

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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, and Law Director Eliason.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Risner moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Session held September 19, 2016, and the Special Session held September 26; Fahl seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Knisely noted that Council Members have received notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control of a New, C1 liquor permit (for beer only in original sealed container for carry out only) to Silver Serpent, LLC, 55 N. Court St., Athens, with a response deadline of October 31, 2016.

Papai indicated that there are approximately 20 liquor establishments within a three block area on Court Street.

Council Member Papai is aware of concerns through social media and emails from the Near East Side Neighborhood Association and Athens Public Library patrons regarding the access road connector from Home Street that include issues with bike path access points, loss of green space, and increased neighborhood traffic.

Council Member Cochran also received many verbal complaints with citizens concerned about the environmental health of the Library and the near east side neighborhood with the proposed street extension at Home Street.

Council Member McGee has been approached by several concerned citizens concerning the delay in construction at the West Union Street fire renovation site. Businesses are suffering from it, loss of parking spaces is a concern, and it would appear that construction is minimal with no real effort being made to complete the project. He suggested the City begin to charge for each day the street area is closed.

Council Member Butler has received positive feedback from community members that are in support for enhancements to both sides of the West Union Street sidewalk project.

Council Member Fahl acknowledged that she, too, received many inquiries about the Home Street connector. Also, City Council Members are in receipt of the 6-year Capital Improvement Plan from Ohio University.

President Knisely noted that a copy of the Plan is available online at the Ohio University Website.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- Ohio University Homecoming is this weekend. Due to the altered parade route down Court Street and turning onto East Washington Street, the Parking Garage will likely be closed shortly before 10:00 a.m. and will remain closed until the parade has passed through the street and the entrance/exit can be reopened.
- Athens Area Stand Down, reminder that this 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.
- Income Tax Open Forum presented by the League of Women Voters will be held at 6:00 p.m. tomorrow evening at the Athens Public Library.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD 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. Papai moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-119-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-120-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 18-16; AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DEPOT LIFT STATION (PROJECT #286). Butler moved for Adoption; Cochran seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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

ORDINANCE 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.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING:

0-122-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 18-16 TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE FOR THE DEPOT LIFT STATION (PROJECT #286); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Fahl moved to remove from the Table:

0-17-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLE 17, MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX, CHAPTER 17.03, TRANSIENT GUEST TAX, SECTION 17.03.01, DEFINITIONS, TO INCLUDE BED AND BREAKFASTS; AND AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF TITLE 23, ZONING CODE, CHAPTER 23.04, PERMITTED USES. Papai seconded. Discussion: Fahl emphasized that this Ordinance does not include R-1 and R-2 zoning areas, only B zones and R-3. Motion was approved unanimously.

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

Scott Wolf, Albany, understands that change in government is not swift, however, he attended City Council on June 20th and again on August 1st to express his concerns with unlicensed contractors working within the City. He requested City Council review ACC Section 11.10.06, Contractor Registration and State License Requirements, and to close any loophole that would allow this to occur. He was advised by the Mayor that the Code language was currently under review to correct any unclear language.

Mr. Wolf believes the City Code is very clear, a plumbing contractor without a State License, is not eligible to register with the City. The City Code does not need changed, the City just needs to enforce the existing Code. He asked the City Administration to come into compliance immediately with ACC 11.10.06. He asked that the City respond to his inquiry within three days.

President Knisely noted that it does take time for the Administration to submit a change to the Council through the committee structure, and she is aware that Council Member Butler is working with the Administration on this matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 7:30 p.m. Fahl moved to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, and invited the Mayor and Law Director to attend. Cochran 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 7:50 p.m. Papai moved to come out of Executive Session; Butler seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. Fahl then moved to adjourn the meeting; Cochran seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council