

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: SPECIAL SESSION, MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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 Pro Tem Butler, Mayor Patterson, Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley, Law Director Eliason, Auditor Hecht, and Deputy Auditor Kreider.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-137-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING OF THE MCKINLEY AVENUE EXTENSION PROJECT (#302). Papai moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Discussion: McGee continues to have concerns with the impact these improvements will have on traffic entering Stimson Avenue from the Rock Riffle Road area. He understands the area is outside the City limits, but emphasized his concern for safety and is not convinced with assurances that this area will be reviewed in the future. The problem exists now, and the State should address it along with this project.

Kotses noted that he is aware that this interchange is very high on ODOT's radar; they are aware that it has many problems.

Papai has also heard that the interchange needs redesigned.

Butler agrees, ODOT plans to address in the near future.

Papai reminded McGee that a roundabout is used as a traffic calming device.

Kotses asked if the Administration could track vehicle numbers and speed data, both before and after the improvement.

The Mayor responded that such data collection can be done. He also is aware that the interchange is on District 10's radar; it is ill-designed and much more extensive than just the Rock Riffle connector.

McGee would like to see the City put more pressure on the State to protect our citizens. He believes the roundabout will increase the flow of traffic in the area.

Kotses commented that abandoning this project will not solve the larger problem of the interchange.

Butler also acknowledged that this extension has been planned and is already funded, and believes the City should move it forward.

The Mayor will continue to engage ODOT to correct this interchange.

Adoption was approved by a 6/1 vote, with McGee voting in opposition.

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. Papai moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved by a 6/1 vote, with McGee voting in opposition.

0-139-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 34-16, RICHLAND AVENUE BETWEEN THE BRIDGES LIGHTING PROJECT (#291). Papai moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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

0-143-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Fahl moved for Adoption; Risner 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. Risner moved for Adoption; Papai seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-149-16

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN VEHICLES NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

0-150-16

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017.

0-151-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING 2017 STAFFING LEVELS AND NON-UNION COMPENSATION; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-152-16

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A FRINGE BENEFITS PACKAGE FOR NON-UNION PERSONNEL WITHIN THE CITY OF ATHENS AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-153-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 7, TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 7.02, EQUIPMENT; LOADS, TO ADD SECTIONS FOR OPERATION OF LOW-SPEED, UNDER-SPEED, UTILITY VEHICLES, OR A MINI-TRUCK UPON ANY STREET OR HIGHWAY WITHIN THE CITY OF ATHENS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Discussion: McGee recalled issues raised last week when discussing the criteria the Police Chief would use in determining whether or not to authorize operation the low-speed vehicles at special events. There has been no change in the language and he continues to be concerned about that.

Papai responded that both the Administration and Law Director support the current language, and she does not plan to make an amendment.

RESOLUTION FOR THIRD READING:

R-12-16

A RESOLUTION DECLARING SINGLE-USE CARRYOUT BAGS AN ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN. Cochran moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Discussion: Fahl commended Cochran for moving forward with this progressive resolution.

Risner agrees, and supports the measure.

Kotses echoes the same sentiments, and speaking as a small business owner, he does not believe the earlier ordinance would have had a profound impact on businesses in Athens. He sees it as a sign of things to come.

Mayor Patterson praised Cochran for finding common ground in putting forward this resolution. He believes it will encourage alternatives to the use of plastic bags in our community.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

President Pro Tem Butler announced the rescheduling of City Council's Regular Session of December 19th, to meet Wednesday, December 14, at noon, and it will be the final session of Council this year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 8:10 p.m. Cochran moved to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining, and invited the Mayor, Service-Safety Director, Law Director, Auditor, Deputy Auditor, and Consultant Drew Esposito to attend. Fahl 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. Fahl moved to come out of Executive Session; Papai seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. Fahl then moved to adjourn the meeting; Papai seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President Pro Tem of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council