**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019, 7:00 P.M.**

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour with the following members present: Butler, Crowl, Fahl, Grace, Kotses, McGee, and Risner.

Also present: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, Law Director Eliason, and Auditor Hecht.

**ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:**

**0-130-19**
AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020. Risner moved to amend by substitution to include all updated amounts; Crowl seconded. Amendment was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules; Kotses seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-131-19**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING 2020 STAFFING LEVELS AND NON-UNION COMPENSATION; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-133-19**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SERVICE CENTER TO SERVE AS THE CITY'S THIRD PARTY HEALTH INSURANCE ADMINISTRATOR (TPA); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-134-19**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A STOP-LOSS MEDICAL INSURANCE CONTRACT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-135-19**
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 127-17; REALLOCATING REVENUES FROM THE CITY INCOME TAX; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-137-19**
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 49, MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION, AND CONTROL OF THE USE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, CHAPTER 49.03, APPLICATION PROCEDURES, SECTION 49.03.02(B), CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION APPLICATION. Fahl moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-138-19**
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, TO INCLUDE FEES FOR USE OF THE CITY'S PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY. Fahl moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-139-19**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE KIMES RESERVOIR PROJECT (#324). Butler moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-140-19**
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLES 9 AND 13, RELATING TO FIREARMS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Grace moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-141-19**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF AN ATHENS TRANSIT BUS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE. Butler moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-142-19**
AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT FIREARMS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE. Butler moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Discussion: McGee understands that the Police Department will be using a different kind of ammunition that will actually save the City money in the long run.

Mayor Patterson responded that is correct. He added, many of these are not service firearms but firearms that have been confiscated.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-143-19**
AN ORDINANCE TO INCREASE SEWER RATES; AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 1.03, CODE FEES ESTABLISHED, SECTION 5.04.08, SEWER RATES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Discussion: Risner is in receipt of correspondence from Service-Safety Director Stone

indicating that there are approximately 4500 residential customers with about 1/3, or 1500 of them using 2000 or fewer gallons of water per month. The current base rate is $24.81 and the next 1000 gallons is $4.85 for a total of $29.66. An 8% increase would bring that amount to $32.03 (an additional $2.37 per month). A 5% increase would be $31.14 (a difference of $.89 cents per month) which would account for approximately $16,000 less revenue per year, and Stone does not believe that the extended savings of $.89 cents per month is worth that much of a drop in revenue; the system needs to keep operational. Risner suggested approving the ordinance as is, un-amended.

Fahl expressed concern about a January effective date, and suggested phasing it in over a few months. She is a firm believer in charging customers less for using fewer resources, and would like the City to consider future increases with that in mind. Citizens' conservation efforts should be rewarded.

Grace hopes that the City will continue to look at the option of an ultra-low category to adjust for those who focus on water conservation or maintain a single individual house, rather than being billed at the same rate.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

**ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:**

**0-132-19**
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A FRINGE BENEFITS PACKAGE FOR NON-UNION PERSONNEL WITHIN THE CITY OF ATHENS AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet the January 1st effective date; Crowl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-144-19**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) AGREEMENT FOR PLANNING, DESIGN, AND/OR CONSTRUCTION; DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet the loan application deadline; Kotses seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:**

**0-145-19**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO PAY A CURRENT EMPLOYEE, PROMOTED TO THE POSITION OF DEPUTY SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, AT A RATE NOT TO EXCEED THE MIDPOINT OF THE NEW PAY GRADE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE 143-18, THE NON-UNION PERSONNEL FRINGE BENEFITS PACKAGE, SECTION 20, PROMOTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules for a timely transition into the employee's newly assigned duties; Crowl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-146-19**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A PAY INCREASE FOR AN EMPLOYEE IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order that the employee be retroactively compensated during this calendar year; Fahl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**ONE-READING RESOLUTIONS:**

**R-10-19**
A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, TO COUNCIL MEMBER KENT BUTLER FOR HIS PUBLIC SERVICE. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**R-11-19**
A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, TO COUNCIL MEMBER PATRICK MCGEE FOR HIS PUBLIC SERVICE. Fahl moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:**

President Knisely announced that the next Regular Session of City Council will be held Monday, January 6, 2020.

Mayor Patterson reported on a recent meeting with the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). The City's Stimson Avenue project was very highly rated,

second on a list of over 40 projects throughout District 18. The City will be awarded $400,000 for this project.

Fahl moved to Accept the Auditor's November, 2019, Financial Reports; Risner seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

At approximately 7:50 p.m. Butler moved to Adjourn; McGee seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

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President of Council

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Council