

MINUTES OCTOBER 23, 2017

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair
 Chris Fahl, Vice-Chair
 Kent Butler, Member

Other Council Members: Peter Kotses
 Patrick McGee
 Michele Papai

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

Items Discussed:

- Athens Community Television
 - Matt Green, Executive Director – presented a snapshot of 2016-17 through October 17, 2017 (see attached) – does not need any capital improvements at this time – future needs: will likely need computer and software upgrades for editing equipment – newest Apple operating system, High Sierra, will not support Final Cut Studio Two, or possibly look at Adobe products, using Premiere Pro – he will review options for best possible cost – playback system (on-air production) has been in operation for 10 years, on 24-7 for 365 days a year, runs Windows XP which is no longer supported – added storage and it continues to do its job – this semester ACT has an Ohio University Work Study student which will be very helpful – current contract expires December 31, 2017 – requests a 3-year renewal
 - Risner – asked about the Board of Directors, when they meet, how often, and under what circumstances, and how is the Board reconstituted with a resignation
 - Green – will provide a copy of the by-laws – all of these stipulations are included – adding, it has been a while since the Board has met – is not easy getting a quorum (there are 7 Board Members, so a quorum is 4)
 - Risner – need something that is workable
 - Mayor – asked who appoints the Board of Directors
 - Green – the Board itself
 - S-S Director – noted that Matt is not seeking an increase in his 2018 budget at this time

- Risner – asked about consideration of a new location that might be cheaper, better
- Green – would like to be closer to uptown area, likely won't be cheaper – location must have a special cable drop from Spectrum
- Mayor – asked about square footage
- Green – 1028 square feet

- 2018 Budget

- Mayor – requested a reallocation of revenues from the income tax to decrease Street Fund by a full percent to (19%) and increase Capital Improvements Fund by a full percent to (3%), instead of just half percent in each fund – indicated that in 2016, 4.6 miles of roadway was paved, and in 2017, 9.7 miles – does not count large projects – the budget process is underway with departments – medical and prescription benefits have been discussed

- Auditor – Deputy Auditor has completed the personnel budget – 2018 projects are being tracked – revenue side is under review

- Fahl – asked about carryover

- Auditor – there may be some loss in the income tax revenue due to possible changes at the State level

- Fahl – Home Rule is slowly being undermined

- Mayor – Public Defender contract needs to be renewed for 2018 in the amount of \$150,000

- Smedley – asked if this amount is the same, or if it has increased

- Mayor – it continues to increase

- Legal Secretary II (new hire, pay rate)

- Eliason – Joyce Apperson, Legal Secretary II, is retiring on December 31st – Joyce would like to continue working in the Law Director's office and Eliason would like to hire her back at a pay rate of 50% through the assigned pay grade – Joyce currently earns \$20.07 per hour, and if a 2% raise is authorized by City Council for non-union employees, Joyce would be earning \$20.47 – the current pay grade ranges from \$15.75 to \$21.26 – she would like to pay her \$18.49 – noted that she is the office manager and in a supervisory role

- Papai – this employee will be collecting her retirement and returning to work and earning a paycheck from the City as well

- Butler – understands that the Law Director's office will benefit from the employee's experience, institutional memory, and expertise

- S-S Director – Administration supports the Law Director's decision – Joyce is a dedicated public servant

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Income Tax Reallocation
2. Public Defender
3. Legal Secretary

MINUTES OCTOBER 23, 2017

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

Other Council Members: Kent Butler
Peter Kotses
Michele Papai
Arian Smedley

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

Items Discussed:

- Athens County Convention & Visitors Bureau (presentation, Paige Alost)
 - Paige Alost, Executive Director of ACCVB, reviewed 2017, and plans for 2018 (see attached)
 - Fahl – emphasized the economic development potential and the Halo Effect – quality of life issues are really important – tourism promotion is key
 - Alost – we are a unique community, relatively isolated – not being attached to a big metropolitan area makes it more challenging – quality of life attracts new business
 - Fahl – asked where the City could do a better job in marketing and promotion of economic development
 - Alost – there is a need for regional partnerships and educating businesses – ACCVB works with multiple economic development organizations – EDC’s Strategic Plan released this year is very aggressive, but does not address quality of life – ACCVB’s messaging and information is essential to help EDC share the quality of life component – ACCVB works very closely with ACENET and Rural Action – they share a closer sector alignment – hospitality, recreation, food and art are all key stakeholders in those organizations -- they are all important
 - McGee – asked if “free” ridership on Public Transit might increase tourism
 - Alost – doesn’t believe it would increase tourism in the area, but public transit does play a big role – it is definitely an asset
 - Smedley – asked about alternative lodging options

-Alost – “unique lodging” tends to be cabins, bed & breakfasts, smaller inns, boutique properties of less than 30 rooms, and locally owned – Athens has the potential for growth in this arena – encouraged City Council to consider unique lodging opportunities, keeping in mind the health, safety and well-being of the guests, as well as those living adjacent to these properties

-Papai – most of the unique lodging is outside the City limits – asked how the marketing is going

-Alost – this market is growing, however, people are requesting lodging near the bikeway, and lodging for 8-10 people as opposed to 2-4 – she believes there is an opportunity for that within the City

-Mayor – asked what percentage of the transient guest tax in the County comes from the City

-Alost – 90% of the business takes place in the City because that’s where the hotels are located, also the restaurants, craft breweries, bikeway, and the University

- Occupancy Permit & Compliance Form (rental dwellings)

-Fahl – this will replace the Tenant/Occupant Education Form that has not worked well for the City

-S-S Director – City Council requested some additional enhancements to the poster – TGC’s Scott Thompson will develop a QR Code – Code Enforcement will have the posters printed, laminated and sent out with the 2018 rental permits

-Fahl – this will be an effective information tool for tenants – would like to also consider tightening code language with regard to responsibilities of property owners to provide proper trash receptacles and the removal of snow/ice

-S-S Director – still looking at a possible pilot program for uniform trash receptacles

-Papai – questioned adding “open” fires

-S-S Director – will include, noting that there is no open burning within the City

-President – asked if the Code designates who is responsible for snow removal when tenants are out of town

-Mayor – the Code designates the property owner

-McGee – asked if the City might consider clearing the snow/ice and billing the property owner

-Mayor – concerned that this could begin to go in a direction not anticipated – property owners may begin to see this as a service – even a large surcharge would likely not keep pace with the cost of the manpower needed for such an undertaking

-Smedley – questioned whether this poster will take the place of the smaller card stock rental permit, or is it in addition to

-Law Director – the poster is in addition to the permit

-Kotses – noted that the smaller permit is specific to the address, while the poster is more general in nature

- Traffic Code (amendments to bicycling and skateboarding on certain

- Traffic Code (amendments to bicycling and skateboarding on certain sidewalks in uptown area, and administrative offense for jaywalking)
 - Fahl – safety is an issue – signage will be improved
 - Mayor – the “Walk Your Wheel” pucks have been placed on the sidewalks – legal signage will be posted on lampposts – vinyl wraps will be placed on the Big Belly receptacles at all intersections – an educational blitz and awareness campaign will take place in January – warnings will be issued during spring semester
 - S-S Director – also shrinks jurisdiction for better focus on Court Street
 - McGee – bike rack placement at the beginning of the restricted areas would be helpful
 - Mayor – that can certainly be done
 - Papai – asked if a bike rack could be placed in the lower level of the Parking Garage
 - S-S Director – space could be make available
 - Mayor – pointed out that jaywalking will become an administrative fine – empowers Parking Enforcement to issue citations for both riders and walkers

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. ACCVB (contract)
2. Compliance Form
3. Traffic Code Amendments

**MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 23, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

Members in Attendance: Michele Papai, Chair
Peter Kotses, Vice-Chair
Arian Smedley, 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
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ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Holiday Parking (Municipal Garage)
 - S-S Director – free holiday parking in the garage coincides with Athens Uptown Business Association (AUBA) events
 - Papai – noted that the free parking dates scheduled are: after 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, December 7 and 14, and all day Saturday, December 2, 9, and 16, 2017 – this excludes 2-hour metered spaces on (1 upper)
- Holiday Parking (Continuous on Street)
 - Papai – the 24-hour parking regulation will be suspended from December 17, 2017 through January 1, 2018

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Holiday Parking (off-street)
2. Holiday Parking (on-street)

