

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 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, Law Director Eliason, and Auditor Hecht.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Papai moved approval of the minutes from the Regular Session held on November 7, 2016; 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 D1 permit (beer only for on premises consumption or in sealed containers for carry out) to Athens Dynasty, Inc., dba 498 Richland Avenue, with a response deadline of December 8, 2016.

Also received, a notice from the Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control, that all permits to sell alcoholic beverages will expire on February 1, 2017. In order to maintain permit privileges, every permit holder must file a renewal application. Any objections must be postmarked no later than January 3, 2017.

Council Member Butler acknowledged receipt of communications regarding "Airbnb" issues, both pro and con.

Council Member Kotses had a conversation with a constituent about reducing the recycling fee. This citizen would like the program analyzed first to be sure the City is doing all it can for the future of recycling.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Auditor Hecht reported the following:

- Will be going out to bid for the City's annual audit this year. There is no reason for the State to continue our audits, and an Independent Public Accountant (IPA) is less costly to the City.

- Will update the City's Website regarding the new tax rate that will be effective January 1, 2017, and postcards will be mailed to Certified Public Accountants (CPA's) in our area, and to all businesses that have courtesy withholding accounts.

Council Member Risner asked if professional tax preparers will be notified.

Auditor responded, yes, a tax training is scheduled in December to work with them on all tax changes, including those passed at the State level.

Treasurer McClure presented her quarterly report (see attached 2016 Interest Income and Reconciliation). She noted that the accumulated interest year to date is \$158,381.73, well above the projections because of a 3-year CD that came due in May. Also, the proceeds from the municipal pool bond that closed on Thursday are now invested in a separate US Bank account.

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- He has been appointed to the NLC University Community Steering Committee.
- Receipt of letter from a business owner thanking the City for not moving forward with the plastic bag fee, and the business owner plans to possibly put their business name on reusable bags, giving them away free.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-123-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS, WHERE NECESSARY, AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR DESIGN ENGINEERING OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT #307; AND REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO BORROW FUNDS. Butler moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-124-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO POWER COMPANY FOR USE OF THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY AS AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCE 143-13 AND EXTENDED BY ORDINANCES 126-14 and 113-15. Fahl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-126-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING IMPROVEMENTS TO HIGHLAND PARK, PROJECT #308. Papai moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-130-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DESIGN ENGINEERING OF THE 2017 WATERLINE REPLACEMENT (PROJECT #310).

0-131-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF (2) ATHENS TRANSIT BUSES NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

0-132-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE ATHENS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-134-16

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$625,000 OF NOTES BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING PART OF THE COSTS OF DESIGN ENGINEERING OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT #307; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-135-16

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$450,000 OF NOTES BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWING NOTES PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO PAY PART OF THE COSTS OF IMPROVEMENT TO THIS MUNICIPALITY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-136-16

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$50,000 OF NOTES BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWING NOTES ISSUED TO PAY PART OF THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING A NEW FIRE TRUCK AND RELATED EQUIPMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-137-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING OF THE MCKINLEY AVENUE EXTENSION PROJECT (#302).

0-138-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/FEDERAL LOCAL-LET AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR THE MCKINLEY AVENUE EXTENSION PROJECT (PROJECT #302); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-139-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 34-16, RICHLAND AVENUE BETWEEN THE BRIDGES LIGHTING PROJECT (#291).

0-140-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO SUSPEND, TEMPORARILY, THE FEE FOR PARKING AT METERED SPACES IN THE MUNICIPAL PARKING GARAGE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Papai moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet the December 1st tree lighting event; Fahl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Papai moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-141-16

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING ATHENS CITY CODE SECTION 7.05.03, CONTINUOUS PARKING IN THE SAME LOCATION, FROM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016, UNTIL MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-142-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT EXTENSION TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ATHENS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

0-143-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-144-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules; Butler seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-145-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLE 17, MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX, CHAPTER 17.01.051, COLLECTION AT SOURCE; WITHHOLDING FROM QUALIFYING WAGES AND CHAPTER 17.01.08, CREDIT FOR TAX PAID; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-146-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SERVICE CENTER TO SERVE AS THE CITY'S THIRD PARTY HEALTH INSURANCE ADMINISTRATOR; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Discussion: Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet the open enrollment period that begins December 1st; Papai seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously.

Risner moved for Adoption; Papai seconded. Discussion: Blake Hodgeson, Employee Benefits Service (EBS) Third Party Administrator (TPA), has been working with the City since July to discuss the City's self-funded health insurance options moving forward. The City has been working since September on renewal with UMR and United Health Care (UHC) (see attached). The first column is the current plan year, 2016, and the second column is renewal with UHC-UMR. The third column is an alternate plan, noting that the current maximum cost with UHC-UMR is \$4,231,392.32, with a renewal cost of \$5,729,227.28, and the renewal option with Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO) the new network/carrier, International Medical Group (IMG), managing general underwriter (stop-loss carrier for claims exceeding \$110,000.00), EBS is \$4,192,765.68, an overall reduction of approximately \$1.52 million. The Mayor tasked him to save the City money while not compromising benefits to employees.

Fahl asked if there will be a significant change in area providers.

Hodgeson commented that Medical Mutual is a statewide network, and any disruption would be minimal.

Law Director asked about the number of alternate proposals reviewed. Hodgeson checked with eight (8) different stop-loss carriers.

Cochran questioned whether his research included an analysis of any cost savings for implementation of a Comprehensive Wellness Program.

Hodgeson responded, yes. Employees need to be incentivized. The more money invested upfront, the more money you're going to save; it is money well spent. He is happy to sit down and discuss implementation strategies. There are many options, from voluntary to mandated programs.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-147-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A STOP-LOSS MEDICAL INSURANCE CONTRACT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules, again, to meet implementation requirements by December 1st; Papai seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION FOR FIRST READING:

R-12-16

A RESOLUTION DECLARING SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAGS AN ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN. Discussion: Cochran explained that this Resolution will encourage consumers to use reusable products rather than single-use products whenever possible. It will encourage retailers to use 100% recycled content single-use bags. With support of other organizations, it encourages the City to collect data on the bags used and disposed of within the City, as well as recycling and reuse rates. It will also involve a survey of plastic and single-use bag litter within the City, and asks that the City revisit this issue in a year's time to review reduction rates, and, hopefully, an increase in the recycling rate, locally.

Papai noted that Keep Athens Beautiful is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, and that KAP has not met in some time.

Mayor suggested changing it to Keep Southeast Ohio Beautiful, which is active with Gary Chauncey at the Wayne National Forest.

Cochran moved to amend Section VI to change Keep Athens Beautiful to Keep Southeast Ohio Beautiful, affiliate; Fahl seconded. Amendment was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

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

Mayor Patterson announced the following:

- Encouraged citizens to take time to complete the College Town/Gown Assessment Survey.
- Due to the holiday, there will be a one-day delay in garbage/recycling pickup; Thursday's route will be picked up on Friday.
- City Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday.
- Community Center will close at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday and will remain closed on Thursday and Friday, to reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday.
- Ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Columbus Road Bikeway Bridge will be held on the Columbus Road side of the bridge on Friday, December 2, at 3:00 p.m.
- Holiday Tree Lighting, Thursday, December 1, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Armory.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 8:20 p.m. Fahl moved to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining, and invited the Mayor, Law Director, and Auditor to attend. Papai 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 8:55 p.m. Cochran moved to come out of Executive Session; Papai seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. Papai then moved to adjourn the meeting; Butler seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council