

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE OHIO  
CONSUMERS' COUNSEL (OCC) AND URGING THE OHIO LEGISLATURE TO  
PRESERVE THE MISSION OF THE OCC BY RESTORING FUNDING TO THEIR  
BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) was created by the Ohio General Assembly to represent the interests of Ohio's residential utility customers in matters relating to their public utility services (electric, natural gas, water and telephone); and

**WHEREAS**, funded solely by assessments on utilities and not by taxes, the OCC'S budget does not affect the State's General Revenue Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the OCC has a current operating budget of approximately \$8.5 million per year; however under the proposed biennial budget, the OCC's budget would be reduced to \$4.1 million per year; and

**WHEREAS**, the OCC staff, which includes attorneys, accountants, economists, engineers, investigators and other highly skilled professionals participate in legal proceedings, analyze utility issues, educate customers, resolve informal complaints relating to utility services through the highly effective Consumer Call Center, and advocates on behalf of Ohio's residential households; and

**WHEREAS**, in the current biennium, the OCC has saved customers \$54.8 million directly through its advocacy, and an additional \$1.9 billion in shared savings with other partners; and furthermore, during the past 35 years the OCC has saved utility customers \$10 billion in avoided utility costs, thus the savings have far exceeded the costs; and

**WHEREAS**, any budget reduction to the OCC would not go back to the taxpayers, but would go to the utility companies, and the proposed budget cuts would have a detrimental impact on the residential utility customers of the State of Ohio and the ability of the Office of the OCC to effectively advocate on their behalf;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio,

**SECTION 1.** That Ashtabula City Council recognizes the vital work of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel as a strong consumer advocate and only statutory entity representing the interest of residential utility consumers.

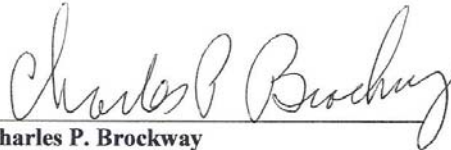
**SECTION 2.** That Ashtabula City Council also recognizes that statewide, all departments must endure some level of cuts to their budget; however we are urging the Ohio Legislature to place a more reasonable cut so as to preserve the mission of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel.

**SECTION 3.** It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and related to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its Committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the requirements of Section 10 of the Municipal Charter of the City of Ashtabula, Ohio, and of R. C. Section 121.22.

**SECTION 5.** For the reasons stated in the preamble, this resolution, if approved by the votes of five (5) or more members of Council, shall take effect immediately, otherwise 30 days thereafter.

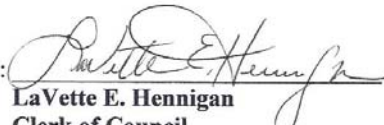
Supporting Ohio Consumers' Counsel  
Ashtabula City Council Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, May 16, 2011

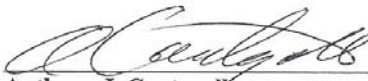
PASSED: May 16, 2011

  
Charles P. Brockway  
President of Council


**Vote:**

	Yea	Nay
Brockway:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kist:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Balog:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pugliese:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stranman:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lattimer:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trisket:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ATTEST:   
LaVette E. Hennigan  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED:   
Anthony J. Cantagallo  
City Manager

Approved as to form and correctness this 16 day of May, 2011.

  
Michael Franklin, City Solicitor

(legislation requests & drafts/2011/ohio consumers counsel)