

MINUTES

APRIL 8, 2019

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

7:00 P.M.

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

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

Item Discussed:

- Bailey's Trail Council of Governments (COG agreement)
 - Kotses – recused himself from the discussion due to a conflict of interest and exited the dais
 - President – explained that this is an arrangement defined by the Ohio Revised Code – presented background – in September, 2018, she, along with other Athens' public officials, attended a meeting at Wayne National Forest Headquarters to discuss Bailey's Trail – this proposed trail is comprised of 88 miles involving over 9200 acres, spanning through parts of Athens County – in November, 2018, Rural Action submitted a proposal to the Appalachian Regional Commission for funding for this project, and City Council issued a general letter of support – February, 2019, Wayne National Forest hosted the Associate Chief Director of the USDA Forest Service in Athens to learn more about the Bailey's Trail System, along with an afternoon of round table conversation with others from the community – project is 4-plus years in the planning – COG is way to move forward with conservation, outdoor recreation, and provide economic development where these trailheads are located – draft legislation and agreement for establishing an Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia COG has been provided to the Council Members – structure is in place for funding sources – total cost is approximately \$10 million dollars – there is an opportunity with the new market tax credits through a bond that would be issued – the proposed legislation does not financially obligate the City in any way

-McGee – understands this has incredible potential for tourism and development
– asked about foreseen cost to City

-President – City would consider cost sharing, possibly from the Transient Guest Tax

-McGee – asked how much the City would be asked to contribute

-President – over the course of the project it would be a City-County share of approximately \$1.2-\$1.4 million – portions being discussed now would be for interest only if other monies are borrowed to help pay for the project

-Mayor – interest would be \$50,000 to \$60,000 annually – again, would come from the Transient Guest Tax – brings in annually about \$440,000 total, with approximately half of that going to fund the Convention & Visitors Bureau, and remainder to the City's General Fund

-Fahl – asked about the power structure that will be in place and about ultimate accountability – asked if the new market bonds are being marketed by Quantified Ventures, the impact investment firm – asked about the role of Quantified Ventures

-Mayor – their role is to work through the “pay for success” model through the US Forest Service – doesn't know if anyone has yet been identified in terms of the new market tax credits

-President – it was Quantified Ventures that mentioned the new market tax credits – this is a pay for success model that will find investors to pay a portion of the project

-Fahl – need to define pay for success – investors are only paid if it is a successful project – now, the model being talked about is essentially paying with the Transient Guest Tax – need to be very careful when looking at the paying mechanism

-President – clarified that the Transient Guest Tax would be used to pay the City's portion of the cost share of the project

-McGee – asked if the City could be responsible only for a limited amount of money in this process, or is the City signing on for a larger amount, being secondarily liable

-Branner – finances have only loosely been discussed – all members will have a financial obligation, not just the City

-Mayor – need to add York Township to COG legislation – Doanville will have a trailhead – could generate revenue from parking

-Grace – asked about the progress with other partners in terms of their participation in the COG

-Mayor – County has indicated that their turnaround time is quicker than City Council's – waiting for Council's discussion tonight – they will likely bring it up soon as well – has not talked with others

- Risner – asked if others do not join the COG, whether that would have a major impact
- Mayor – smaller entities would not have a major impact
- Risner – if the project is successful, seems they would still benefit if they do not join
- Mayor – they likely would

- Grace – questioned whether the Village of Buchtel should be added to the legislation along with York Township
- Mayor – yes, conversations have taken place with each of those entities

- Risner – asked whether other partners might join later
- Mayor – not likely

- Dawn McCarthy, Wayne National Forest – the Forest Service is in support of the COG – noted that the COG is larger than just the Bailey's project – the \$10 million project mentioned earlier is not just for the Bailey's, but includes the bikeway extension into Chauncey, as well as other community improvements in that area – COG will help local governments work together across boundaries, potentially into Sells City Park and Strouds Run State Park – Bailey's is catalyst

- Fahl – financial accountability is important – may need a larger COG, beyond Bailey's – should consult with non-profits, like the Athens Conservancy, for a better coordinated action
- Mayor – agrees

ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. COG Agreement

MINUTES
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
April 8, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair
Kent Butler, Vice-Chair
Sam Crawl, Member
Peter Kotses, Member

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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Appropriations/Transfers
 - Risner – the following appropriations/transfers have been requested:

\$3,500 to General Fund, Lands & Buildings, to replace a failed ventilation system on second floor of the Law Administration Building;

\$12,000 to Law Administration Building Improvements, to replace the video surveillance system in the Police Department;

\$6,000 to Athens City Enhancement Fund, to pay the Personnel Plus uptown contract and the poet laureate; and

Transfer \$159,000 from the Parking Garage Fund to the Parking Garage Debt Fund to make the first payment due June 1st.

-Mayor – noted that the Personnel Plus uptown contract is a great opportunity to provide part-time employment for someone with a disability

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Appropriations/Transfers

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
APRIL 8, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Patrick McGee, Vice-Chair
Sam Crowl, Member

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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- ODOT Transportation Improvement District (TID application)
-McGee – EPW has requested authorizing the Mayor to submit an application to the Ohio Department of Transportation for Transportation Improvement District (TID) funding for the Stimson Avenue project – TID projects are to promote economic development – maximum award is \$250,000 – application deadline is May 31st for funding eligible projects under construction between July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. TID Application