MINUTES
APRIL 24, 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:

- Disposal of Items from old WWTP
  -Butler – these are equipment items such as scales, pumps and motors that may be valued over $1000

- 2017 Waterline Project
  -Butler – replacement of this aging infrastructure will be on Avon and a portion of Dalton – authorization is being requested to advertise and accept bids, and enter into contract – project cost is approximately ($467,000) from the Water Fund

  -Cochran – hopes this will include the complete paving of Avon – it is in poor condition
  -Mayor – it does

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Disposal
2. Waterline

MINUTES
APRIL 24, 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:

- Gas Aggregation (NOPEC presentation)
  -President – in 2009 gas aggregation was approved, but has not been implemented to date

  -Mayor – the City has explored and reached out to a number of gas aggregation firms, but with our being a partner with the North Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) he has requested their Executive Director Chuck Keiper come to present to Council – noted that Eddie Smith, Executive Director of the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) (partnering with NOPEC) is also present this evening

  -Chuck Keiper – NOPEC is the largest governmental aggregator of natural gas and electricity in the State of Ohio, and in the nation – service about 575,000 electricity accounts and about 325,000 natural gas accounts – current footprint is 13 northeast to north central counties (see attached) – there is power in the voices of communities united – can negotiate better pricing – NOPEC regularly bids natural gas and electric purchases with a financially stable provider – mission is to serve customers through aggregating, educating and advocating – natural gas is the most volatile commodity traded – NOPEC's pricing approach is not to beat the market, but not get left behind by the market, to deliver fair value and fair terms – their commitment is to always be within the bottom 3-5% of serious market offers -- every county, and every group of counties chooses a representative to serve on the Board of Directors – if the City moves

forward with this gas program, Mayor Patterson will become the NOPEC board representative for SOPEC at their annual meeting

-President – clarified that SOPEC is a member of NOPEC – asked which one the City would enter into an agreement with – acknowledged that this is an opt-out program

-Eddie Smith – will need an ordinance authorizing SOPEC to act as an agent on behalf of the City to sign a NOPEC agreement for gas aggregation

-Papai – questioned whether it is a concern that the ballot issue passed in 2009, and no action has taken place to date
-Mayor – in general, he believes residents are satisfied with electric aggregation, and the ballot issue in 2009 received about 70% of the vote in favor of gas aggregation – he is unclear as to why no action has been taken until now – believes it is vitally important to have a seat on the Board for gas aggregation in Southeast Ohio

-Keiper – it is a powerful reach for the City of Athens to join 300,000 other gas buyers in Ohio

-Smith – the pricing proposal being offered is highly competitive – 20% of that total revenue goes explicitly to fund renewable energy projects within the U.S.
-McGee – does any of that 20% apply to Ohio?
-Smith – the City could advocate on the Board of NOPEC to put forward a certain project
-Keiper – clarified that the State of Ohio pulled the rug out from under renewable standards, and at the current time there doesn’t seem to be a lot of State support

MINUTES
APRIL 24, 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:

- COMCorps (presentation)
  -Andrew Chiki, Assistant Director of Recreation, introduced Amy Townsend, Wellness Coordinator with Hopewell Health Centers, and Lauran Borovicka, Program Manager of COMCorps – City would like to create a partnership with Hopewell Health Centers and the Community Center to offer a wellness initiative program, first with Hopewell clients and then replicate this program to other populations and the wider Athens community – COMCorps will serve as the overseeing body

  -Borovicka – presented the attached fact sheet

  -Townsend – presented the attached partnership program – Amy acknowledged a drop-off in their clients accessing this resource – from March 1 – 31, 88 Hopewell clients had access to use the Community Center during this time with just 29 clients logging-in, and only 11 of those 29 attending more than once

  -Chiki – Community Center has had a partnership with Hopewell since 2012 – would like Council's support for this initiative – requests an appropriation of $7,005 to the Community Center Fund (1/2 of which will be reimbursed by Hopewell) – emphasized that this will not increase City staffing; the position will be through a professional services contract

-McGee – questioned whether the goal is focused on childhood obesity rates
-Borovicka – this program's main focus is working with adults – 20% of the time will be working with children

-Papai – acknowledged how beneficial this program will be to Hopewell's clients – living a healthier lifestyle sets a good example for the children living with adults who have a mental illness – supports this community inclusive program

-Cochran – this is a great community collaboration

-Butler – small investment for an opportunity to make great change

-Chiki – noted that 40% of the program will be spent on Hopewell specific, 40% on Community Center initiatives and outreach, and 20% with COMCorps on larger initiatives

- Appropriations/Transfers
  -S-S Director – would like to appropriate $6100 to Capital Improvements for APD servers

  -Mayor – would like an appropriation of $9,906 to purchase AED's
  -S-S Director – the units that would be replaced are no longer supported by the company

  -Mayor – requested $5,512 for improvements to the Mike Stanley Park
  -Cochran – asked if the improvements could include some no-smoking signage as it is part of our Community Center campus

  -President – Auditor requested an appropriation of $250 to cover the cost of (2) veterans' banners – the banner cost will be recovered as part of the $125 applicant processing fee

- Staffing
  -S-S Director – the Administrative Coordinator/HR Assistant has been part-time for several years, was increased to ¾ time, and the hours continue to be exceeded – the position was approved by Council to move to full-time temporarily though August 31st, and the Administration requests that the staffing for this position remain permanently at full-time

  -Mayor – new HR Director is very proactive and making significant changes – this is a move in the right direction – also, IT staffing currently lists (2) interns who can each work up to 1020 hours per year – it would be helpful to have those changed to (2) IT Assistants, so as not to exceed the

limited hours, and allowing each part-time assistant, depending upon the budget, to work up to 29 hours per week – finally, requests increasing the Mayor's interns by (2) to assist Planner Logue with the Comprehensive Plan update

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Appropriations/Transfers
2. Staffing

MINUTES
APRIL 24, 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 – the Planning Commission's recommendation supports this vacation to Ohio University for use as the future site of the (Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (HCOM) development

  -Shawna Bolin, University Planner – explained that the University's 2016 Comprehensive Master Plan, a collaborative process with University and City, indicates seeding a new Green area called the "Union Street Green" creating a home for HCOM, envisioning a "Knowledge Corridor" and repurposing the site and buildings for Engineering and Medicine – acknowledged that the Planning Commission's recommendation was made with the understanding that it is not setting a precedent for vacation of City streets, requested a careful study of trees and landscaping of the area, and includes safe pedestrian traffic moving from the east, west connection – the University would like vacation in order to have full access to move AEP lines, other utilities, and to shape the building and its design in the most appropriate way

  -Fahl – key point for the City is that this vacation is not setting a precedent

-Service-Safety Director – indicated that the City was granted a permanent easement by Ohio University for the current site of Habitat for Humanity on West Union Street – understands a land transfer has not been formally approved by the State

-Bolin – clarified that the University thought the paperwork had already been done to transfer that permanent easement to the City at the site of Habitat for Humanity – releasing land is a complicated task at the State level – the University will move forward with the process to turn that land over to the City permanently, with the City's understanding that it will take time – these types of transactions between the City and University should be done in such a manner that ensures success for the future of both

-McGee – asked about the University's plans to alleviate the parking problem in Athens, especially the Union Street area
-Bolin – the University is currently working on a Parking Master Plan – the HCOM site is being repurposed in a manner that will open up additional parking across the street – holistically, the Plan will look at the entire University campus parking – the Plan will reach out to the community to understand parking concerns in order to develop strategic plans for mitigation
-McGee – asked about a timeline for the Parking Master Plan
-Bolin – it started in January – she anticipate 9 months to a year

-Butler – asked about the infrastructure in the area to be vacated
-S-S Director – Public Works Director Stone provided the Planning Commission with his review – there are no city-owned utilities in this section of Moore Avenue – there are utilities on Factory and further west on Moore, but he could not foresee a reason they would have to interconnect
-Bolin – the University understands that with the vacation it accepts full responsibility to relocate utilities within this project area

-Mayor – reminded Council that this section of Moore Avenue is not paved, it is gravel
-Bolin – currently, this section is mostly used by pedestrians

-Papai – important for the City to have appropriate documentation involving City/University transactions

-President – asked about the University's plans to relocate utilities under the building's footprint
-Bolin – understands there may be a sanitary sewer line that would need to be relocated, but all other utilities are overhead – the University will be completely responsible for locating any and all utility lines once the design of the building has been completed

-President – asked if the electric lines will be buried
-Bolin – yes, that was also part of the Planning Commission's recommendation – will collaborate with the City should that be necessary

-Mayor – asked when the University will begin the process of vacating the site of the Habitat for Humanity land to the City, and how long it will take
-Bolin – it has not yet started because the University just became aware of it a couple of weeks ago – based on their data, they thought this transaction had already taken place – again, it will take a while to go through the State's process – will likely not be completed until next year – she can pass along a timeline to the City
-Mayor – understands this transaction will have to go through legislative channels at the State House – would like assurances that it is proceeding

-Kotses – asked about pedestrian movement through this planned Union Street Green as it relates to City property
-Fahl – the University works collaboratively with the City in these buffer areas

-Kotses – questioned whether the section of Moore Avenue being retained by the City will only provide ingress/egress only to Shafer Street
-Bolin – Roberts Road currently connects with Moore Avenue from Union Street, and this connection will remain

- Trex License (Dan Gates)
  -Dan Gates, resident and business owner on West Union Street – is interested in a plan to develop and implement marketing plans to drive more consumer traffic to the West End of Athens – he would like to create a 501(c) 3, non-profit educational, marketing and promotional organization whose mission would be to pool resources, ideas and talent to increase awareness for the West Side, and to facilitate the success of member businesses through a West Side Business Association (WSBA) – he is requesting Council approve a D-2 and D-3 trex license to his business, Starting Gates Bier Halle, to help the business be more competitive – the business is transitioning to a more upscale restaurant with more menu options featuring local foods

  -Fahl – acknowledged that the business currently has a D-1 license

  -Mayor – the Mayor has already been approached by Mr. Gates, and he has denied the trex based upon the length of time his business has been open, and the fact that it currently holds a D-1 license – he doesn't see that having D-2 and D-3 licenses would further enhance economic development

-McGee – asked what his plans are for the business if granted a trex license
-Gates – there would be more investment dollars – the value would increase significantly – the three licenses would create a greater volume of activity, basically more customers

-McGee – asked about a timeline and number of employees that will be hired – need to know how his investment dollars will be used
-Gates – he has a partner that will be investing $65,000 – looking to hire 24 people and, of course, some of those will be part-time

-Fahl – questioned whether, if the trex is not granted, Mr. Gates plans to move forward with the West Side Business Association
-Gates – absolutely

-Papai – asked for clarification on the D-1, D-2 and D-3 licenses
-Gates – D1: beer only for on premises consumption or in sealed containers for carryout; D2: wine and mixed beverages for on premises consumption or in sealed containers for carryout; and D3: spirituous liquor for on premises consumption only until 1:00 a.m.

-Fahl – questioned whether a trex can be transferred
-Papai – a trex permit can be transferred to a different owner at the same location, or to the same owner or a different owner at a different location in the municipal corporation, or in the unincorporated area of the township

-Fahl – pointed out that Fire Chief Rymer has identified in his 2016 annual report the continuing problem of uptown bars as a continuing problem of high occupancies and blocked means of egresses in the uptown area during peak times – while she thinks the idea of the (WSBA) is a good one, she doesn't see the Council Members wanting to move forward with a trex license

-Mayor – asked if the 501(c) 3 process has begun
-Gates – it has not; it is a long process (about 6 months)

-Papai – clarified that the City, at this time, is at the quota for both the D2 and D3 licenses, and the trex is a special request limited for purposes of economic development

-Mayor – wished to clarify how long Starting Gates has been open
-Gates – since August 16, 2016

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Moore Avenue Vacation

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
APRIL 24, 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:

- Road Salt
  -Papai – will be authorizing EPW's participation in ODOT's Cooperative Purchasing Program for a total of 600 tons of sodium chloride – legislation needs to reach ODOT by May 10th

  -Kotses – due to our mild winter, questioned whether this amount is a lot less than usual
  -Mayor – yes, there is a lot of carryover from last winter
  -S-S Director – it is usually twice this amount

- 2017 Annual Paving
  -Papai – need authorization to advertise, accept bids, and enter into contract, and to expend up to ($550,000) for annual street paving, 50% from Street Fund and 50% from Street Rehabilitation Fund – streets to be paved are still being finalized

  -Mayor – pointed out that this is a substantial increase, typically the amount is ($350,000)
  -Papai – clarified that the increase is due, in part, to passage of the levy

  -Mayor – listed the streets at this time as: Second Street between Curran and North Lancaster; Roosevelt between Highland and Columbia; Canterbury between Mulligan and Lamar; Tulane between East State and

McGuffy, Gibson from Union to Elliotsville Road; Stewart between Mill and East Union; Byard between Smith and Shafer; Farhills from Pomeroy Road out 1140'; Budget Host Drive from South Blackburn down 750'; Kenny Drive; Pratt between Washington and Byard; Avon from East State to Sells Park; Charles Street from East State Street to Pleasantview; Old Coach from Longview out 1725', and city-wide crackseal – streets may be added, deleted, or adjusted

-Risner – was approached about the deterioration of the asphalt on Dairy Lane – asked about possible patching
-S-S Director – will report that to EPW
-Papai – understands the street will be reconditioned after the waterline replacement

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Road Salt
2. 2017 Paving