

MINUTES AUGUST 13, 2018 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7:00 P.M.

Council Members in Attendance: Samuel Crowl
Chris Fahl
Peter Kotses
Patrick McGee
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: Acting President Butler
Mayor Patterson
Auditor Hecht
Law Director Eliason

Items Discussed:

- Athens City School District (Superintendent Gibbs)
-Kotses – July 31, 2018 the School Board decided to move forward with an improvement levy on the November ballot – this is an informational presentation only

-Superintendent Gibbs – provided Council with the Spring issue of the Athens City School District *Communicator* (see attached), highlighting the approved Facilities Master Plan to build two new PK-3 school buildings on the current sites of East Elementary School and Morrison-Gordon Elementary School; one grades 4-6 building at the current The Plains Elementary School location with a complete renovation of and a significant addition to the current building; one grades 7-8 middle school with minor renovations and alterations of the current building; and one new grades 9-12 high school on the site of the current building – locally funded initiatives will include: \$500,000 in safety and security improvements at Athens Middle School; \$370,000 for new tennis courts at Athens High School; construct an auditorium, seating area and stage at the new Athens High School; and additional funds for inflation that may occur between the time of levy passage and building construction – the Board also added about \$500,000 to assure that the new gymnasium at the new Athens High School will be at least as large as the current one – ACSD has decreased in enrollment rather significantly over the last 35 years, from approximately 3700 students to about 2800 students – this number reduces to about 2400 if open-enrollment is removed from the total – the local bond issue is for \$60.5 million (5.88 mills) and will cover the local share – this is based on a 30-year bond repayment at 4.75% interest – if approved, the State will fund a 32% match of well over \$30 million, for the rest of the project, and can only be accessed if the bond issue passes

-Kotses – asked about cost to ACSD citizens
-Gibbs – it depends on the value of your home – it is estimated to be \$206.00 per year in additional taxes for every \$100,000 worth of assessed valuation by the Athens County Auditor's office of your property – several years into the project, the Board is required to assess a ½ mill permanent improvement in order to maintain the new facilities – this will be phased in about the time the current 1990's bond issue will be retired – anticipating, at that time, an overall slight reduction in taxes

-Fahl – asked if the ballot language has been certified

-Gibbs – it has

-Fahl – asked about upcoming outreach and public forums that are being planned

-Gibbs – keeping in mind that ACSD has had two years of very extensive public meetings on the topic, there will be at least one more newsletter and information through social media

-Fahl – asked about outreach to those who do not have internet

-Gibbs – again, the newsletter will be mailed to all residents living within the school district – will consider hosting Board meetings at sites other than the high school

-Fahl – questioned whether there is a guarantee of State matching funds

-Gibbs – understands that matching funds have always been made available if a local bond issue is passed

-McGee – Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) found that many of the schools were beyond the crucial 2/3 mark and would cost nearly as much money to repair and update as for construction of new facilities – he questioned whether this information has been made public and whether there are comparison figures

-Gibbs – acknowledged that the figure is 66%, noting that the Athens Middle School and The Plains Elementary School are not over that 2/3 figure, which is why there is a recommendation to only renovate and add to those two buildings – all other buildings surpass that 2/3 mark

-Crowl – asked about the length of time the new facilities will be serviceable to the community

-Gibbs – generally it is 50 years for the structure, understanding that certain systems will have different life expectancies

- State Budget Surplus (resolution)

-Risner – explained that the Ohio Municipal League (OML) is encouraging municipalities to take action urging Governor Kasich and Members of the Ohio General Assembly to invest the State budget surplus of \$147 million, into municipalities instead of the Governor's proposal to fund an income tax withholding reduction and to bring the State's rainy day fund to its maximum legal limit – in recent years the State has reduced the Local Government Fund, eliminated the Estate Tax, and phased out Tangible Personal Property Tax,

decreasing Athens's funds from \$815,063 in 2006, to \$363,481 in 2018, a loss of well over 50%

-Fahl – supports a Resolution – due to the loss of the Local Government Funds, the onus of finding funds to provide basic services and rebuild infrastructure has been placed on our residents, and it was necessary for the City to enact a local income tax increase

-Mayor – will also be sending a letter to Governor Kasich outlining the precipitous decrease in the Local Government Funds over the last 10 years – and requesting some level of the budget surplus be returned to municipalities

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Budget Surplus Resolution

MINUTES
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE
AUGUST 13, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Kent Butler, Chair
Peter Kotses, Vice-Chair
Chris Fahl, Member

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Auditor Hecht
Law Director Eliason

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Athens Municipal Arts Commission (presentation – Parking Garage art project)
-Butler – acknowledged that the “Me & Mine” wheat paste exhibition by twelve emerging Athens’ youth artists is currently on display on the exterior wall of the Municipal Parking Garage – the exhibit is part of the First Annual Athens Community Arts and Music Festival, and will be on view August 17-19 – opening reception will be held at the site to meet the artists and celebrate their artwork on August 17, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. – this 2018 Youth Photo Project is a partnership between Athens Photo Project, 317 Board, Hopewell Health Center and the Athens Juvenile Probate Court, and is dedicated to creating a vibrant arts community that makes opportunities for art education, peer support and self-expression available to individuals seeking mental health support
- Mutual Aid Agreement (Hocking College Police Department)
-Butler – this is a 4-year agreement similar to the one currently in place with the Ohio University Police Department

-Mayor – important to note that the responding party (Athens Police Chief) shall retain control over decision-making concerning availability of police to handle matters outside our jurisdiction

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Mutual Aid Agreement

MINUTES
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 13, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair
Kent Butler, Vice-Chair
Sam Crowl

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Auditor Hecht
Law Director Eliason

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Staffing (amendment)
 - Risner – it has been suggested that the part-time cemetery maintenance employees be classified as permanent part-time employees (work up to 29 hours per week)
 - Auditor – explained that permanent part-time employees receive pro-rated benefits for holidays, sick leave and vacation
- Affirming Execution of APD Contract for Police Officers and Lieutenants
 - Risner – clarified contract items: uniform allowance will remain the same; mandatory overtime will be standardized with other City bargaining units; 3-year maximum vacation accrual, with a 5-year period to come into compliance; insurance benefits will be the same as other City bargaining units; and pay increases will be 2% each year of the contract
- Public Defender Contract
 - Risner – contract has not been received from the County Commissioner's Office – will be discussed at a later date
- Accepting the Amounts and Rates Determined by the Budget Commission (for general property tax)
 - Risner – explained that the City of Athens lies within two different Townships, Athens and Canaan – the City of Athens does not levy a property tax, but is levied by the County of Athens – because the City maintains infrastructure within these townships, Athens Municipality is reimbursed those expenses through the County Budget Commission – Athens Township, effective rate is 2.6 mill, estimated revenue is \$916,528 and Canaan Township, effective rate is 2.4 mill,

estimated revenue is \$37,490, totaling \$954,018 – City is required to accept these amounts and rates

- Appropriations/Transfers
 - Auditor – appropriate \$2000 for laptop for Land Bank Committee – will be reimbursed by the Committee; and appropriate BWC refund check in the amount of \$257,780 to be used toward next BWC scheduled payment
 - Mayor – City was recognized as having a 25% reduction in BWC claims for 2017
 - Auditor – City has a very good track record and get discounts regularly

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Part-Time Staffing
2. Police/Lieutenant Contract
3. General Property Tax Resolution
4. Appropriations

MINUTES
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
AUGUST 13, 2018
7:00 p.m.

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

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Auditor Hecht
Law Director Eliason

Items Discussed:

- Historic Preservation (recommendation)
 - Fahl – Historic Preservation Commission has recommended that the Stewart MacDonald Building located on the southwest corner of State and Shafer, 21 North Shafer Street, be designated a local historic site – a public meeting is required and will be held with a 30-day notification
 - McGee – asked if this site will be subject to the proposed School Levy tax
 - Fahl – yes
 - Mayor – added that this location is included in one of the three downtown redevelopment districts (DRD's) approved by Council

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Historic Designation