

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 27, 2017
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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Carriage Hill (fire)
 - Butler – need for children's clothing donations – drop-off locations are Baker University Center and Diles Hearing

 - Mayor – building 12 was essentially destroyed – no one was injured – 31 displaced families within the fire area – fire and police crews did a great job – Jill Harris, Ohio University Emergency Management, helped coordinate displaced residents, largely students – the Red Cross handled the basic necessities – building 13 was largely saved, sustaining some smoke and water damage – most importantly, no lives were lost in this large structure fire
- Washington County Jail Contract)
 - Butler – need to authorize renewal of contract for 1-year, at \$60.00 per day, to assist with female prisoners if regional jail space is unavailable, contract expires April 1st

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Jail Contract

MINUTES FEBRUARY 27, 2017

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

Items Discussed:

- Non-Union Benefits (safety gear)
 - S-S Director – has had a request for prescription safety glasses for a non-union employee who works in lawn maintenance – Auditor has denied the request because it was not specifically named as a benefit – S-S Director requested removing the detailed items and adding the broader term “safety gear”
- Donation
 - Risner – has received a request from APD Chief regarding a donation of (\$500) from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to assist in the purchase of forensic equipment for sexual assault examinations (Colposcope) toward a total cost of \$16,000, for the emergency room at OhioHealth O’Bleness Hospital
 - Mayor – Ohio University is also providing a \$500 donation
 - Papai – proper equipment is needed to provide evidence in court
- Appropriations/Transfers
 - Risner – has received the following appropriations/transfer requests – decrease the Community Center Fund, 271, T.C. 500, by (\$35,140.00), as the energy efficiency loan has been paid off

- Butler – the Athens Municipal Arts Commission is requesting (\$12,000) be appropriated to Athens Enhancement Fund, 250, T.C. 300, for Art Outside the Box, Phase II, the wraps being used on traffic signal boxes – (\$2,000) for the 2017 Poet Laureate; and (\$7500) for the exterior Paint Program to income qualifying applicants
- President – asked if Athens Enhancement is the fund that will be receiving less revenue this year
- S-S Director – yes, while there is funding for certain projects this year, the fund will be reduced in the number of projects it can assist in the future
- Fahl – requested a presentation on the activities of the Poet Laureate
- Risner – Clerk of Court, Pam Walton, has requested decreasing the Clerk's Computer Fund, 231, equipment line, by (\$15,000) and increasing the professional services line by the same amount – also need to appropriate (\$145,100) to Transportation Fund, 214, T.C. 300, for payment to HAPCAP from the sale of the final GoBus
- Mayor – after the most recent fire and on behalf of the Fire Chief, would like to request (\$3,500) be appropriated to replace fire hoses
- Prior Year Expense
 - Mayor – would like (\$4,200) authorized from 2017 funding to complete payment on a prior year bill for removal of tanks that were located during the reconstruction at 16 West Union

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Safety Gear
2. Donation
3. Appropriations/Transfers
4. Prior Year Expense

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 27, 2017
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Chris Fahl, Chair
Jeff Risner, Vice-Chair
Patrick McGee, Member

Other Council Members: Kent Butler
Jennifer Cochran
Peter Kotses
Michele Papai

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

Items Discussed:

- Lot Split (Holzer Health System)
 - Fahl – approve a recommendation from the Planning Commission to allow a lot split at 2131 East State Street, granting a variance for the lot depth to width ratio
- Micro-Wireless Telecommunications (new regulations)
 - Fahl – adopted as SB 331
 - President – this legislation that was passed at the State level becomes effective on March 21st – this will allow companies to place equipment, for free, on structures within our public rights-of-way, unless the City has more restrictive legislation in place prior to the effective date – concern from the Public Works Department is having equipment on structures needing maintenance, relocation, and/or if the structure falls, who is liable for damage of these communication devices – City is working with a law firm, Ice Miller, preeminent firm in the State assisting cities with their right-of-way codes
 - Fahl – asked whether the company has to request that the equipment be placed on a right-of-way structure
 - Mayor – the City would be notified – Ice Miller has been asked by the City to add micro-wireless facilities to Title 43 – also questioned Ice Miller about whether SB 331 will include macro systems – looking to find the best solution moving forward – several municipalities, including Athens,

are looking into challenging the constitutionality of SB 331—litigation could cost the City up to \$10,900

-Fahl – asked about any fee that could be collected by the City for the use of City structures

-Risner – outlined in SB 331 – guidelines for fees: the total annual charges and fees for the attachment (and related activities) must be the lesser of \$250 per attachment OR the actual, direct, and reasonable costs related to the use of the wireless support structure – in the case of disagreement, municipal corporation has burden of proving the fee is reasonably related to its costs

-Fahl – asked whether boxes can be placed on the sidewalks

-Mayor – yes, there are boxes that cannot be buried underground

-Cochran – is confused about, and questioned the bullet point on page 14 of 31, that states: “Establishes that “no person (natural person, corporation, or partnership) shall occupy or use a public way without first obtaining...any requisite consent of the municipal corporation” – she sees this as providing a protection to municipalities

-Risner – understands that if an application is filed and the City does nothing with it, silence is consent – also, the City must have a very valid reason for rejecting

-Mayor – denials must be in writing and “supported by substantial competent evidence) – also, exemptions that are equally troubling, are that entities do not need to get municipal consent for: routine maintenance of wireless facilities, or replacement of wireless facilities with wireless facilities that are substantially similar or are the same size/smaller than existing wireless facilities

-Fahl – this is an example, yet again, of removing Home Rule

- Sidewalk Obstruction

-McGee – there is very little guidance in the current City Code – would like the City to exercise more control when buildings are being constructed or repaired, and any loss of revenue due to lost parking spaces (\$1,700 per space per year) – also, need to address pedestrian safety – he has proposed language to amend this section of Code – provision includes guidance for temporary obstruction (3-days) to (60-days) or longer, and has proposed criteria for issuing and for revocation of permits for undue delay – an extension beyond 6 months would require the permit holder to come before City Council to justify a further extension – exemptions are in place for temporary dumpsters in the street, for up to 10 days, and on the sidewalk as long as the City is compensated for the loss of parking revenue – finally, he has included language to accommodate the placement of porta-johns during fests

-Cochran – asked how the City is currently compensated for on-street dumpster placement

-S-S Director – the permit holder is charged \$5.00 per day and \$1.00 for the bag – there is no fee for the permit

-Butler – he is not concerned about fees, or interested in adding more bureaucracy to the process, but thinks it is worthwhile to make sure there is a plan in place to ensure adequate sidewalk accessibility; it is a safety issue

-Papai – need a better understanding, when application is made, as to time frame

-Fahl – amendment will help formalize the permit process – need to identify concerns expressed this evening, and discuss with Administration prior to implementation

-Mayor – is not opposed to the proposed legislation, but need to review impact to pedestrians and vehicular flow, and the related fees for the permit – questioned what happens when they exceed the time limit and must report to Council – what authority does City Council have?

-Fahl – What is their pathway if City Council denies the extension?

-McGee – it is simply an added control to get the permit holder to justify, publicly, the closure for a longer period of time

-S-S Director – would like consideration of 5-day as opposed to 3-day temporary permit

-Papai – questioned the placement of porta-johns for “unsanctioned” events – she doesn’t feel the City should get involved

-S-S Director – doesn’t feel this language should be included – this is a well-drafted ordinance, but the porta-john section should be removed – City advises residents that porta-johns need to be in the back of the property so as not to be in the public right-of-way

-Fahl – would like McGee to discuss fine-tuning of his proposed amendment with the Administration

- Environment & Sustainability Commission

-Fahl – there is a vacancy on the Commission – volunteers interested in serving, please send a resume to the Clerk of Council

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Lot Split

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 27, 2017
7:00 p.m.

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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Brew Week/Last Call (event presentation)
 - Brandon Thompson, Executive Director – noted that this will be the 12th Annual Brew Week Event – explained that this is a 9-day event taking place in 29 restaurants, bars and breweries – brings a lot of tourism into Athens during the slower summer months – requested street closure on July 22nd from 6:00 a.m. to midnight, along with suspension of the noise ordinance, and vending
 - Cochran – would like all events to be consistent in closing times
 - Mayor – event closing times all typically align – this event closes down a half hour earlier than Halloween
 - Thompson – this is a very family-friendly event
 - Mayor – encouraged a reach out to the uptown businesses a few days prior to the event
 - Thompson – he will attend an AUBA meeting
 - Mayor – AUBA is a good start, but would go door to door on Court Street since all businesses do not attend AUBA meetings
 - Kotses – AUBA meets the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the front conference room of the City Building

- Athens Public Transit
 - S-S Director – would like authorization for funding – 90/10 match – (\$25,782) – end of year delivery
 - Mayor – (2) low-deck buses and (1) high-ceiling passenger van
- Franklin Avenue (final sidewalk assessments)
 - Papai – the project is now complete – will follow standard procedures for assessing homeowners
- Neighborhood Parking Passes (pilot program)
 - Joan Kraynanski – presented an updated request and petition supporting this proposal (see attached) – to accommodate walkable neighborhoods on the City's West and North sides, neighborhoods with very limited or no off-street parking – since 1995, four attempts have been made to create some form of permit parking in the near uptown residential area, this being the fifth – she would appreciate action on this issue – the designated areas are compact enough to be easily enforced, and regulations can allow for future revisions and updates – some relief to residents needs to be offered
 - Papai – focus is on a pilot project – 72 hours seems reasonable
 - Fahl – questioned removing the 24-hour parking regulation
 - Butler – supports pilot, worthwhile to experiment – emphasized that the 24-hour parking regulation is to deter long-term “storage” parking
 - Kraynanski – does not agree with eliminating the 24-hour parking regulation – it does work and has been successful and very helpful
 - S-S Director – is not in favor of this pilot project – believes the 24-hour parking regulation works – questioned how rentals would be handled – should this pilot project happen, she would like only those with zero parking spaces to get one permit – if even one off-street parking space is available, no permit should be granted
 - Butler – if the City wants to encourage and entice citizens to live in our close-in neighborhoods, we should applaud efforts that make livability more appealing – this pilot can do just that, and is advisable to move forward – new apartment complexes have eased the parking situation, but there is still a challenge if you have no off-street parking
 - Cochran – can see that the parking challenge is an issue for single-family housing – she supports this pilot

-Mayor – there are still a lot of unknowns – encouraged Council to work with him in exploring the administrative process – if this moves forward he strongly encouraged Council to make it a potential 2-year pilot, with a one-year opt-out if it does not work out, or with the idea of expansion if it is successful

-Papai – suggested a meeting with her, and possibly the Transportation Committee, Joan Kraynanski, Mayor, Service-Safety Director, and APD Captain Harvey to iron out some of the details prior to drafting legislation

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Brew Week
2. Buses & Van
3. Franklin Assessments