

MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2017
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
7:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance: Kent Butler
Jennifer Cochran
Chris Fahl
Peter Kotses
Patrick McGee
Michele Papai
Jeff Risner

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

Items Discussed:

- Athens Community Television
 - Matt Green, Executive Director – briefed Council on his 2016 Annual Report, and provided an update through the 1st quarter of 2017 – has received 91 programs to be aired (about 81 hours of on-air programming); 144 equipment rentals; on-line viewership is at 723 hours, with almost 4,000 views – also, he has launched a newly designed website that is much more mobile friendly – website use is about 80% of ACT's traffic – will now be able to post to the website that will then post to Facebook – he is starting to build an online tutorial base – ACT has experienced some producer friction, disturbing other tenants within the building – this issue appears to have been resolved
 - President – is aware of Matt's past attempts to increase participation by young people – suggested possibly a specific project, such as Zero Waste, might draw from an environmental group at one of the schools
 - Green -- thanked her for the suggestion – added, current facility is great, but the location is not conducive for walkable student traffic
 - President – pointed out that YouTube viewership went from 1000 in 2014 to 22,000 in 2016, speaks to the change in platform
 - Green – first started using YouTube in 2013
- Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)
 - President – resolution of support to reinstate funding – the initial proposed federal budget would zero out funding for this agency

-Fahl – explained this is a federal/state partnership – mission is to find innovative and inventive ways to strengthen economic growth in the Appalachian area – goals are to provide economic development, workforce training, critical infrastructure development and leadership development – projects recently funded: Hocking College Sustainability Action Plan; \$2 million dollar grant to Ohio University's Innovation Center to support economic development in impacted coal communities in Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio; the City received \$500,000 for the McKinley Avenue project; Tri-County Career Joint Vocational School has received funding for materials and supplies; an elementary school program was offered through Live Healthy Appalachia; a mammography mobile unit provides access to health services in underprivileged rural counties; Chauncey received funding for its new Wastewater Facility, and Trimble redeveloped its water supply and distribution – this funding is well-used and essential to these communities – she plans to propose a resolution strenuously advocating that the ARC funding be restored

-Kotses – shared his favorite ARC-funded infrastructure project as the bypass around Parkersburg, W.VA that would not have been possible without the support of ARC funds – it opened up a whole new transportation corridor for business

-Mayor – since 2007, the City of Athens has received over \$1.9 million dollars in ARC funding – cited the following projects: Columbus Circle access road to the Laurels and the Holzer Clinic access road, creating jobs; as well as replacement of our traffic signals to LED – these projects might not have happened without ARC funding – encouraged Council also consider a resolution in support of CDBG funding

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. ARC Resolution

MINUTES

APRIL 10, 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
Auditor Hecht

Items Discussed:

- Arts, Parks & Recreation (revenue and debt)
 - Auditor – monies left over from 20 year Community Center levy need to be moved from the Community Center Debt Fund into a revenue fund in order to utilize the funds for the purposes established by the ballot language – Bond Counsel Dennis Schwallie recommended borrowing on a 30-day note, the amount currently in the debt fund – the borrowed money will be deposited in a new revenue fund entitled Community Center Construction Phase II, 272, to pay for construction, equipment and furnishings as set forth in the levy ballot language – the note will be paid off using the money currently in the debt fund, which can only be used to pay debt (approximately \$640,000) – appropriations will be needed to pay bond counsel services and to improve accessibility to the front entry of the Community Center – an additional fund will be created for the new Arts, Parks & Recreation levy for purposes detailed in the ballot language – a separate ordinance will be need so a split of 60% of the collected revenue can be receipted into the Recreation/Community Center Debt Fund, 470, to pay for the new pool, and 40% will be receipted into the newly created fund
 - Papai – asked again about the list of priorities for the APR levy – Council should be apprised

-S-S Director – clarified that appropriations will need to be approved by Council for all project costs associated with both the Community Center Construction Phase II levy and the APR levy

- Zero Waste Audit (City facilities)

-City Planner Logue – spoke briefly about implementing, as best practice, the Zero Waste Pledge as part of the City's Sustainability Plan to reduce waste generated in our municipal buildings

-Caitlin Garrity, Rural Action – proposed performing a City audit at City Hall, Community Center, Code Enforcement, and EPW (see attached)

-Cochran – this is a great tangible first step in implementing the City's new Sustainability Plan – fully supports this proposal

-Fahl – it would be good to have a zero waste program for homeowners – seems the next logical step

-McGee – applauds the zero waste efforts

-President – is hopeful that this effort can yield a savings – it sets a good example for the community

-Mayor – employees will learn to operate more efficiently in reducing our landfill and increasing our use of recyclables

-Butler – would like to consider adding the Police and Fire Departments

-Mayor – agrees

-Logue – this is a high-end quote from Rural Action – The Sustainability Commission has \$2000 available for this project – he requested the City appropriate the balance from the Garbage Fund – he will check on the dollar amount to add APD and FD

-Risner – asked about auditing our fleet fuel consumption

-Logue – Zero Waste does not look at fuel reduction, however, will bring his request to the Sustainability Commission

-Risner – the City's Green Fleet committee struggles with types of vehicles and fuel efficiency – any input would be helpful

-Logue – will add that as a topic to their May meeting

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Debt Fund Note
2. Levy Revenue Split
3. Appropriations

MINUTES
APRIL 10, 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:

- Moore Avenue Vacation
-Fahl – discussion postponed until an Ohio University representative can attend
- Comprehensive Plan (update)
-Planner Paul Logue – see attached 2017 update “draft” of planning process – City did a really good job with the 2006 Plan Vision – this update will continue to build on the original vision -- \$30,000 has been appropriated in the budget to move forward with the Plan update – most work will be done in-house

-Fahl – fortunate to have the professional staff on hand to be able to do this in-house – this planning process will build a stronger community

-Papai – is pleased with the many ways that will be utilized for public engagement – plan recognizes concepts of focusing on neighborhoods, corridors, key issues such as housing, growth, redevelopment and environment

-Risner – asked about scoring the original Plan on its merit
-Logue – a spreadsheet has already been completed and he is happy to share that with the Council – pleasantly surprised on how much of it has

been implemented, considering that plans are rarely reviewed on a regular basis – much has been accomplished

-President – refers frequently to the Comprehensive Plan as a guiding principle to answer certain questions – would like to be sure that the meetings in a box are inclusive of lots of different groups – questioned the timeline in launching workshops, surveys and meetings this summer when Ohio University student groups may not be available

-Mayor – would like attention to focus on those elements in the original plan that have not been achieved – while some of it may not be relevant, some of it may be a good learning tool as to why it didn't happen – was it a stretch too far, not reachable – would like to look at removing parking meters and using Park Mobile and kiosks, and to explore and strive in sending less to the landfill and recycling more, and possible curbside composting

-Papai – housing issue is important one to focus on

-Fahl – is excited in moving forward with this update – challenged Council Members and public officials to become involved, reminding them that they serve as a conduit to citizens who may want to become involved, and also to pass along citizens' ideas

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
APRIL 10, 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:

- ODOT (TIGER grant)
 - Papai – the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funding is to improve Ohio's rural transit system
 - Jessica Stroh, Transportation Director, Hocking.Athens,Perry Community Action Programs (HAPCAP) – this is a great opportunity for the State of Ohio – goal is to upgrade all 34 rural transit systems to base level technology – portions of the Athens Public Transit System (APTS) are still doing data reporting by hand – this is a competitive grant and APTS could receive approximately \$200,000 to upgrade electronic scheduling and dispatching software and hardware (tablets and computers) – because the State has done an RFP to put the vendors on a State-term contract, HAPCAP is not able to apply for the funding, thus is making a request for the City of Athens to submit the application – a preliminary scope of work has been submitted for ODOT's review – nothing official will happen until City Council approves the final application – timeline for application submission is short and she requested the legislation be approved by Council next Monday
 - Risner – asked if APTS has gaps in communication areas
 - Stroh – definitely – advocated for Athens County to be included in the broadband improvements, but there are counties that have zero service that were prioritized – however, the updated software will continue to send

the information through the “gap” areas and will automatically update when service is restored

-Risner – asked where the gaps are

-Stroh – she is aware of one in the northern part of the county, not in the APTS service area, but in the On Demand service area – Connect Ohio has a map

-President – will make the map available in the Council office

-Stroh – shared 2017 APTS 1st quarter stats: total ridership, 118,309, up from the 1st quarter of 2016 which was 84,999, ending the 2016 year at 325,000 riders – with continued growth, this year could see a total of 400,000 riders

-McGee – asked if the ridership figures include the GoBus, and what she attributes the ridership increase to

-Stroh – the numbers do not include GoBus (it increased 15% during the same time) – a large number of the increased ridership for APTS is due to the Bobcat pass – that partnership has exceeded all expectations – clarified that the total ridership numbers include APTS and the Summit – the City routes, alone, for the month of March increased from 8,146 to 17,967 – service hours have been extended to 10:00 p.m., and has been very successful – also in March, they saw their highest numbers in elderly/disabled ridership – visibility has improved through signage and stops – understands there is some cultural shift as well

-Butler – asked about increasing the number of shelters for the growing number of riders

-Stroh – shelters will be placed along the East State Street corridor – working with City’s engineering staff to include the public transportation component in project areas – shelter development addresses an important safety concern at stops

-Papai – is pleased with HAPCAP’s work on our public transit system – appreciates Stroh’s comment about the cultural shift – this will continue to improve with better public transit accessibility

- Mobility Manager (FY2018)

-Stroh – HAPCAP will be applying for the 2018 grant this summer – City has supported this position since 2010 – federal funding is 80% with a 20% local match – requested the City contribute up to \$7500 (same as 2017)

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. TIGER grant
2. Mobility Manager