

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: SPECIAL SESSION, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016, 9:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Special 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, Law Director, and Auditor Hecht.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD 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. Butler moved to amend the attached Agreement, introductory paragraph, last sentence, to read as follows: *Mutual assistance pursuant to this agreement shall be provided ~~without cost~~ to the requesting party.* Risner seconded. Discussion: Fahl pointed out that Ohio University officers currently aid the Athens Police Department at no cost.

Risner noted that, traditionally, Athens Police officers have been compensated for assisting at Ohio University events.

Auditor Hecht explained that while Ohio University has been paying City officers for student related activities, due to recent auditing requirements the University can no longer make direct payments to City officers because they are not considered contract employees. However, payment will continue to be made on a reimbursement basis. She views the payment or non-payment of City officers a separate matter from the Mutual Aid Agreement. She would like financial considerations to be handled as a separate matter.

Mayor Patterson noted that the Administration and Police Chief are fine with removing the language at this time, and revisiting the financial matter.

Amendment was approved unanimously

0-108-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Butler 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. Risner moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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. Risner moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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. Papai moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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. Papai moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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). Papai moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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). Papai moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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). Papai moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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. Papai moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND 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 SECOND 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. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet the County Auditor's October 1, submission deadline; Butler seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Butler moved to approve the Depot Art Design recommended by the Athens Municipal Arts Commission; Fahl seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Fahl moved to adjourn the Special Session; Papai seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:35 p.m.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2016
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Kent Butler, Chair
Jennifer Cochran, Vice-Chair
Peter Kotses, Member

Other Council Members: Chris Fahl
Patrick McGee
Michele Papai
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley
Law Director Eliason
Auditor Hecht

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Depot Lift Station
 - Butler – need to amend 0-83-16 to increase the authorized expenditure by \$30,000 to complete odor control elements
 - Papai – thought odor control was always part of this project
 - S-S Director – it absolutely was, however the scope changed
- Water Treatment Plant (upgrade)
 - S-S Director – last March the City submitted an application for funding through the Water Supply Revolving Loan Fund – the City has been selected and will be working through the funding process – interest is at a standard rate, and is at an all-time low – will be requesting design engineering services prior to the end of the year – considering the need to borrow locally
 - Mayor – Phase I is approximately \$7 million for Plant 1 that was constructed in the late 1950's – system needs electrical upgrades, as replacement parts are becoming difficult to find
 - Papai – clarified that our water wells are not a part of this project
 - Mayor – indicated that our wells are well maintained
 - Papai – our water is of very good quality and is closely monitored
 - S-S Director – positioning of a new well is still being explored

-President – asked for an approximate timeline for these improvements
-S-S Director – 2018

-Cochran – asked if the scope of this project includes solar panel installation to help provide electricity to power the plant
-Mayor – has requested the City Engineer to think about alternative energy opportunities behind the meter to capture future cost savings, as well as to explore in-line turbines out to the distribution system to recoup energy via hydro-turbines to feed back into the plant to help bring down electric costs – both the WTP and WWTP are the City's largest energy consumers because of all of the pumps – energy saving measures will come down to added project costs

-Butler – asked about the possible use of UV lights used to purify the water
-Mayor – he will check with our Engineer

-McGee – asked if fluoride is added at the WTP, and if there has been any recent consideration given to concerns as to whether the fluoride treatment should be continued
-Mayor – has heard similar concerns – understands the most recent health reports are recommending the level be lowered to .7 as the minimum allowable – will await guidance from federal authorities
-S-S Director – City is currently at the 1.0 level until the EPA advises it can be reduced to .7, otherwise the City would be in violation

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Depot Lift Station

MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2016
7:00 P.M.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair
Chris Fahl, Vice-Chair
Kent Butler, Member

Other Council Members: Jennifer Cochran
Peter Kotses
Patrick McGee
Michele Papai

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley
Law Director

Items Discussed:

- Pool
 - MSA Consultants (presented the attached) – added, two locations are being considered – there are always unique circumstances when building in the floodplain, along with additional cost – the current elevation is approximately the same for the existing pool and the Community Center, both approximately one foot out of the floodplain – site #1 (see attached) is relocation of the pool near the solar parking array (cost would be approximately \$500,000-\$600,000 more than building on the existing pool site) – downside of the relocation site is that is in the flood zone – in order to meet floodplain standards this entire area would need to be elevated 4-5 feet – a lot of fill dirt will be needed; a big expense – there are also some unknowns, and soil borings will need to be taken to ensure a solid foundation – site #2 (see attached) is the existing pool site – chemicals can stay entirely outside of this site – the backend of this site will still require some fill dirt, not nearly as much as site #1 – foundation work will not be as extensive, and this site has a lot less risk associated with it – the amenities are both the same -- the major differences between the two sites are placement of a future natatorium, and privacy
 - Fahl – asked about the slide
 - MSA – this slide does not drop into the pool; it is a runout waterslide
 - Fahl – questioned what kind of supervision is needed for the waterslide
 - MSA – two lifeguards

-Cochran – asked if using salt instead of chlorine is factored into the cost
-MSA – it is not, cost of salt would add roughly 10-15% more in the pool line item

-McGee – asked about the completion timeline
-MSA – would need a full year for construction, with completion the summer of 2018

-Kotses – asked if the fill dirt is the difference in the cost of the two sites
-MSA – it is – approximately 25,000 cubic yards is needed for site #1, at \$40 per cubic yard – fill dirt is a huge cost impact, and the main driver between the two sites

-Kotses – expressed concern about the minimal area for diving into 7' water from the deck into the pool – it doesn't appear there is much room for that outside of the lap lanes – would lap lanes need to be removed to increase area for diving?

-MSA – reel lines will be used to manage the number of lap lanes needed at any given time – these lines can be easily and quickly removed and/or replaced

-Butler – asked if there is still time to change amenities
-MSA – the amenities are fairly fluid until the final construction documents are completed

-Papai – asked if any consideration was given to pushing the pool area closer to the Community Center building in site #1 – this would enable covering the pool with a “sprung” cover for winter use (see attached)

-MSA – it is close enough to support such a concept – again, it comes down to cost – such a dome would require its own foundation, with a trench drain, and storage unit – either site can be designed for a “sprung” structure – cost would be approximately \$1 to \$1.5 million dollars

-Papai – asked how much difference it would make if the City could provide free fill dirt

-MSA – any suitable fill dirt would save some money – dirt is not the major cost though; it is the cost of labor

-Papai – concerned that 3.6 feet is shallow in the zero entry pool – also questioned whether more lifeguards would be needed for this new pool

-MSA – may require additional staff

-Kotses – believes that currently the City staffs about 5-6 lifeguards

-MSA – new pool will likely need 7-8 lifeguards

-Mayor – certified lifeguards can be hired at age 15 – opens up interesting jobs for high school students – he provided Council Members with a few letters he has received over the past few days in support of an outdoor swimming pool (see attached)

-Mark Barsamian, resident – asked how the new pool concept may play into the East State Street traffic situation – expressed concern about ingress/egress – should be addressed before siting the pool

-S-S Director – assured Mr. Barsamian that there will be traffic calming efforts made – site selection must be completed prior to the East State Street improvements – the two projects are aligning

-Sarah Abdella, resident – Athens Middle School student – read comments in support of an outdoor pool from many of her classmates

-Lisa Mosier, resident and architect – encouraged the City to run a cost scenario for the “sprung” membrane structure for use during the winter months – could be entirely removed during the summer to accommodate outdoor activity

-Resident – asked how the size of the new pool compares to the current pool size

-MSA – smaller body of water – pools are now designed for age groups to be more efficient – smaller pools that serve more people with less water

-Resident – seems like there is too much shallow water, and not enough deep water for middle school age students who like to dive off the side of the pool and hang out in the deep water along the walls

-MSA – good thing about this approach, with separate bodies of water, is that the lap pool can be as deep as you want it and can be used for “open” swim simply by reeling in the lap lane lines, while the other half of the pool is programmed for playing volleyball, basketball aquatics in about 4’ of water

-Kirk Greenfield, 25-year resident – concerned that floodwaters may ruin the pool plumbing or filtration system

-MSA – idea is to minimize risk – pool house plumbing will be designed to be placed above the floodplain

-Martha Bishop, resident – is pleased that the pool has been extended to include 8 lap lanes – it is important to have a deep water area for kids to swim

-Todd Swearingen, Guysville – asked about the dimensions of the “future” natatorium

-MSA – the area is about the size of a 6 lane lap pool

- 2015 Tourism Economic Impact Report
 - Paige Alost, Executive Director of the Athens County Convention & Visitors Bureau – presented the 2015 tourism assessment (see attached) visitors generated \$154 million in business activity in Athens County in 2015 – about a 10.3% growth over 2013 – retail trade is the number one visitor activity (generates sales tax), followed by the food and beverage sector – tourism supports 1 in every 9 jobs in Athens County – 7-year visitor spending comparison has seen continued and outstanding growth from \$112,000 million in 2009 to \$154,300 million in 2015 – in the last five years, the food and beverage industry has seen tremendous growth due to the craft brewing industry, hand-crafted distilled spirits and wine – shows a lot of long-term promise – recreation and entertainment doesn't show much growth, but only because it is not a taxable activity – it is still the one that brings a lot of visitors to our area, and the one we are most proud to offer visitors – looking at ways to leverage the Hock-Hocking Bikeway into something that does create a taxable activity, or attaches to the food and beverage industry – Bureau is working toward such concepts for next year

-Papai – asked if the opening of the Nelsonville bypass has helped with our growth

-Alost – she believes that it does – it is a lot easier to get here

-McGee – asked if any plans are being made for the legalization of marijuana

-Alost – if marijuana does become legal in Ohio, what the Bureau can do will take direction from how the law is set up, dispensaries, who can engage in it, etc.

-Mayor – overall appearance and a welcoming City play an active role in our tourism climate

-Butler – our City is pedestrian friendly, and maybe we need to consider being flexible in our planning/zoning for more growth in the food and beverage industry

-Alost – there are lots of trends – Bed & Breakfasts capitalize on unique lodging opportunities – having more walkable neighborhoods and pedestrian friendly communities tied directly into that concept of unique lodging would be helpful – she would like to see growth in this area – visitors being able to walk is very important

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Members in Attendance: Michele Papai, Chair
Jennifer Cochran, Vice-Chair
Peter Kotses, Member

Other Council Members: Kent Butler
Chris Fahl
Patrick McGee
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley
Law Director Eliason
Auditor Hecht

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- West Union Streetscape (current plan)
 - Papai – this is the block between Court and South Congress – ongoing efforts to improve the area after the fire
 - Mayor – includes the north side extension of the sidewalk by 4', with curb bump-outs beyond that at the north-south and south-north intersections to shorten the distance in crossing the street, tree wells, an increase in parking by a couple of spaces by adding some compact car spaces, the street lanes have been reduced to accommodate the extension of the sidewalk – the total for one side of the street has been funded at \$75,000 – a request is being made for additional dollars to fund the south side of the street, and to include brick inlay, multiple tree pits, planters and park benches, as well as bike racks near the bump-outs on both the east and west ends, parking kiosks and, finally the street repaving
 - Papai – asked about the lane size
 - Mayor – travel lanes will be reduced to 11' from 13' – ODOT allows lanes to be as narrow as 10'
 - Butler – this is a wonderful opportunity to implement the Essence of Athens with this design

- Fahl – likes the pedestrian safety features with the bump-outs – such traffic calming efforts should be fast-tracked for other intersections
- Mayor – will certainly rethink Court Street in its entirety

- Kotses – will be a good test – hopes the City is flexible enough to make changes to future project designs to better address bike friendliness

- Papai – asked about the cost increase to do both sides of the street
- Mayor – project cost will increase from \$75,000 to \$160,000
- S-S Director – the bids will be opened next Monday

- Cochran – voiced concern with doubling the cost – questioned whether the additional amount being requested will mean less money for annual street paving and pothole repairs
- Mayor – assured her that the additional funds are not coming from dollars appropriated for the annual street paving budget
- Cochran – pointed out that the additional \$85,000 could be used toward other streets, not just Union

- Melanie Schori, resident – asked if parking on Union would be restricted to using the Park Mobile App on a Smartphone
- Mayor – responded that the parking kiosks replacing the meters can be paid with either cash or a credit card, and will have Park Mobile capabilities as well

- East State Street Expanded Scope (Home Street connector)
 - Papai – see attached map for routes being considered

 - Mayor – consideration is being given to reduce the travel load on East State Street – provides connection to future community facilities

 - S-S Director – this is not a new concept – the library has requested a true connector down to the bike path – there may be available funds from the East State Street project – the cost estimate is less than the grant request, and the connector could be built as Phase II of the project

 - Papai – concerned that the connector will dump traffic into the residential area – asked if the connector could be extended down onto the railroad bed, to then be connected to the proposed Stimson roundabout

 - Fahl – concerned about a connector street so near the library – green space would be lost

 - Cochran – agrees, this is not a good plan for the library – she has major concerns with this proposal and believes the connector will have a serious, deleterious effect on the library and its programming – traffic

generated with this connector street will pose safety issues for those frequenting the area, whether it be to visit the library or, in the future, to frequent Farmers Market

-Papai – need to be cognizant of protecting our residential neighborhoods – understands the mission is to alleviate traffic on East State Street, but need to think long and hard about how it may benefit East State and yet be detrimental to the library area

-Kotses – questions what will be gained and yet what will be lost – the connector will definitely impact green space – he just doesn't see creating more streets alleviating enough traffic volume on East State Street that it would be worthwhile – he measures the success of a project as, can you increase the value without detracting from what is currently there – sees the bike path being pushed aside – does not like any of the concepts on the map

-Papai – questioned what the connector will accomplish – may only create another problem – again, it places more vehicles in a residential area – believes it will be a cut-through the neighborhoods

-Kotses – recently had a conversation with an ODOT official who said there are certain streets that you have to sacrifice to move traffic through, but you don't have to do that with all of them – there are certainly other creative ways to move traffic down East State Street

-Papai – requested the Administration meet with Council's Transportation Committee to talk about what has changed in the East State Street corridor plans over the past year, because she doesn't remember this ever being a part of the plans

-Butler – guesses that part of this plan is an attempt to move traffic to a potential future Farmers Market site on the Community Center campus – appreciates the concepts coming forward, while not exactly enamored by them

-Papai – would like to be better informed

-Fahl – believes another public meeting would be helpful to update citizens on the East State Street project plans, as well as one for the neighboring area before moving further on a connector street

-Risner – the discussion of money to be used from East State Street is not for construction, correct?

-S-S Director – it would be for design – we don't normally put monies toward design without the idea that it would likely be built as a future

project – a number of concerns have been expressed this evening and the Administration will need to reassess and make a decision as to how best to proceed