

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016, 7:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour with the following members present: Butler, Cochran, Fahl, Kotses, McGee, Papai, and Risner.

Also present: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley, and Auditor Hecht.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Fahl moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Session held September 6, 2016; Cochran seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Knisely suggested having a Special Session next Monday, September 26, to give final reading to several ordinances that are time sensitive, and asked the Council for a vote of approval. All City Council Members agreed to hold the Special Session.

Council Member McGee has spoken with some citizens who feel it would be highly appropriate for the Athens Police Department to use body cameras.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Auditor Hecht reported that the City has received a “clean” annual State audit, with no findings.

The Auditor explained the lengthy bond process involved with borrowing the funds for a new swimming pool, and part of that process is getting our bond rating set by Moody's. She and the Mayor will be traveling to Chicago next week to present to Moody representatives. The City is hopeful that it can maintain its AA2 rating, which is a quality bond rating. The City's Bond Consultant has asked the City to approve the borrowing for the pool prior to the Moody presentation that would indicate City Council's support in moving forward. Securing a good bond rating can save the City money. City Income is currently being collected from the approved levy for the new pool. She urged City Council to approve Ordinance 111-16, authorizing up to \$7.3 million dollars prior to September 29th.

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- City is in receipt of an ODOT TAP (Ohio Department of Transportation, Transportation Alternatives Program) grant for the Richland Avenue pedestrian causeway from the West Green to the Porter Hall Baker Center area. This is a 95% match (\$1,812,000). The total project cost is estimated at approximately (\$2,200,000). This is for the FY2019 grant cycle, and will likely not see a whole lot of movement until 2018.
- West State Closure to eastbound traffic tomorrow from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for asphalt milling and paving. There will be no emergency vehicle access.
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for an ADA concrete accessible trail from the parking lot area of Sells Park up to the pond will be held Thursday at 11:00 a.m. at the park.
- Grand Opening of Holzer Clinic at 5 On Court at 10:30 tomorrow morning.
- Athens Area Stand Down, an event to support the homeless and those at risk of homelessness, will be held Friday, October 7, at the Athens County Fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Donation boxes for the following items: tents, back packs, sleeping bags, toiletries, sunscreen, wet wipes, blankets, shoes, boots, clothes, and non-perishable foods are located in the front entrance of the City Building and Community Center, as well as other areas throughout the City.

Auditor Hecht explained that this event was originally started for Veterans, however, this is for all homeless, with some services for Veterans only. In the past, Athens has supported the Stand Down in Columbus; this is the first year in Athens to serve the Athens area.

- Athens Municipal Arts Commission (AMAC) have an artist and design recommendation for placing a mural on the Depot Street Lift Station.
Council Member Cochran asked about visibility, thinking the wall is obscured by greenery.
Mayor responded that this is the west-facing wall on Depot Street.
- Athens Veterans Banner Project has been extended to September 30.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-99-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF OHIO RURAL INTERCITY BUSES (GoBUS). Papai moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-103-16

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF APPROXIMATELY FOURTEEN ACRES OFF LONGVIEW HTS. BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ATHENS, DEDICATED FOR RECREATIONAL USE, AND COMMONLY KNOWN AS CAMP ROTAN. Fahl moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-106-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF THE GREEN GLASS WINDOWS AT ARTS/WEST; AND ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ATHENS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM TO RETAIN A PORTION OF THE GLASS FOR THE CITY TO USE AS REPLACEMENT PANES. Butler moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-107-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ATHENS AND OHIO UNIVERSITY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-108-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-109-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to refund State grant dollars in a timely manner; Butler seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Papai seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-110-16

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$473,411 OF NOTES BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWING NOTES PREVIOUSLY ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING PART OF THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING A NEW PUMPER TRUCK AND RELATED EQUIPMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-111-16

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$7,300,000 OF BONDS BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING A NEW SWIMMING POOL FACILITY BY RETIRING NOTES PREVIOUSLY ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSE AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SUCH FACILITY AND MATTERS RELATED TO SUCH BONDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-112-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/STATE AGREEMENT FOR A PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT PROJECT ON US 33, SR 550 AND SR 13; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-113-16

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING A PORTION OF ARMITAGE ROAD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016, FOR A CROSS COURSE BICYCLE RACE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-114-16

AN ORDINANCE BANNING PARKING AND CLOSING THAT PORTION OF COURT STREET FROM MULBERRY TO CARPENTER ON OCTOBER 29 AND OCTOBER 30, 2016, IN ANTICIPATION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CONVERGING ON DOWNTOWN ATHENS (HALLOWEEN WEEKEND).

0-115-16

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ATHENS CITY CODE SECTION 13.04.10, UNNECESSARY NOISE, FOR SCHEDULED BANDSTAND PERFORMANCES, HOSTED BY THE CLEAN AND SAFE HALLOWEEN COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 29 AND OCTOBER 30, 2016 (HALLOWEEN WEEKEND).

0-116-16

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ATHENS CITY CODE CHAPTER 11.04, VENDING, PEDDLING AND SOLICITING, TO ALLOW VENDING IN A DESIGNATED AREA ON OCTOBER 29 AND OCTOBER 30, 2016 (HALLOWEEN WEEKEND).

0-117-16

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING A PORTION OF COURT STREET ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2016, FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. FOR TRICK-OR-TREAT HOSTED BY THE ATHENS UPTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-118-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/STATE AGREEMENT FOR BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM SERVICES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-119-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

0-120-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 18-16; AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DEPOT LIFT STATION (PROJECT #286).

0-121-16

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A REVOCABLE LICENSE TO AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER, REPRESENTED BY JAMIE SHEPHERD, TO INSTALL ADSS FIBER CABLE ON THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY ON FACTORY STREET AND RIVERSIDE DRIVE.

RESOLUTION FOR FIRST READING:

R-10-16

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES, AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Butler moved to appoint Nicholas Palmer to serve on the Recreation Advisory Board; Risner seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Fahl moved to Accept the Auditor's August, 2016, Financial Reports; Risner seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

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

Eric Lee, Madison Avenue, suggested City Council consider adopting a "Food for Fines" program, now growing in a number of cities across the country, that allows people to pay their parking fines in the form of a food donation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 7:50 p.m. Papai moved to go into Executive Session to discuss two matters of pending or threatened litigation, and collective bargaining, and invited the Mayor, Service-Safety Director, Law Director, and Auditor to attend. Risner seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Butler, aye; Cochran, aye; Fahl, aye; Kotses, aye; McGee; Papai, aye; and Risner, aye. At approximately 8:30 p.m. Fahl moved to come out of Executive Session; Risner seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council