

# **MINUTES MARCH 13, 2017**

## **FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair

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

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

### **Items Discussed:**

- Public Defender Contract  
-Risner – need to affirm execution of the 2016 contract (always lag time in billing and payment due to the State/County operating on a fiscal year and the City a calendar year) – City would also like to authorize now the full contract for 2017, and to expend up to \$130,000 in order to stay ahead of the fiscal vs calendar year transition
- Appropriations/Transfer  
-Risner – transfer (\$50,000) from Community Center Debt Fund to Community Center for accessibility improvements to entrance

### **ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. Public Defender
2. Appropriations/Transfers

**MINUTES**  
**MARCH 13, 2017**  
**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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

Other Council Members: Jennifer Cochran  
Peter Kotses  
Michele Papai

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials: Acting Mayor Knisely  
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley  
Planner Logue

**Items Discussed:**

- Sustainability Plan (presentation)
  - Logue – presented the attached excerpt of the plan and requested it be adopted by City Council
  - McGee – living wage is a must – buying local is important
  - Cochran – this plan is a reflection of the values that embody our community, protecting our natural resources, and what makes Athens a great place to live
  - Acting Mayor Knisely – this is a well-defined document and one that is user-friendly – compliments our Comprehensive Plan
  - Abe Alassaf, Westfield Place – plan has some controversial items such as carbon taxes, banning plastic bags, preventing the sale of aerosols and other air pollutant products, and emission standards for public and private vehicles – encouraged Council to review the specifics – lots of regulation – questioned whether this plan works for all Athenians, or just a small niche
  - Richard Linscott, Central Avenue – Chair, Environment & Sustainability Commission – clarified that the carbon taxes and banning of aerosols were items brought forward by community members at the public meetings, not recommendations by the Commission, and there is no ban on plastic bag usage, but will assist with tracking their use

-Mathew Roberts, Lorene Avenue – Member, Environment & Sustainability Commission – stressed that this is a living document – Commission would like plan engagement and challenge – will only improve with participation

- AEP (easement)

-John Buck – External Affairs Manager – proposed project cost \$300,000 – is to improve reliability of service to some uptown businesses

-Kevin Cremeans, Customer Design Supervisor – goal is to eliminate the equipment behind the City's Parking Facility – this will improve safety for maintenance personnel and improve reliability to customers – corrective plan is to replace two poles at College and Church Streets, and install underground risers to (2) transformers in the garden area owned by Ohio University, and an overhead transformer, fed by underground facilities along College – (3) transformers are required to provide different voltages – secondary voltage will run from these transformers, behind the Parking Facility to the alley, where one of three poles will be eliminated – the current transformer will be replaced with a secondary pedestal to serve the current underground facilities – it is necessary to keep the (2) poles for clearance in order to maintain overhead services that are currently there, and to alleviate any additional cost to customers by not having to change out their meter bases

-Papai – asked about the height of the wall housing the transformers, and whether there is a covering over the top

-Cremeans – the height is 7' 4" – there is no cover over the top

-Papai – concerned with safety and damaging of equipment, and asked if the transformers are enclosed

-Cremeans – the transformers are enclosed in locked boxes within the locked enclosure – the enclosure is simply for aesthetics, typically the transformer boxes are out in the open

-S-S Director – clarified that the City has asked for this improvement due to the number of outages to businesses in the area

-McGee – asked why the voltage cannot be underground

-AEP – can cause voltage swings if not on an aerial transformer

-Kotses – asked about the timeline for this project

-AEP – will start in May with a 2-month construction completion

-Cochran – asked about tree removal and/or measures to protect the trees in the area

-Robbie Shields, AEP Public Right-of-way Agent, has met with Ohio University to review the trees in their garden area – she doesn't anticipate any problems – any displaced trees will be replaced

-AEP – the enclosure will be brick

-S-S Director – City has requested that it match the brick on the parking garage

- Wireless Communications, Substitute Senate Bill 331 (lawsuit)
  - Risner – this SB allows vendors to attach wireless communication equipment to structures within the public right-of-way – Mayor is requesting the City pursue a lawsuit with other Ohio cities, citing SB 331 as unconstitutional and in violation of Ohio Law – questions Home Rule rights

-Acting Mayor – this law becomes effective on March 21 – may need to amend our existing City Code so that it is more restrictive than SB 331 to include micro-cell equipment – City would like to be proactive

-McGee – asked about the cost of joining the lawsuit

-S-S Director – the cost is based on population – the City's cost is \$6000, and the expenditure will be covered by the Law Director's budget

**ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. Sustainability Plan
2. AEP Easement
3. Lawsuit

**MINUTES**  
**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 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:**

- Bounty on the Bricks (presentation)
  - Cindy Weber, Director of Marketing & Communications for OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital – requested closing Court Street between Union and Washington from 8:00 a.m. to midnight for this fundraising event to be held on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> – 100% of the proceeds go directly to the Southeastern Ohio Food Bank
  - Community Development Coordinator for the Southeastern Ohio Food Bank, a program of HAPCAP – reported that this Food Bank serves 10 counties with 60 member agencies comprised of both food pantries and soup kitchens that serve the families directly – 1 of 6 individuals are struggling with hunger, when looking at children that number increases to 1 of 4 – last year the Food Bank distributed 6 million pounds of food – Bounty on the Bricks is a vital fundraising event – in the last four years this event has raised \$315,000 to put food on shelves for distribution – this activity pools all of our resources together for a great collaborative event for hunger relief
  - Weber – OhioHealth O'Bleness is working closely with the Athens Foundation who has served as past event coordinator
  - Butler – asked about a backup location in case of rain
  - Weber – that has not yet been decided

- Fahl – would like to see a sliding scale for those who can't afford full price tickets
- Weber – she will bring forward this request at their committee meeting
  
- President – thanked OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital for continuing this positive event
  
- Butler – asked when tickets will go on sale
- Weber – it is generally June 1<sup>st</sup>
  
- Mayor – applauds OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital for taking over the reign from the Athens Foundation – the need of the Food Bank is huge
  
- West State/Lancaster Traffic Signal (Project #306)
  - Papai – need to improve safety of pedestrian traffic
  
  - Mayor – cost estimate is \$95,000
  
  - S-S Director – this project was approved in 2016, but did not receive any bids, so the bidding and authorized expenditure still stand, but an appropriation will be needed
  
  - Cochran – asked about the change – will the signal be pole or wire mounted
  - Mayor – it will be pole mounted
  
  - Papai – enhanced pedestrian crosswalks are also part of the plan
  - Mayor – also signal timing for the crosswalks
  
- Bike Path Spur (repair)
  - Papai – this is our new Columbus Road bike path spur – recent flooding undermined part of the bike path near the bridge – noted that construction was just completed in December of last year
  
  - Mayor – there are still ODOT funds available that can be used for 80% of this repair, our local match is \$14,216 – pilings and/or rip rap will be used on the riverbank to mitigate future flooding
  
  - Butler – appreciates the attentiveness to this repair – cones are in place, but the area is unsafe
  
  - S-S Director – it is fortunate that the project had not yet been closed and the City is still eligible to use the grant funds
  
  - Papai – asked if a drainage pipe will be placed under the bike path

- Mayor – no, due to the direction of the flow – the damage occurred from the river into the basin – a drainage pipe would allow the free flow of water underneath that could cause damage to the non-river side – shoring up the embankment is best
- EPW Vehicles (disposal)
  - Mayor – EPW would like to dispose of two heavy-duty vehicles (2005) Ford F350 with 95,415 miles and a 1999 Ford F450 XL 4X4 with 57,756 miles
  - President – asked if there are plans to replace these vehicles during this fiscal year
  - S-S Director – yes, the salt truck, via State bid

**ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. Bounty on the Bricks
2. Traffic Signal
3. Bike Path Spur
4. Vehicle Disposal