solicitor Michael Franklin
City Auditor Michael A. Zullo, Clerk of Council LaVette E. Hennigan

Officer(s) Absent: (NONE)

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

Excused Absence: Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Trisket seconded, to excuse the Ward 1 Councilor from the meeting due to illness, motion CARRIED. The Council President announced the Councilor was in the hospital and wished him a speed recovery.

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the **December 21 Public Hearing** were presented. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, that the reading of the minutes be waived; motion CARRIED. There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

The minutes of the **December 30 Special Meeting** were presented. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, that the reading of the minutes be waived; motion CARRIED. There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

The minutes of the **January 4 Regular Meeting** were presented. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, that the reading of the minutes be waived; motion CARRIED. There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

The minutes of the **January 19 Regular Meeting** were presented. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, that the reading of the minutes be waived; motion CARRIED. There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Neighborhood Stabilization Demo Project – Janson Trucking & Demolition

The City Manager requested an ordinance to execute Change Order No. 1 for Janson Trucking & Demolition of 1540 Mechanicsville Road, Rock Creek, Ohio 44084, in the amount not to exceed \$300.00. The purpose of this Change Order is for additional work at 3319 Lake Avenue (tree removal). Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Sodium Chloride (Rock Salt) Purchase

The City Manager requested an ordinance to enter into an agreement with the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation to participate in their program for the purchase of Sodium Chloride Rock Salt. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

Planning Commission

The City Manager announced the appointment of Mr. James Timonere to the Planning Commission effective immediately with a term to expire May 12, 2012. The Council President announced that Council's approval was not required.

Leachate Intake

The City Manager requested an ordinance to allow the City to take in leachate from companies outside of our normal collection process. The Ward 4 Councilor reported the legislation states "every person" and asked if it would affect everyone putting a downspout from the roof into a storm drain. The City Manager replied no, that what the Councilor speaks of is a storm drain system and his request affects the sanitary system. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, the Manager's request; motion CARRIED.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR THE CITY MANAGER – (NONE)

CITY SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Harbor Historical District Boundaries

The City Solicitor announced the need to request the preparation of legislation confirming the Harbor Historical District boundaries, because the 30 day announcement and holding of a public hearing was inadvertently skipped in establishing said boundaries. He reported two ordinances are needed: one to repeal the ordinance which prematurely established the boundaries, and one to draft a new ordinance identical to the one prematurely passed, which will be voted on after a public hearing regarding the proposed legislation takes place.

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Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, to rescind the ordinance pertaining to the redistricting; motion CARRIED.

Mr. Pugliese moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, to redistrict the Harbor Historic area; motion CARRIED.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR THE CITY SOLICITOR – (NONE)

CITY AUDITOR'S REPORT

(Detailed Transcription)

The City Auditor reported on the City's financial position as of January 31, as follows:

Each year I perform a monthly cash flow projection of each line item on the revenue and expenditure sides of the budget Council passes for the coming year. January 2010 revenue/cash flow projections were:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Projection</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Local Taxes	\$0	\$0
Income Tax	\$402,500	\$432,245
Charge for Services	\$ 15,773	\$ 14,093
License Fees & Permits	\$ 6,833	\$ 1,914
Court Fees (Muni Court)	\$ 54,698	\$ 40,655
State Shared Money	\$ 93,142	\$126,186 (this reflects the receipt of: \$15,476.00 from H1N1 monies budgeted to be received in February; and the receipt of \$5,059.00 from the COPS Hiring Grant projected to be received in March. The largest contributor to this money is the Local Government Funds, which is the share of sales tax received from the State)
Interest Income	\$ 171.00	\$ 4.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 22,508	\$ 13,132
Total Project Revenue	\$595,625	\$628,229 (This is the good news)

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Although revenues are a little higher, our expenses are higher than would have been projected because we have not performed cutbacks and cost cutting yet “so to speak of”. At the end of January 2010:

General Fund (39 Accounts)	(- \$186,264.00)
Food Service Fund	(- \$ 2,942.00)
Street Construction Fund (Public Works)	(- \$ 36,077.63)
Health Insurance Fund (biggest problem along with General Fund)	(- \$499,996.00)

Ciuni & Panichi, a Cleveland accounting firm, began auditing our 2009 books today and will be here for (2) to (3) months.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS FOR THE CITY AUDITOR

Vice President: First of all you said we have not gotten any results from any of the cutbacks. I know our Fire Department did come forth and made some concessions; and we passed that agreement. This question is directed to the Manager, do we have anything from the Police Department or 1197, signifying how they’re going to adjust their areas in order to make certain cuts or meet certain goals of money to make this budget balance. She asked if he had heard anything from any of these unions.

Manager: I’m in conversation with those two unions.

Vice President: Okay, and I guess the problem with that is being that we don’t have anything...I understand we did have to pay a clothing allowance which came to \$27,900.00, for those personnel, because we didn’t have an agreement and that they weren’t going to waive those cost. So, I guess I need an explanation. We’re so hard up for money how could we have gone ahead and paid the \$27,900.00.

Manager: That is part of our discussions, Ms. Kist.

Vice President: Okay, are they going to reimburse us back for those.

Manager: At this stage of the game, I do not have an answer to that question.

Vice President: Okay, I guess we’ll just warn them, because the Fire Department did do their plan and we accepted it; and I guess I’m a little bit perturbed that the other two unions have not done any concessions and we are paying out some of these monies. One thing I do know is that the Court did not take any clothing allowances; they waived it. And, I will give in my financial report that the six salaried people under Council were not included in that clothing allowance payout. So, I want the people to know who got the clothing allowance and who didn’t.

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President: Thank you.

Manager: Thank you.
(Detailed Transcription concluded)

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Community Development and Parks & Recreation - (Mr. Trisket, Chair): announced the Committee will meet on Wednesday, March , at 8:00 a.m. The Chair announced he is scheduled to meet with the River clean up NRDA Fund Trustees, Housing & Community Development Director Jason Strong, Harbor Development Steering Committee and Executive members of the Ashtabula City Parks & Recreation Board about the NRDA Funds. He expects the meeting to be productive; the purpose for which will be to find out where we can use the funds that are available, how much of the funds will be accessible to us, and different avenues for application of the funds (e.g. whether or not the funds will be able to be used for seed money for additional grants, which potentially could be millions depending on how we apply for them). This Chair trusts he is able to make a positive report next month.

Economic Development and Port Authority - (Mrs. Stranman, Chair): announced the Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 10, at 9:00 a.m. This Chair reminded the Manager and Council to look at business links on other municipal websites to get ideas for upgrading our City's website. The upgrade would help potential businesses desiring to or thinking about moving to our City, and should be at no cost.

Finance and Personnel - (Ms. Kist, Chair): announced the Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 10, at 9:00 a.m., if necessary, and that Council continues to discuss the budget crisis. The Chair reported the Committee had a very interesting, productive, and nice session with Council's salaried personnel. The cooperation was great; she personally thanked them for their contribution and for stepping forward; and announced they decided to take a 10% pay reduction to assist with the budget crisis. The Chair commended the six personnel and noted that the ordinance authorizing the deduction is on tonight's agenda for a vote.

Ms. Kist moved, Mr. Trisket seconded AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2008-183, PASSED ON DECEMBER 15, 2008, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE ANNUAL COMPENSATION OF THE CITY AUDITOR, CPA, DEPUTY CITY AUDITOR, TREASURER, INCOME TAX ADMINISTRATOR, CLERK OF COUNCIL (CERTIFIED), AND SYSTEMS ANALYST BY TEN PERCENT (10%), FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2010 THROUGH DECEMBER 26, 2010. The Ward 2 Councilor reported members of Council have agreed to take the 10% cut also.

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The Committee Chair asked if an ordinance for Council's 10% is needed. The Clerk reported no legislation is required, but that Payroll and Human Resources Specialist Carolyn Sheldon informed her that they would need to sign a letter which the Clerk will ensure all members receive. The motion CARRIED.

The Committee Chair reported the City Solicitor notified Council he placed his concessions on hold until Council did something. She asked him if in light of the above ordinance request he is going to release the hold. The City Solicitor replied, "That is my intention as soon as Council passes the payroll ordinance that's before you tonight".

The Committee Chair asked the Manager if, he too, was going to be put his concessions in writing and give them to Mrs. Sheldon, such as the Solicitor did. The City Manager replied, "I will take that under consideration, Ms. Kist".

Ms. Kist moved, Mr. Trisket seconded, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO.
The Ward 4 Councilor reported the first ordinance states the purpose for the repeal and this one replaces the repealed one. The Manager asked the Committee Chair the status of the meeting she agreed to set up to discuss how to garner more revenue. The Chair replied she intends to have the meeting after the budget crisis is settled and the commitments needed to reach a settlement are secured. The motion CARRIED.

The Committee Chair thanked the Manager for reinstating holiday garbage pick, which made a lot of citizens happy.

The President announced that salaried personnel under Council also had revenue generating ideas and asked the Clerk of Council to share them with the Manager.

The City Auditor reported last week, he, the City Manager, the Council President and a couple others met with Mr. Anthony Martino, a member of the Ashtabula Business Alliance; who calculated the City's payroll for one year to be about \$8.6 million; and said if everyone agreed to a 10% salary reduction the \$864,000.00 deficit would be gone in a one year period. The Auditor said while 10% hurts, other companies in the City have given up far more, such as 15% and even their job. He said the Fire Union concessions, if realized, would exceed 10%; and while he is not as concerned about them, he would want to do more calculations. He then put the challenge before the City Manager to get all other employees on board with the 10% reduction. The Auditor said when he hears suggestions about having meetings to talk about how to garner more revenue he gets "bad feelings because he thinks the ideas are going to be in the form of additional taxes, and does not believe it will happen". He said there have been countless meetings on "revenue raising items" and the two before the City at present are JEDDs, and some additional leachate money distributions. He said there are other ideas out there, but, "We need big ones and we need them fast.

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We've been talking about this since December 1, now we're at February 16, and we still don't have concessions out of two unions; and non-union people have given up very little. Every day that goes by it is getting worse and worse and will be harder to solve the problem. Last Wednesday I told the Finance & Personnel Committee, and will reiterate over and over, that if nothing is done soon this City will be in fiscal emergency before the end of 2010."

Public Utilities and Schools - (Mr. Pugliese, Chair): announced no meeting is scheduled, and then read a letter from the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), announcing Ohio American Water Company's (OAW) proposed rate increase request before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 22, at 5:00 p.m., at the Ashtabula Township Office meeting room, located at 2718 North Ridge East, Ashtabula, Ohio. He encouraged the public to send the PUCO letters of opposition and/or attend the hearing and voice their concerns.

Public Works - (Mrs. Lattimer, Chair): reported on the Committee's February 2 meeting, at which the following topics were discussed:

2010 Paving Program

\$500,000.00 was set aside; this year there are a couple challenges: \$320,000 in matching funds for the West 30th Street sewer line improvements and the digging up the road, (which will be repaved); are needed, and will be taken from the \$500,000.00 paving funds; therefore this activity left a limited amount of funds. Engineering Technician David Close will use the remaining funds to repair really bad sections of streets (removing and replacing, not just patching), in order to best utilize the remaining dollars.

Bridge Street Handicap Parking

The Chair moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded, to rescind the recent ordinance passed which placed handicap parking on the north side of Bridge Street west of Hulbert Avenue, due to the problems with poles and the way the street and curbing is; and replace it with a new ordinance for a handicap parking spot on the north side of Bridge Street, east of Hulbert Avenue; motion CARRIED. The Chair will provide the linkage to the Clerk of Council.

Main Avenue Inlet Removal

Congressman Steven LaTourette's Highway Bill projects will be "going through" this November; the City of Ashtabula is number one on his list; the Chair asked the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association to write a letter to the congressman's office telling why the project is needed; Council will be writing a letter, and asked the Manager to do the same. The project is worth 1 million dollars, will remove all Main Avenue islands/inlets, take care of all the lighting, replace all storm drains and curbs, and pave from West 48th Street to the turn on Main Avenue towards Lake Avenue.

Signalization Grant

The Committee requested the hold placed on this grant, due to the Federal Stimulus funding, be removed; that funds for the full signalization (\$240,000.00 City match) versus the partial (\$200,000.00 City match) be applied for, which comes to \$1,887,000.00. Updates will be provided as the process moves along. The Chair moved, Mr. Pugliese seconded, to approve the full signalization replacement. This would include all signalization in the City that needs upgrading, and will assist in areas where there are physically and visually impaired citizens. The Vice President asked how the match would be secured. The Chair replied the Committee agreed the match would be taken from the paving funds; that this is the last year the 80/20 grant will be offered; and if we do not apply now the City would be giving up \$1,500,000.00. The Chair said the City has no other options; our signalization needs updating; parts can no longer be purchased for many of the, and some of the parts cost almost as much as a new replacement. The City Auditor suggested that if the grant is awarded for 2012, and it is known that the match funding is needed in 2012, the department heads be notified now that only necessary equipment purchases will be made in that year. The Chair thanked the Auditor and said this is another reason a 3 to 5 year “projected budget” would be good. The motion CARRIED.

2009 Recycling Report (not including the West Avenue container)

The following is reported in poundage: plastic - 103,000; newspaper - 137,381; glass - 38,800 glass; cardboard - 158,000; aluminum - 580; cast iron - 12,640; sheet iron - 105,000; magazines 85,000; leaf bags - 210,000; grass pick up - 75,000; tires - 2,130 tires; Christmas trees 6,000; computer parts & cell phones - 3,750. The Chair reported metals, aluminum and miscellaneous steel & sheet iron revenues equaled \$789.13, coupled with a large landfill savings.

The Chair asked the Manager if he would consider reopening the Recycling Center on Saturday's or allow the bins to be accessed from “the other side of the fence”, because it does save on pounds sent to the landfill. The Manager replied, “We are looking at the possibility of continuing the recycling, but the recycling is expensive. Opening up the building on Saturday costs. So, unless I'm missing something, we can't sit here and talk about we're really broke, but let's go out to dinner tonight and drink some really expensive wine. I'm in the process of trying to balance where we can save money; we're cutting back, we're asking people to take a 10% reduction in their wages and then talk about running the recycling building on Saturday, which we have to man. So, we're in the process of looking at how we can do that. One of the ways is to see if any of our people want to volunteer to work on Saturday to run the building and do it for comp time, with the understanding that they can not cash the comp time in. So, we're in the process of doing that. It's a balancing act to have people sit up here and say, you know, we really got to find a way to save money and then say let's go spend the money doing this. So, that's the horns of the dilemma that I am on; I don't know about the rest of us, but, I am anyway.”

(The City Auditor left the meeting at 7:47 p.m.)

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The Committee Chair said previous discussions were that bins could be placed on the outside of the fence at the Recycling Center, and realizes it was discussed in terms of if the operation was moved to the former West Avenue ODOT building, which the City purchased for \$1.00. She said options need to be explored, such as the placement of bins at City Hall and on the east side of town, noting Chapman's already provided approval for one to be placed on their property at the corner of East 42nd Street and State Road. The Chair said if citizens are not given recycling options the City will pay for recyclables to be processed at the landfill. The Manager replied, "We're at that stage in life where government can't afford government; and that's what we spend a large part of the day in my office on is trying to figure out (a) how we're going to reduce the cost of government; and (b) how we're going to create revenue so we won't have to reduce the cost of government. I agree with you, recycling is very admirable, but it's also expensive and difficult. But we are doing everything humanly possible to continue it."

The Ward 3 Councilor asked if the Saturday manning of the Center was all overtime; the Manager replied yes. The Councilor asked how many people are needed; the Manager replied one, but that one amounts to several thousands of dollars if manned 52 weeks in the year. He said the Smith Field roll off cost the City over \$10,000.00 a year. He said it was removed last week, but someone placed recyclables there anyway and reminded those watching that the General Fund is in the negative.

The Committee Chair reported Sanitation is a fund that has been self-supported, therefore does not believe there should be a recycling cut back, while fully realizing cutbacks are necessary in certain areas. She then suggested perhaps allowing the Center to be open the first Saturday of the month. She said spring and basement cleanings are approaching and access to the Center is necessary, because not everyone can make it during the week.

The Manager reported that last month Sanitation paid \$15,000.00 of the Public Works (PW) Department's electric bill, because PW is broke and the funds they would use to pay the bill would come from the General Fund, which is also broke. He said Sanitation is doing "a bang up job" but can not keep paying the health insurance and other department's electric bills; which he said is the balancing act taking place. He said Sanitation is in the black; asked how much longer that will be the case; and that in 2009 there were periods it was in the red. He said because of this "We are looking at 30, 60, 90 days out; trying to secure new commercial accounts to bring those funds in, but it is not easy".

The Ward 2 Councilor asked Council's Public Works Committee to look into placing snowplows on the garbage trucks. The Committee Chair said it has been discussed and asked the Clerk to add it to the Committee's agenda.

Safety Forces - (Mr. Rose, Chair): NO REPORT

Work Session (Mr. Brockway, Chair): announced the next Session is scheduled for Monday, March 8, at 6:00 p.m., and that the Parks & Recreation Board is on the agenda.

FORMAL LEGISLATION REQUEST - (NONE)

PUBLIC'S QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS ON TONIGHT'S LEGISLATION – (NONE)

LEGISLATION READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-20 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EXISTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 933.06 (t) IN ORDER TO EXTEND THE EFFECTIVE DATE, was presented. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, that the Charter requirement of two readings be suspended. On the roll call to suspend the Charter requirement: Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Stranman, Ms. Kist, Mr. Brockway voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Stranman, Ms. Kist, Mr. Brockway voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-21 AN ORDINANCE REPEALING, IN ITS ENTIRETY, PAYROLL ORDINANCE NO. 2008-183, PASSED ON DECEMBER 15, 2008, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE ANNUAL COMPENSATION OF THE CITY AUDITOR, CPA, DEPUTY CITY AUDITOR, TREASURER, INCOME TAX ADMINISTRATOR, CLERK OF COUNCIL (CERTIFIED), AND SYSTEMS ANALYST BY TEN PERCENT (10%), FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 1, 2010 THROUGH DECEMBER 26, 2010, was presented. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, that the Charter requirement of two readings be suspended. On the roll call to suspend the Charter requirement: Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Stranman, Ms. Kist, Mr. Brockway voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Stranman, Ms. Kist, Mr. Brockway voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-22 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION, SALARIES AND WAGES TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, was presented. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, that the Charter requirement of two readings be suspended. On the roll call to suspend the Charter requirement: Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Stranman, Ms. Kist, Mr. Brockway voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Stranman, Ms. Kist, Mr. Brockway voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-23 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION OF REASONABLE FEES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION, TRANSFER AND TREATMENT OF LEACHATE IN THE CITY OF ASHTABULA, OHIO, was presented. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, that the Charter requirement of two readings be suspended. On the roll call to suspend the Charter requirement: Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Stranman, Ms. Kist, Mr. Brockway voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Stranman, Ms. Kist, Mr. Brockway voted yea; motion CARRIED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-24 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ASHTABULA CITY AUDITOR TO ESTABLISH AN AUTOMATIC CHECKING ACCOUNT DEDUCTION PROGRAM FOR SEWER AND TRASH PAYMENT COLLECTIONS, was presented. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, to waive the reading of the ordinance; motion CARRIED. Ms. Kist moved, Mrs. Lattimer seconded, that the Charter requirement of two readings be suspended. The Ward 4 Councilor explained the program so citizens would know what they would be signing up for. The Ward 5 Councilor reported each participant will have to sign a form which explains the process; and the Vice President reported this program would be an added convenience. On the roll call to suspend the Charter requirement: Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Stranman, Ms. Kist, Mr. Brockway voted yea; motion CARRIED. On the roll call to adopt the ordinance: Mrs. Lattimer, Mr. Trisket, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. Stranman, Ms. Kist, Mr. Brockway voted yea; motion CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Route 11 Sign

The Ward 2 Councilor reported a damaged sign at the far north end of Route 11 has been in the medium for some time. The Manager explained someone hit it and that it is being repaired.

Bad Street Cut

The Ward 2 Councilor reported there to be a large, bad street cut at East 21st Street and Columbus Avenue, and believes it was done by Conneaut Telephone Company.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Bands on the Beach

The Vice President asked if the Bands on the Beach event will take place this summer. The Manager reported a committee of eight women have secured the funding for the past two years and are working on doing so again.

The Ward 3 Councilor reported that last year the event was called off due to funding, but that through the efforts of WKKY radio station, the funds were raised.

Holiday Trash Schedule

The Ward 4 Councilor, in an effort to understand the Manager's intent regarding his announced removal, but immediate reinstating of holiday sanitation pick up, she asked if there will be a new holiday sanitation pick up policy announced; and if the change back to picking up on holidays is final. The Manager replied, "We're looking at methodologies to rectify the problem; we're doing what we can to project income and expenses". The Ward 4 Councilor said her concern is communication to residents regarding his intent. The Manager said if anything is decided it will be announced in the newspaper.

Sewer Jetting

The Ward 4 Councilor reported something needs to be placed in the newspaper about sewer jetting to let residents know if they are having problems with their sewer line the City would prefer residents call the City first. The Manager said whether residential or commercial, if someone has a problem with their sanitary sewer, before calling a private plumber, which will save the resident money, the City should be called. If it is determined that the problem is that of the City's there will be no charge. If the private plumber is called first and determines it is the City's problem they will still charge the resident. The Councilor asked the Manager to make this announcement in the newspaper because people, her included, would not think to call the City first. The Councilor announced after-hours calls should be placed to the non-emergency Police Department.

Snowplowing Schedule

The Ward 5 Councilor asked the Manager to announce the plowing schedule. The Manager said due to the lack of Public Works funds, the activity is taking place during daylight and normal 3rd shift hours. He said the problem comes when overtime is required because of the lack of funds; therefore snow fall is being gauged closely, and plowing activity is taking place when it is best to do so.

Rock Salt

The City Manager reported rock salt cost \$62.50 per ton, deliver; a ton is a very small amount, and salt does not work below twenty-eight degrees. He said another problem is one truck sprays the salt, the next one comes along and blows it onto the treelawn, which mixes with water, kills all the trees and anything else growing in the treelawn; it then goes into the storm water system and then into the river, which is a problem. They are trying to find an "efficacious way to plow, salt and keep the streets cleaned".

Winter Accidents

The City Manager reported that this evening Police Chief Robert Stell told him there have been numerous traffic accidents caused by the snow; and the Manager asked motorists to drive slowly.

3rd Shift Work Hours

The Ward 3 Councilor asked what the 3rd shift work hours are. The Manager said some men arrive at the normal 3:00 a.m. and plow until 11am. The problem is the snow is falling when it is not suppose to, which was the problem last weekend. The Councilor asked if hours are staggered; the Manager replied yes and that normal rates are be paid; and that the non-shift hours is when overtime is paid, such as Saturday. The Ward 4 Councilor reported there is no 2nd shift crew so there is no plowing between 3:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m., and if they plow on 2nd shift they are paid time and a half. The Ward 3 Councilor said that was her point; that she realizes union contracts are in place which set the work hours, but suggested at some point the shifts should be changed (e.g. 3rd shift 3:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; 1st shift 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.), which would cover the after work travelers instead of stopping all activity when people are trying to get home. The Manager said the streets have been plowed the same way for years; that there is a pattern; they plow the main arteries first because if they plowed side streets first motorists could get off their street but would not be able to travel the main arteries; and that side streets are plowed in the order in which they are because the crews know the pattern.

Holiday Trash Pick Up

The President reported he received two calls when trash was not picked up yesterday; that they understood why. He reported only Ward 1 residents are affected by no holiday sanitation pick up because their trash day is Monday, on which day most holidays occur. He asked the Manager that if no holiday pick up is reinstated would he consider staggering the wards. The Manager said yes.

Main Avenue Comedy Night

The Ward 3 Councilor reminded everyone the City Manager will be one of the comedy acts at the Ashtabula Downtown Development Association's (ADDA) Comedy Night fundraiser. The Clerk reported the event is sold out.

NEW BUSINESS – (NONE)

PUBLIC'S GENERAL PORTION

Mr. Doug Monroe, 1307 West 6th Street: reported recyclables can be taken to Saybrook Township's Administration facility located at Routes 45 & 20; and suggested the salt/plow process be flipped so the plow goes first and the salt last.

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Mrs. Lattimer moved, Mr. Trisket seconded, to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.; motion CARRIED.

DATE APPROVED: _____

ATTESTED BY: _____

Charles P. Brockway
President of Council

ATTESTED BY: _____

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC
Clerk of Council