

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour with the following members present: Crawl, Grace, McCarey, Risner, Swank, Spjeldnes, and Ziff.

Also present: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, Auditor Hecht, and Law Director Eliason.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Risner moved for approval of the minutes from the following sessions of City Council: Special Session held June 12, 2023; Special Session of held June 15, 2023; Regular Session held June 20, 2023; and Special Session held June 26, 2023; Swank seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **President Knisely** noted that Council is in receipt of the following:
 - Magistrate's decision on an Administrative Appeal in the case of Williams vs. the Board of Zoning Appeals.
 - A liquor permit transfer **FROM** Athens Burritos, LLC, 1st floor only, 10 S. Court Street **TO** Snag Delivery, Inc., 13 W. Stimson Avenue for a C1 permit for beer only in original sealed container for carry out only, and a C2 permit for wine and mixed beverages in sealed containers for carry out. Responses must be postmarked no later than August 17, 2023 regarding this permit.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- **Mayor Patterson** reported the following:
 - Notification of receipt of up to \$429,658 of federal funding through an Ohio Department of Transportation Small Cities Congestion Mitigation Program, as part of the carbon reduction act that will be used for the electronic updating of traffic signalization on East State Street. This grant has a 20% City match.
 - Receipt of a Jobs Ohio Vibrant Communities Grant for the Armory in the amount of \$976,815.

- Council Member McCarey, DEIA Coordinator Rogers and he will be going through their final training through the National League of Cities Race Equity And Leadership (REAL) Institute.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-78-23

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING PERMANENT UTILITY RIGHT-OF WAY EASEMENTS FROM OCULUS ACQUISITIONS, LLC FOR ACCESS TO THE EXISTING CITY LIFT STATION AT UNIVERSITY ESTATES.

0-79-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 65-23, THE 2023 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 155-22.

0-80-23

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A THEN-AND-NOW CERTIFICATE FOR PAYMENT TO BDT ARCHITECTS & DESIGNERS FOR PARKING GARAGE IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE III, PROJECT #362; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-81-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 155-22.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Grace moved to Accept the June 2023, Financial Reports; Ziff seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO SPEAK ON LEGISLATIVE ITEMS AND CITY SERVICES NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA:

Zach Reizes, Sunday Creek Horizons, addressed the Council about an opportunity to work with the State of Ohio to bring more money into the City to develop work force and senior housing. Approximately \$9 million will be set aside for senior and work force housing projects in Appalachian Ohio. The \$9 million allows for two applications for a 4% tax credit/set-aside. There is also a \$1.25 million match that is required by the City through cash and/or abatements. He noted that these housing units must be built in pre-qualified census tracts, determined by HUD at the federal level, and those pre-applications are due August 24. City Council would only be asked to allocate funds if the grant is awarded.

President Knisely reminded Zach that Council Committees meet next

Monday, and if the needed information can be provided it would be best to move discussion along at that time.

Swank asked for clarification on the term "workforce housing" and about the income limitations on senior housing.

President Knisely asked that this information be provided during the committee discussion.

Michael Bart, Joneswood Drive, expressed concern about the security of payments placed in the meter violation boxes, as he is aware some are not being processed. He also questioned the need for parking enforcement between the hours of 4:00-6:00 a.m.

President Knisley appreciates Mr. Bart sharing this information with the Council and suggested he direct his concerns to the City Administration, via the Mayor, who is in attendance this evening.

Mayor Patterson is unaware of any problem with payments disappearing from the meter violation boxes, but will certainly look into that.

At approximately 7:30 p.m., Ziff moved for Adjournment; Grace seconded. Adjournment was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council