

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

Council Members in Attendance: Kent Butler
Samuel Crawl
Chris Fahl
Sarah Grace
Peter Kotses
Jeff Risner

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

Item Discussed:

- Fire Prevention, Inspections and Fees
-Butler – this will amend City Code, Section 9.02.06, to provide for local inspections and fees to improve and maintain public safety – will empower the Chief to collect fees for construction inspection; fire safety inspection; and contracted and extraordinary response services – can bill no more than the actual and direct costs to the recipient – proposed fees are as follows:

\$100.00 ----- FINAL
\$ 50.00 ----- REINSPECTION
\$ 50.00 ----- SPRINKLER HYDROSTATIC
\$ 50.00 ----- UG HYDRO
\$ 50.00 ----- FIRE ALARM

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION FEES:

\$ 50.00 ----- INITIAL ANNUAL VISIT FOR BUILDING WITH OCCUPIED SPACE UNDER 10,000 SQUARE FEET
\$150.00 ----- INITIAL ANNUAL VISIT FOR BUILDING WITH OCCUPIED SPACE OVER 10,000 SQUARE FEET
\$ 0 ----- 1ST REINSPECTION AFTER INITIAL VISIT
\$ 25.00 ----- 2ND REINSPECTION AFTER INITIAL VISIT
\$ 50.00 ----- 3RD REINSPECTION AFTER INITIAL VISIT, AND INCREASING BY \$25.00 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT VISIT THEREAFTER

- Kotses – clarified that there currently is no fee
- Mayor – that is correct – enacting City fees will keep the collected fee local instead of going to the State as currently billed through the State Fire Marshall's office – there are 860 + businesses that are inspected, not all annually, possibly

100 inspected annually as they cycle through the businesses – the vast majority of our firefighters have the certification to inspect facilities

-Grace – asked how the department determines a fire response exceeds the standard

-Mayor – will provide that information to her

- City Code Fees

-President – the fees being proposed must reflect cost of actual time spent by City staff

-Mayor – many of the fees have not been increased in many years

-Risner – will be consolidating fees, that are currently scattered throughout the City Code, into Title 1 for quick review

- Subordination Agreement (23 Hanlin Avenue)

-President – owners were assisted with a CHIP down payment/rehabilitation loan – owner is seeking to refinance, and the City is being asked to be subordinate on the lien to the lender, Ohio University Employees Credit Union – an ordinance will be needed to authorize the Mayor to execute a subordination agreement

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Fire Prevention, Inspections and Fees
2. City Code Fees
3. Subordination Agreement

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

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

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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- 2019 Budget
 - Mayor – working with Auditor’s office – budget is about 95% complete
 - Auditor – her office has been working on this since August – Deputy Auditor Kreider has prepared all of the personnel budget documents and forwarded them to departments and administration, as well as 2019 budget documents to enter any adjusted cost increases
- 2019 Medical Insurance (Stop-Loss and Third Party Administrator)
 - Risner – City will continue with same third party administrator and stop-loss carrier
- 2019 Staffing
 - Risner – briefed Council on proposed changes
- 2019 Non-Union Pay/Benefits
 - Auditor – most notable changes: reinstituting the bonus for not taking City insurance (recommendation from TPA), donation of sick leave for new employees who haven’t reached a year of service – this is a limited exception, and shift differential for those working before 7:00 am and after 5:00 pm
 - President – questioned the term “classified” in the shift differential language
 - Mayor – will review that language
 - Butler – is pleased there is an emphasis on health and wellness incentives, and the value of adding educational benefits through tuition reimbursement

- Elected Officials (compensation)
 - Risner – urged members to review and compare the compensation rates received from the Ohio Municipal League for similar communities
 - Risner – suggested continuing with 2%
- 2019 Public Defender Contract
 - Risner – this program processes well over 1,000 cases annually through our court system
- AFSCME 2403(1) Contract Approval
 - Risner – Council will affirm the execution of the contract as ratified by the Union
- Communication Officers Contract Approval
 - Risner – Council will affirm the execution of the contract as ratified by the Union
- Appropriations/TIF Transfer
 - Auditor – TIF transfer is to reimburse the Street Rehabilitation Fund for a portion of the East State Street project
- Sewer Fees and Sewer Debt Allocation
 - Auditor – base rates will increase in January to cover the cost of improvements to the plant – requesting only what will be needed for that
 - Risner – debt service must be payed
 - Mayor – clarified that the base rate pays the debt service for capital improvements, not water revenue from consumption that covers operations and maintenance
 - Auditor – allocation of fees will change from 25% to 30% for monthly sewer service charges collected for the Sewer Fund and receipted into the Sewer Debt Fund – the remaining 70% will be made available for annual operating budgets
- LPA Payment (ODOT Resurfacing of St. Rt. 56 with the City)
 - Risner – payment is due within 30 days – will be requesting Suspension of the Rules at first reading

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. 2019 Budget
2. 2019 Medical Insurance (Stop-Loss and Third Party Administrator)
3. 2019 Staffing
4. 2019 Non-Union Pay/Benefits

5. Elected Officials (compensation)
6. 2019 Public Defender Contract
7. AFSCME 2403(1) Contract
8. Communication Officers Contract
9. Appropriations/TIF Transfer
10. Sewer Fees
11. Sewer Debt Allocation
12. LPA Payment

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

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Vice-Chair
Sarah Grace, Member

Administrators and/or

Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Auditor Hecht

Items Discussed:

- Licensure and Land Use Agreement with Ohio University (passive recreation space behind the Athens Community Center)
 - Mayor – this is a 15-year agreement for approximately 16 acres just south of the Community Center – is currently overgrown with invasive species – idea is to utilize for passive recreation – Hocking Conservancy is responsible for 20' from edge of river – will open up view shed, add benches – possibly ultimate Frisbee area or leashed dog walking area – is in floodway and otherwise unusable
 - Risner – asked if City would be responsible for maintenance
 - Mayor – yes – understands HAPCAP has a mechanism for brush removal
 - Grace – need to be mindful of homeless individuals who have been known to utilize this area for camping – encouraged assisting them through service organizations

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

- Licensure & Land Use Agreement

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 23, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Peter Kotses, Chair
Sam Crowl, Member
Sarah Grace, Member

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Mobile Vending
 - Crowl – advised Council that the Ad Hoc Mobile Vending Committee has reviewed the current legislation and suggestions proposed earlier by Councilman McGee – City has looked closely at the new fire safety laws that go into effect January 1st (must be 7' between mobile vending equipment, but mobile vending equipment must be 10' from a non-vending vehicle) this becomes complicated when public parking is available in these spaces after 4:00 p.m. – solution to improve both the parking situation on East Union Street along with vending will require some infrastructure changes to be in compliance with these new fire safety regulations, and can be made during the summer – this will be reviewed as part of a major change to the vending regulations later this year – next week he will present moderate changes to the current legislation – changing the licensing period to a monthly system – this should open up spaces during the winter months to allow more public parking – it is likely that vendors will not change monthly, but rather quarterly – understands that the vendor fees are based on the meter revenue generated, and that rate is increasing
 - Mayor – parking rate will change to a high-use zone, so will definitely increase – strongly encouraged Council to open vending spaces on Sunday for public use
 - Crowl – the Athens Vending Association is comfortable with no Sunday vending – Association would like the City to consider opening up other vending locations – this would open a few more opportunities for them to do business – understands there are reservations with opening up other locations for vending – he has visited uptown late night brick and mortar establishments for their thoughts about on-street vending in areas other than East Union Street

-Mayor – has strongly encouraged vendors to seek out the use of private parking for vending, i.e. private lots in the uptown area, or on property owned by business establishments

-Councilman Butler, First Ward – validates opening up other locations uptown for vending – the foot traffic pattern has changed since the relocation of the Baker University Center from East Union to South Court Street

-Kotses – vendors are not consistent – believes continuity is necessary to maintain business – marketing East Union as the vending area would be helpful – still a lot of pedestrian traffic in this area – there is opportunity in current location

-Rob Delach, Morris Avenue – broadening the opportunities for vendors is a good approach – flexibility should be considered, as well as other options

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

- Vending