

MINUTES
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 14, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance via Videoconference: Sarah Grace, Chair
Chris Fahl, Vice-Chair
Beth Clodfelter, Member

Administrators and
Other Elected Officials via Videoconference: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Interim Service-Safety Director Pyle

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- CARES Act CDBG-CV Program (grant)
 - Grace – these funds will be allocated on a rolling basis – the City would like to apply for this funding to be used for a wastewater-based COVID-19 surveillance program – currently this is happening in one location in the City at the Wastewater Treatment Plant – this grant would allow the City to do more monitoring with much more specific information to help predict viral spikes in smaller regions rather than just somewhere in the City – this will be coordinated with Ohio University who also plans to participate in increased wastewater surveillance, as well as with the City-County Health Department to monitor the presence of the virus in the community and to track infection records
 - Clodfelter – this will provide very key data – hopes that the public health community will receive the results of the generated data, i.e., O'Bleness Hospital
 - Mayor – the data can certainly be provided to O'Bleness Hospital-Ohio Health – Ohio University is planning five additional sampling sites – this data will provide a 4-7-day advanced window of increases in the viral load – the City has identified three sites, the Richland Avenue Lift Station to capture the south side, the Depot Street Lift Station on the west side, and an accessible manhole at Home Street that would capture the east side – this expansion would likely cost about \$50,000-\$60,000, which would be the City's request
 - Kotses – asked how soon this equipment could be in place
 - Mayor – depends on how quickly the applications can be turned around – Ohio University plans to have theirs in place before the students living in residence halls return the end of January

MINUTES DECEMBER 14, 2020 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7:00 P.M.

Council Members in Attendance via Videoconference: Beth Clodfelter
Sam Crowl
Chris Fahl
Peter Kotses
Sarah Grace
Jeff Risner
Arian Smedley

Administrators and/or

Other Elected Officials via Videoconference: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson

Items Discussed:

- Commission on Disabilities (2020 Year-end Review)
 - Davey McNelly, Chair – reported that it has been a busy year despite the pandemic – highlighted the Commission’s Work, Accomplishments, and Requests – full Commission meetings are held once a month via Zoom, along with five active committees that also meet monthly via Zoom – Accomplishments: Athena Award; Oral History of the Commission; Walk and Roll Audits and Streetscaping/Sidewalk Projects; Letters to the Editor; Monthly Newspaper Columns; and Recommendation List for Future Projects – Key Highlights:
 - Continuing to collaborate with Ohio University
 - Working to bring a Center for Independent Living, Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (SOCIL) to Athens County
 - Working on Housing Accessibility for new developments
 - Collaborating with Age-Friendly Athens to work on improvements to accessibility, inclusion, and public spaces
 - Work on the installment of a permanent ramp at ARTS/West
 - Recruited four new members to the Commission
 - Celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act by participating in the Mayor’s Press Conference
- Much has been accomplished, but so much more to do
- Noah Trembley, Vice-Chair – highlighted Accessibility activities as follows:
 - Sidewalk renovations and smoothing
 - Crosswalk improvements
 - Increased signage of restaurants and public spaces

- Worked to reduce harm of E-Scooters
- Conducted Walk and Roll Audits of Uptown Athens
- Collaborated on Bailey's Trail System
- Audited the City pool for accessibility
- Provided feedback on Athens 2040 Comprehensive Plan

-Dr. Diane Bouvier, Secretary – presented Advocacy Committee Highlights for Commission Chair Sly Mata

- Reconstituted the Committee
- Developing a statement for Black Lives Matter
- Seek ways to advocate and increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of what is important to the disability community
- Plans to inform the public on the many opportunities to advocate by benchmarking local and state policy, writing letters to lawmakers, and finding new avenues to increase notions of advocacy – an example: to be able to conduct government business remotely even after COVID-19 – this is an accessibility issue and the Commission plans to address this at the State level as a long term solution

-Dr. Carolyn Lewis, Treasurer – as Co-Chair, presented Education and Outreach Highlights:

- Advocated for Center for Independent Living
- Developed an Athena Award ceremony via Zoom – 2020 Recipient: Patty Mitchell, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Passion Works
- Taped WOUB radio programs on Conversations from Studio B and on WATH
- Outreach to Civitan, Lions, Rotary, Veterans, and Chamber of Commerce through speaking engagements
- Oral History Project and seeking new Athena Award Design (deadline January 31, 2021)

Also, presented the following Communications Committee Highlights for Chair Clair Gysegem:

- Wrote monthly Letters to the Editor about voting access, housing, pandemic pods, and parking
- Wrote monthly columns about COVID-19, managing aides, inclusion, living with a disability, and family
- Revamped Commission's Facebook page
- Developed, edited, and produced virtual Athena Award ceremony
- Developed a resource guide
- Developed a guide to accessible events to promote inclusion of people with disabilities

-McNelly – thanked Berry Dilley and Scott Dennis, who are leaving the Commission at the end of the year, for their dedication and many years of service.

-President Knisely – this report shows the tremendous growth of this Commission

-Smedley – is proud to be a member of this Commission as the City Council appointed member – this is an impressive summary of the good work being done

-Fahl – appreciates the Commission's input and guidance on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan – the Commission's efforts made the Plan that much better

-McNelly – the Commission works closely with the City to get ahead of things, rather than needing to fix things later

MINUTES: DECEMBER 14, 2020
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance via Videoconference: Sam Crowl, Chair
Jeff Risner, Vice-Chair
Peter Kotses, Member
Arian Smedley, Member

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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Settlement Agreement (FOP-OLC)
 - Crowl – this settlement is part of the contract negotiations – it comes from a grievance filed by the FOP regarding emergency pay in their current contract – through very in-depth deliberations, the Union has agreed to withdraw the grievance with prejudice as part of this settlement – the settlement was proposed by the City and accepted by the Union – both parties benefit from it – the City has agreed to pay 60 hours of straight time pay to all employees within this Union who worked a majority of their hours (120 hours or more) in 2020 specifically during the pay periods 8, 9 and 10 – CARES Act funds can be utilized to provide for the cost of safety officers – moving forward, the new contract better defines who can declare an emergency
 - Risner – asked if the cost is equal to or exceeds \$50,000
 - Crowl – it does not exceed \$50,000 – since it is less than that amount it could be directly signed off on by the Mayor, but the Administration requested it come through City Council
 - Clodfelter – asked for a succinct accounting of the need for these payments
 - Crowl – there was a question as to whether the pandemic is a situation falling under the emergency pay clause within the current contract, necessitating emergency overtime pay – this language has been clarified in the 2021 contract
 - Risner – he believes that traditionally what the City defined as an emergency requiring an overtime pay situation would be fire, flood, or civil disturbance, as opposed to the broader situation of a pandemic – as well, this emergency was called by the Governor and not our local leaders – again, this has been corrected in the new contract

MINUTES
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 14, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance via Videoconference: Chris Fahl, Chair
Jeff Risner, Vice-Chair
Sarah Grace, Member
Arian Smedley, Member

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

Items Discussed:

- Zayo (easement)
 - Fahl – this easement is needed in addition to the special right-of-way permit provided earlier this year – is needed for the installation of conduit for fiber-optic cabling
 - Kotses – it's interesting to see how these old rail lines continue to provide a new form of delivery in transportation
 - Crowl – asked for clarification on the route
 - Mayor – the route is basically from Rt. 682/Armitage Road, across the river, through the West State Street Park, and up West State Street to the corporate line at the Stimson bridge – the easement is needed to cross through the Park area, the rest is City right-of-way
 - Risner – asked about the mileage
 - Mayor – approximately 2 miles
 - Smedley – asked if this will impact any residents
 - Mayor – it does not – adding, it will afford future opportunities on the west side
 - Kotses – could this possibly lead to a public-owned, City-based fiber system
 - Mayor – as the City's conduit service is built out, it can be used as an economic development tool
 - Smedley – asked about the timeline
 - Fahl – it is currently underway

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: SPECIAL SESSION, MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour. Due to concerns with COVID-19 the following members met via videoconference: Clodfelter, Crowl, Fahl, Kotses, Grace, and Risner.

Also present via videoconference: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, and Law Director Eliason.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-135-20

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PETITION FOR ANNEXATION OF APPROXIMATELY 24.942 ACRES ON LUHRIG ROAD. Fahl moved for Adoption; Smedley seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-136-20

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE ZONE FOR THE LUHRIG ROAD ANNEXATION AREA. Fahl moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-137-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/STATE PROJECT AGREEMENT (PID No. 113410) WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INSTALL WET REFLECTIVE PAVEMENT MARKINGS ON STATE ROUTES 33 AND 50; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kotses moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-140-20

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021. Crowl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-141-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING 2021 STAFFING LEVELS AND NON-UNION COMPENSATION; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Crowl moved to amend the staffing to add an Environmental Coordinator to be paid 80% from the Storm Water Fund, 10% from the Water Fund, and 10% from the Sewer Fund, at Pay Grade, Level 8; Kotses seconded. Discussion: Fahl pointed out the importance of the reporting requirements for storm water management for the health and safety of our citizens that will be overseen by this position.

Kotses supports adding this position to our City staff.

Amendment was approved unanimously.

0-142-20

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. Crawl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-144-20

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF ATHENS AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.

0-145-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE APPALACHIA REGIONAL COMMISSION/GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF APPALACHIA PROGRAMS; AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

0-146-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 20-15, ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLE 7, PARKING REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 7.05.26, REGULATION OF CITY PARKING LOTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-147-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SERVICE CENTER TO SERVE AS THE CITY'S THIRD PARTY HEALTH INSURANCE ADMINISTRATOR (TPA); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-148-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A STOP-LOSS MEDICAL INSURANCE CONTRACT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-149-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLE 17, MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX, TO ADD SECTION 17.01.96, WORK DEEMED PERFORMED BY AN EMPLOYEE WITHIN THE CITY OF ATHENS DURING THE COVID-19 DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY; AND HEREBY DECLARING THIS ORDINANCE AN EMERGENCY MEASURE.

0-151-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ATHENS COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-152-20

AN ORDINANCE AFFIRMING THE MAYOR'S EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ATHENS CITY FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, OHIO LABOR COUNCIL, INC., AND THE CITY OF ATHENS PATROL OFFICERS AND LIEUTENANTS, CONCERNING WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

0-153-20

AN ORDINANCE AFFIRMING THE MAYOR'S EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ATHENS CITY FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, OHIO LABOR COUNCIL, AND THE CITY OF ATHENS COMMUNICATION OFFICERS, CONCERNING WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

0-154-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 1.03, CODE FEES ESTABLISHED, SECTION 5.04.08, SEWER RATES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-155-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 1.03, CODE FEES ESTABLISHED, SECTIONS 5.03.04, WATER RATES, AND 5.04.05, WASTEWATER DISCHARGERS, TO INCREASE RATES.

0-156-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 1.03, CODE FEES ESTABLISHED, TO INCREASE THE CITY'S STORM WATER SERVICE CHARGE, SECTION 5.04.08, SEWER RATES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-157-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO REDUCE 2020 YEAR-END APPROPRIATIONS.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-158-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT AND PERMANENT EASEMENT WITH THE ZAYO GROUP FOR INSTALLATION OF CONDUIT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Fahl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order that the project will not be delayed; Risner seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Fahl moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-159-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, OHIO LABOR COUNCIL, INC.

0-160-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, FOR CARES ACT CDBG-CV PROGRAM FUNDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Grace moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to allow the grant application to be submitted as soon as possible as the available funds are on a first come basis; Fahl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Grace moved for Adoption; Kotses seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

At approximately 8:10 p.m., Fahl moved to Adjourn; Crowl seconded. Adjournment was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council