

MINUTES SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7:00 P.M.

Council Members in Attendance:	Sam Crowl Sarah Grace Micah McCarey Jeff Risner Solveig Spjeldnes Alan Swank Ben Ziff
Administrators and/or Other Elected Officials:	President Knisely Mayor Patterson Law Director Eliason

Items Discussed:

- Wayne National Forest (renaming)
 - President – if Council can come to a consensus on the renaming of the Wayne National Forest to the Ohio National Forest, a motion will be made under “Other Business” and all Council Members will sign
 - Swank – recalls a different spelling for Ohio derived from the Iroquois word meaning “great river” of Ohio that could possibly be put in parentheses after the word “Ohio” in order to make the connection
 - McCarey – spoke with representatives from the Ohio Environmental Council who seemed supportive of Council’s conversation, and encouraged further learning about the history of the Wayne National Forest and about our indigenous history in the region
 - Swank – noted that the Seneca word is spelled Ohi:yo’ meaning good river in reference to the Ohio River
- Mayor – suggested adding strength to the letter by adding signatures of the Law Director and Mayor, and changing the words Indian tribes to Native American tribes or tribes of the Indigenous People rather than using the term Indian

- Spjeldnes – indicated the Seneca were the largest of six Native American nations that comprised the Iroquois Confederacy, so neither is wrong – also noting that it is okay to say Indian
- Swank – asked about the wording in the recent Press Release – our letter should be consistent
- President – their reference was American Indian tribes

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

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

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

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

McCarey moved for approval of the minutes from the Regular Session held August 21, 2023; Ziff seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Knisely announced a Public Hearing to be held Monday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m. to consider a recommendation from the Athens City Planning Commission to amend the City's Sign Regulations to include feather flags as temporary advertising signs.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- **Mayor Patterson** reported the following:
 - Receipt of letter from First Lady Fran DeWine encouraging the City to continue its support of the Imagination Library.
 - Correspondence from Aaron Thomas, A-roc Entertainment, who is discouraged with the lack of grant funding that is available for black-owned businesses in Southeast Ohio. He is working with Council Member Micah McCarey and the City's DEIA Coordinator Lacy Rogers.
 - Receipt of the 2021 John Keller Honor Award for Outstanding Small Town or Rural Planning Initiative for the City of Athens 2040 Comprehensive Plan crafted by City Planner Paul Logue.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND 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. Grace moved for Adoption; Ziff seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-82-23

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO THE "AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC)," AND A NATURAL GAS PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH NOPEC, AND RELATED MATTERS.

0-83-23

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A 25-YEAR EASEMENT WITH OHIO UNIVERSITY TO REPLACE A WATERLINE. Discussion: Grace moved to Amend the Title and Section I to read "to execute a 25-year replacement easement for an existing waterline" and remove "agreement to replace a waterline." Ziff seconded. Amendment was approved unanimously.

0-84-23

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY USE PERMIT AT 39 HOOPER STREET TO PATRICK AND JAMES BALDING, OWNERS, FOR CONTINUED USE OF THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR AN EXISTING FENCE.

0-85-23

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION FROM MADISON ENERGY COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION/UTILITY PIPELINE LTD, FOR USE OF THE CITY'S RIGHT-OF-WAY.

0-86-23

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF A POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

0-87-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 155-22.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-88-23

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LE-AX REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT FOR RELEASE OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE PARCELS TO THE CITY FOR WATER SERVICE ALONG DAIRY LANE.

0-89-23

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT FIREARMS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE. Discussion: Spjeldnes feels it is important to note that these are confiscated firearms.

0-90-23

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA FEDERAL LOCAL-LET PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR SIDEWALK, ACCESSIBILITY, AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE UPTOWN AREA, PROJECT (#329); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-91-23

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS, WHERE NECESSARY, AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE UPTOWN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (#329).

0-92-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 155-22. Discussion: Risner indicated that additional information on the DUI Court Grant has been requested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Swank moved that City Council submit the letter proposed in Committee regarding the renaming of the Wayne National Forest, with requested changes; Ziff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

McCarey moved to Appoint Izze Kaukonen as a member of the Community Relations Commission; Swank seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

Spjeldnes moved the Reappointment of Steve Sloan to the Income Tax Review Board; Swank seconded. Reappointment was approved unanimously.

At approximately 7:40 p.m., Swank moved for Adjournment; Ziff seconded. Adjournment was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Acting Clerk of Council