

MINUTES
NOVEMBER 27, 2017
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Kent Butler, Chair
Peter Kotses, Vice-Chair
Arian Smedley, 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:

- Community Housing Impact & Preservation (CHIP) Program
 - Glen Crippen, Director of Housing and Community Development, HAPCAP – this is a federally funded affordable housing program – the City of Athens is a partner in this program, with the County being the applicant and grantee as the larger area allows for more funding opportunities – he provided the following update: the ongoing program started September 1, 2016 – the State requires that certain benchmarks be met halfway through the program for the program to be considered successful, and the County has met the 50% benchmark in completion and expenses – renewing the grant will come up again in the Spring, hopefully, with another award next Fall – grants are only for income eligible households – in the City of Athens there are grants for (3) owner occupied rehabilitations (large scale projects, \$40,000-\$45,000 each, objective is to bring a home up to HRS standards); (15) owner home repairs (smaller projects, \$5,000-\$9,000 each, for emergency repairs from the foundation to the roof); and (1) rental rehabilitation – specifically, in the City of Athens at this time, two (2) owner occupied rehabilitations, (6) home repair grants, and one (1) rental rehabilitation are still available; – interested persons can contact the Agency Housing office in Nelsonville at 740-753-3062 – the award for this grant cycle was over \$1.2 million – this grant offers great ability to address affordable housing challenges in the community
 - Papai – asked about the eligibility income guidelines
 - Crippen – low-moderate income (LMI) is defined specifically as a household that is at 80% of the area median income, or less, for the County – for a household of (1), the amount is about \$30,000, annually, and that incrementally goes up with the number residing in the household
 - McGee – asked about the Rental Rehabilitation
 - Crippen – program is eligible to landlords, only if the landlord is an LMI person – if the landlord is above this threshold, they are required to contribute 50% of the project costs – he added, they have partnered

contribute 50% of the project costs – he added, they have partnered successfully with the Athens Metropolitan Housing Authority, who is considered an LMI landlord because of the population they serve

-Mayor – asked if their office gets many City resident requests for assistance

-Crippen – it is sporadic – traditionally, it is not always easy to fill the slots within the City due to eligibility guidelines

-S-S Director – it is important at this time to push outreach for our City residents – she requested information and documents that could be placed on the City's website

-Crippen – will provide that – clarified that the work completion date for this grant cycle is through October, 2018

-Risner – asked about contractors hired for the program

-Crippen – the work is bid out, in-house, by employed rehabilitation specialists – they are highly trained and qualified – there is a list of about (15) pre-qualified HRS contractors, bonded – repairs are under warranty for one-year after completion

-President – asked for examples of emergency repairs

-Crippen – common emergency repairs are for roof replacement, foundation work, moisture in basements, repairs to porches, plumbing, electric, and furnace

- Traffic Box Wraps (AMAC)

-Carol Patterson, AMAC Chair – presented the artwork

-Mayor – (10) traffic boxes have been identified for these wraps – this is the second cycle of 10

-Butler – data indicates that artwork is a deterrent to graffiti

- Stimson Mural (AMAC)

-Carol Patterson, AMAC Chair – introduced Keith Wilde as the artist (see attached concept design proposal)

-Keith Wilde – appreciates the opportunity

-Butler – a motion to approve this mural will take place at the next meeting

- APD Disposals (firearms and miscellaneous)

-Butler – APD has requested disposal list including firearms, ammunition and firearm accessories, Tasers, 45 bicycles, a number of obsolete vehicle equipment parts, broken and obsolete parking meters, a number of miscellaneous items ranging from photography equipment to gravity bike racks – firearms will be traded in to a federal licensed dealer

-Risner – asked if all of the firearms listed are City purchases, or are some forfeitures

-Mayor – is unsure, but will provide that information

-Fahl – asked about the bicycles

-Mayor – they have been abandoned, by and large most are not functional and are scrap – those that are workable will likely be donated, possibly to the Public Library's Book a Bike program or to Children's Services

- ARTS/West Renovations (re-bid)
 - S-S Director – has been successfully re-bid and will need authorization from the Council to increase the expenditure by approximately \$10,000

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. APD Disposal
2. ARTS/West

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FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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Other Council Members: Peter Kotses
 Patrick McGee
 Michele Papai
 Arian Smedley

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 Mayor Patterson
 Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley
 Auditor Hecht

Items Discussed:

- 2017 Appropriations/Transfers
 - Mayor – requested an appropriation of \$11,000 to General Fund, Parking Enforcement, 101-718, for ComPlus/DETER
 - Kotses – asked if parking meter revenues have increased as per this contract
 - Mayor – will check with APD Captain Harvey on the revenue, however, he is aware that parking enforcement has been streamlined and is more efficient -- Parking Enforcement Officers like the system
- Convention & Visitors Bureau (2018-2020 contract)
 - Risner – discussions are ongoing with the ACCVB
 - Papai – asked if there will be any contractual changes
 - Mayor – former contract was for 35%, and that will be changed
- Economic Development Council (2018 contract)
 - Mayor – City pays a flat rate of \$60,000 from the General Fund
 - Risner – asked if he feels the EDC provides a good service to the City
 - Mayor – yes
 - Auditor – agrees the City should continue this service – requested an updated scope of services be made a part of the contract
 - Fahl – would like better reporting from EDC – is there a pattern for companies not coming to the area? – need to know ways to improve in order to establish priorities moving forward

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-Mayor – agrees, that would be helpful and can be implemented

- 2018 Appropriations

-Mayor – still looking at a rather large budget cut in the General Fund – approximately \$1.2 million – currently working on reductions

-Auditor – pointed out that last year in November the City had approximately \$2.5 unencumbered and available, this year it is \$1.9 million -- \$530,000 less

-Papai – asked what the carryover amount was last year

-Auditor – about \$1.9 million

-Auditor – Medical Fund transfers need to be increased

-Smedley – are the cuts a result of increased costs?

-Auditor – certainly, increased costs, but also a loss of revenue over the past several years, tax revenue is flat – tax revenue currently is about 1.8%, and it needs to be 2-2 ½% to break even

-Papai – noted the serious budget issues happening at Ohio University which affects our revenue

-Fahl – the City is experiencing a loss of State funds

- 2018 Staffing

-Mayor – looking at adding two positions – an additional IT employee, and a Solid Waste Director

- 2018 Non-Union Benefits

-S-S Director – most changes are current practice – language simply needs to be adjusted

-Risner – asked about Non-Union compensation

-Auditor – the difference between a 1% raise and a 2% raise in the General Fund is \$26,000

-Fahl – historically, Non-Union raises have been lower than those given to bargaining units – these positions need to be compensated fairly – fair living wages are important

-Risner – agrees, adding, however, that payroll is a large part of the City's budget

-Auditor – the amounts with a raise, per each department, is not significant

-McGee – asked if there was any Non-Union employee that did not receive a pay raise when the new compensation plan went into effect

-Auditor – there were employees who did not get a raise

-Mayor – clarified that no employee's salary was reduced

-Butler – supports Non-Union personnel raises in order to keep pace with the bargaining units

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Appropriations
2. ACC/VB Contract

2. ASUVD Contract
3. EDC Contract
4. 2018 Appropriations
5. 2018 Staffing
6. Non-Union Benefits