

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour with the following members present: Butler, Fahl, Kotses, McGee, Papai, Risner, and Smedley.

Also present: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, and Law Director Eliason.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Fahl moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Session held September 5, 2017; Papai seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Knisely announced that Ohio University has arranged a meeting with Council Members on Friday, September 29, in Baker Center, Room 341, from 1-2 p.m.

Council Member Fahl reminded everyone of the Athens City Comprehensive Plan Update meeting, a public visioning session, to be held at the Community Center Room ABC at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- Gary Chauncey, Wayne National Forest, has invited comments on the Buckeye Trails/North Country Trail reroutes in Perry County, noting that this does include the area bordering Athens County.
- A 6-month coordinating/planning grant has been received that will allow the hiring of a Mobility Specialist to continue to look at our regional transit.
- Noted that information will be more readily available on the City's Website to report when parking meters in the uptown area will be bagged and not open for public parking.

- Today, the State Highway Patrol Post dedicated the naming of the Athens Post as the John Born Ohio State Highway Patrol Post. John is an Athens native and currently serves as the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

ORDINANCE FOR THIRD READING:

0-95-17

AN ORDINANCE BANNING PARKING AND CLOSING THAT PORTION OF COURT STREET FROM MULBERRY TO CARPENTER ON OCTOBER 28 AND OCTOBER 29, 2017, IN ANTICIPATION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CONVERGING ON DOWNTOWN ATHENS (HALLOWEEN WEEKEND). Papai moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-105-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2017 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet the timely payment of an invoice to replace fire equipment damaged during a recent lightning strike at Station #2; Papai seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-106-17

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/STATE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SIGN REPLACEMENT ON US ROUTES 33, 50, AND STATE ROUTE 682; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-107-17

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DESIGN ENGINEERING OF THE RICHLAND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS (PROJECT #311). Discussion: Papai indicated that Council Members are in receipt of the comprehensive Buckley Group Engineering Report, discussing all aspects of the area. She explained this pedestrian enhancement is in the area of Richland that crosses between Porter Hall and West Green. The City has been awarded a State grant of \$1.8 million.

McGee clarified that the City will be paying approximately \$350,000 to \$400,000 for this pedestrian tunnel under Richland Avenue. He questions whether there may be other less costly alternatives, such as traffic guards.

Risner is in favor of this project; the area is very congested, and he is concerned about pedestrian safety every time he drives through. It is dangerous and really needs addressed. This design is a good solution, and he believes it will work to make the area safer.

Butler is excited about this endeavor. Safety concerns in this area have been on the City's radar for a number of years. This is a simple, direct solution.

Kotses understands this report is a preliminary design and looks forward during its development on how to reduce and mitigate interaction of all above-ground user groups, pedestrian, vehicular, and bicyclists. He is in favor of this project.

Mayor Patterson reported pedestrian counts in this area of roughly 1300 per hour and 7000 vehicles per day, which includes delivery trucks, transit system, and 750-1000 vehicles per hour. This underground walkway can be as wide as 30 feet, with natural light passing through, along with internal lighting. The intent of this project through the Ohio Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is to correct a safety issue, and he hopes City Council approves it.

0-108-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 3, ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 3.07, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS; BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, TO ADD SECTION 3.07.76 TO ESTABLISH THE ATHENS CITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION. Fahl moved to Table for further discussion in committee; Papai seconded. Tabling was approved unanimously.

0-109-17

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO REDUCE 2017 YEAR-END APPROPRIATIONS.

0-110-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2017 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

0-111-17

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING PARK PLACE, WEST MULBERRY STREET, AND A PORTION OF COURT STREET ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017, WITH A RAIN DATE SET FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017, FROM 3:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. FOR A BARBEQUE SPONSORED BY THE JOINT POLICE ADVISORY COUNCIL (JPAC); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Smedley moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet the scheduled event date; Papai seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Smedley moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Discussion: Risner asked about the number anticipated to attend this event.

Smedley responded that in past years it has been about 1000.
Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-112-17

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

0-113-17

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS (PROJECT #307); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Butler moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet project deadlines; Risner seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Butler moved for Adoption; Papai seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ONE-READING RESOLUTION:

R-07-17

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TENTATIVE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT (PROJECT #307). Butler moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Fahl moved to Amend Rule #5 to allow the President Pro Tem and Acting President Pro Tem to vote as a Member of Council during the absence of the President; this has been past practice; Risner seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Fahl moved to accept the Auditor's August, 2017, financial reports; Risner seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Kotses moved to appoint Brandon Thompson to serve the unexpired term of Christina Deidesheimer, and for an additional two-year term that would expire on October 19, 2019, on the Recreation Advisory Committee; Butler seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

At approximately 7:40 p.m., Fahl moved to Adjourn; Risner seconded.
Adjournment was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council