

**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: SPECIAL SESSION, MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021,
7:00 P.M.**

Athens City Council met in Special Session at the above hour with the following members present: Crawl, Fahl, Grace, McCarey, Risner, Smedley, and Ziff.

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

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-113-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 7, TRAFFIC CODE, CHAPTER 7.04, CHAPTER 7.05, PARKING REGULATIONS. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-133-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 23, ZONING CODE, CHAPTER 23.08, OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING/UNLOADING REGULATIONS, AND CHAPTER 23.10, DEFINITIONS, TABLE B, OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS. Fahl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-138-21

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING ATHENS CITY CODE SECTION 7.05.03, CONTINUOUS PARKING IN THE SAME LOCATION, FROM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021, THROUGH MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-139-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE HOCKING ATHENS PERRY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (HAPCAP) FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS, PROGRAM YEAR 2022; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Grace moved for Adoption; Smedley seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-140-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT EXTENSION TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ATHENS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Crawl moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-141-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING 2022 STAFFING LEVELS AND NON-UNION COMPENSATION; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Crawl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-142-21

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; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-143-21

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

0-144-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A STOP-LOSS/GROUP EXCESS LOSS MEDICAL INSURANCE CONTRACT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Crawl moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-145-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ATHENS CITY ZONING CODE, TITLE 23, TO INCLUDE SHORT TERM RENTALS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ATHENS CITY PLANNING COMMISSION. Fahl moved for Adoption; Grace seconded. Discussion: Smedley appreciates the public engagement on this issue, however, she feels confident that this legislation will create a mechanism that will control what is already existing within the City, and will provide transient guest tax to the City. If some of the concerns that have been raised by residents come to fruition, this body exists to make changes to rectify those concerns.

McCarey asked about any time sensitivity of passing this tonight with regards to the implications it may have regarding the collection of transient guest tax revenue in the upcoming year.

Auditor Hecht commented that while it is always nice to start something like this on January 1, there is no reason why it couldn't start later. The transient guest taxes are paid to the City quarterly.

McCarey questioned whether there are any legislative benefits, legal protections, or consequences regarding whether owners are present or not during the rental period in an R-1 zone.

Fahl responded that the idea that one has to be present is a very vague term. The Planning Commission was satisfied with the current language.

McCarey believes his question is one more of liability. He asked if there is any legal concern or consequences over not having a property owner present.

President Knisely responded that the language includes “the keeping by a resident owner” and resident owner means the resident owner occupies the building.

A resident of Elmwood Place believes there should be a part of town where we conduct business and another where one can raise a child in a neighborhood without conducting business. It is his wish that the City keep business in its place and not disrupt residential neighborhoods and families. It seems wise to ease into this kind of change instead of opening it across all zones. He is also concerned that very near his home at Elmwood and East State there are several student rentals that are not currently abiding by Code in that they have (5) people in the house and not (3) as regulated. If the City can’t enforce the current code, he thinks it would be challenging to bring in a new layer of activity. He shared the attached “House Hacking” document with the Council. One of the strategies for financing college is to buy an Airbnb, put your student child as a co-owner of the property as the resident owner, and rent it out for income to pay college expenses.

Milena Miller, Graham Drive, empathizes with this resident, as recently she experienced a similar situation on the far east side where the property owner no longer resides on the premises and turned the property over to a nephew who has others living with him. There are parties all night long and parking on the lawn, and neighbors have asked them at 2:30 in the morning to stop, and the neighbors have been treated badly in return for that; this is a concern.

Mary Abel, Strathmore, asked for clarification about a comment made at the last meeting about a 1-800 number regarding short term rentals.

President Knisely believes this was suggested as a possibility for enforcement.

Fahl understands Code Director Riggs spoke about having such a consultant.

Mayor Patterson said he is aware of a service available globally that tracks short term rentals that are in operation and whether they are paying transient guest tax, but isn’t sure this is the same service that addresses neighborhood concerns.

Fahl believes that the discussion with Code Director Riggs indicated that it included neighbors and renters in order to contact this number with concerns; again, this is an administrative procedure after the legislation is approved by Council.

Abel clarified that this 1-800 number is just a contact number that a person can call, but it does not negate having contact with Code Enforcement to take care of a problem.

Mayor Patterson is not sure how this application works, whether it is an alert of a complaint to the Code Enforcement Office, or if the complainant needs to directly contact the Code Enforcement Office.

Abel asked about the cost associated with this.

Mayor Patterson recalls that the cost is about \$4000 annually. He does know that this company tracks the short term rental experience through a satisfaction survey rating for both the renter and owner.

Alan Swank, Townsend Place, believes this process has been embarrassing. He received an email forwarded to him by Law Director Eliason from Clerk Walker to Council Member Fahl on December 3, 2021 (see attached). The idea of the term “present” was discussed at the meeting on December 6th, and Council Member Fahl said, “We talked about that today with the Law Director, and she feels that there is really no problem with the wording.” He questioned whether that was with the language that was currently in the document, or Law Director Eliason’s recommendation, language that was unknown to the rest of the Council. Webster’s Dictionary defines the term “present” as living in a place for some length of time. He believes that before adopting this legislation there is language that needs to be defined. He requested amending the ordinance this evening to include the Law Director’s recommendation, and he hopes the Council will consider that, along with consideration to those residents who have come forward to share their cautions and concerns.

Jack Stauffer, Elmwood Place, does not believe short term rentals should be allowed in an R-1 zone, unless the street fronts on a main thoroughfare, or permitted as recommended by the Law Director, only if the resident owner is present during the time of renting. The term “present” needs to be defined within the ordinance. He urged the Council to table this legislation, make sure it has the protections needed to ensure the quality of life currently enjoyed by R-1 residents.

Amy Delach, Morris Avenue, supports this ordinance. We’re very unlikely to have our City overrun by short term renters. She shared that the principle of a strong town is that no neighborhood should undergo radical change, but no neighborhood should be completely immune from change, and that includes our R-1 zone.

Rob Delach, Morris Avenue, believes the opposition has focused on a very minor detail and not one that is consequential to the implementation, enforcement and compliance of the proposed regulations. If this controversial legislation is delayed it will likely not happen during the next term of Council, and would be a waste of all of the effort put into this ordinance. We need to regulate short term rentals in the City. If problems arise, changes can be made. It should be adopted tonight.

Joan Kraynanski, Mound Street, reviewed the City’s Comprehensive Plan, Housing in Neighborhoods, and found that survey results confirmed that respondents are unsure or leery of supporting zoning changes that may allow for more housing options within the City. As quoted from the Plan, “The scenario of recognizing and supporting a change, but concerned with the potential of negative or unintended consequences that may be associated with change is a very common phenomenon.

Those concerns can be minimized by thoughtful and well communicated incremental approaches.” To move gradually into a change works so much better than pushing full force. She urged Council to delay voting on this issue tonight by tabling it, reminding them that rewriting is not the end of the world, and it can only make this legislation better. She asked the Council to please consider moving forward with incremental changes to the R-1 neighborhoods, because that is exactly what is outlined in our City’s Comprehensive Plan.

Alan Swank asked the Law Director, if this ordinance is adopted tonight and a person has secured a short term rental permit, and if the next Council rescinds this legislation, whether that permit holder would be grandfathered to continue renting short term.

Law Director Eliason responded that if short term rentals are no longer permitted by the City, the resident owner would not be allowed to continue to rent on a short term basis longer than the duration of the yearly permit period.

Jack Stauffer, Elmwood, reiterated the importance of our R-1 neighborhoods and again urged the Council to either amend the ordinance or to table it.

Ziff respects the points made by the residents coming before the Council, but pointed out that short term rentals are currently happening in the City and they need to be regulated by this ordinance. Enforcement seems prudent and, if needed, changes can be made at a later date.

Risner asked the reason for the Law Director’s proposed amendment.

Law Director Eliason said that it was just a suggestion to Council Member Fahl in order to address some of the concerns of the public. Council Member Fahl chose not to propose the amendment. There is a common understanding of what a resident owner is, and her only reason for proposing the amended language was, again, because of the concern expressed by the community.

Risner asked whether, without the proposed amendment, the current wording is problematical.

Eliason responded, “no.”

Risner clarified that it is her opinion at this time that the current language is adequate.

Eliason responded that, “yes” there is an understanding, without a definition, of what a resident owner is.

Adoption was approved by a 6/1 vote; with McCarey voting in opposition.

0-146-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLE 29, HOUSING REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 29.03, RENTAL DWELLING AND HOUSING PERMIT. Fahl moved for Adoption; Grace seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-147-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLE 17, MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX, CHAPTER 17.03, TRANSIENT GUEST TAX. Fahl moved for Adoption; Smedley seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-148-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 1.03, CODE FEES ESTABLISHED, TO INCLUDE SHORT TERM RENTALS. Fahl moved for Adoption; Grace seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-149-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE; AND AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE AN INTERFUND TRANSFER. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to have the funding in place for payments to be made this year; Fahl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crowl moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-150-21

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to have 2022 appropriations in place on January 1st; Risner seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crowl moved for Adoption; Ziff seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-151-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules to allow an increased hourly rate for the Municipal Court Clerk to be payable the first pay period of 2022 that begins December 19, 2021; Smedley seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crowl moved for Adoption; Smedley seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-152-21

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE GENERAL CITY INCOME TAX OF TEN HUNDREDTHS PERCENT (.10%) PER ANNUM FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY (20) YEARS, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023; AUTHORIZING THE QUESTION OF THE INCREASE TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AT THE NEXT PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 3, 2022. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules to meet the timeline outlined for ballot issues at the next

Primary election; Smedley seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crawl moved for Adoption Fahl seconded. Discussion: Crawl noted this legislation is necessary to put this important levy issue before the voters to decide on supporting the building of a much needed fire station.

Risner believes this is extremely important and hopes the citizens of Athens will vote to support it.

Ziff emphasized that our current fire station headquarters on Columbus Road has structural issues and urged the voters to support the building of a new fire station.

President Knisely noted that the Administration has been diligent about making repairs to the structure, but architects have determined that the building has reached the end of its useful life for this purpose.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-153-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 33-21 TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE FOR THE KIMES RESERVOIR PROJECT (#324). Grace moved for Suspension of the Rules to have the needed funding for the project in place this year; McCarey seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Grace moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-154-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 91-21; AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DUGOUTS FOR FIELDS #1 AND #2 AT THE WEST STATE PARK, PROJECT #341. Grace moved for Suspension of the Rules, again, to have the needed funding for the project in place this year; McCarey seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Grace moved for Adoption; McCarey seconded. Discussion: Smedley appreciates the attention and the investment made to the West State Street Park and hopes it continues into the future with other issues in this area.

McCarey agrees with Smedley in supporting future opportunities to support our recreation and arts facilities. He recognizes this project is a priority at this time and just wants to be sure that Council is thinking about our arts, parks, and recreation moving forward.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-155-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/STATE PROJECT AGREEMENT (PID No. 112676) WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO UPGRADE/RETROFIT HIGH AND LOW MAST HPS LIGHTING TO LED LIGHTING ON A PORTION OF US 33 WITHIN THE CITY OF ATHENS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for

Suspension of the Rules in order to expedite the project and promote highway safety; Crowl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; McCarey seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-156-21

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT FOR THE ONEOHIO SUBDIVISION SETTLEMENT WITH JANSSEN/JOHNSON&JOHNSON PURSUANT TO THE ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE PURSUIT AND USE OF POTENTIAL OPIOID LITIGATION SETTLEMENT FUNDS AND CONSISTENT WITH THE MATERIAL TERMS OF THE JULY 21, 2021 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AVAILABLE AT [HTTPS://NATIONALOPIOIDSETTLEMENT.COM](https://nationalopioidsettlement.com) AND TO ACCEPT THE TERMS OF THE ONEOHIO SETTLEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules as the deadline for filing the agreement is this week; Fahl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Fahl moved for Adoption; Smedley seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-157-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 30-20; AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH IPS GROUP, INC. (IPS) TO PROVIDE PARKING TECHNOLOGY AND RELATED SERVICES FOR THE DIVISION OF PARKING SERVICES. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to have adequate funding for this agreement in place this year; Fahl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-158-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to have adequate funding in place to make the second annual payment this year; Fahl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crowl moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION FOR SECOND READING:

R-13-21

A RESOLUTION TO PLACE THE ISSUE OF INCREASING THE CITY INCOME TAX BY TEN HUNDREDTHS PERCENT (.10%) PER ANNUM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023, ON THE BALLOT AT THE NEXT PRIMARY ELECTION ON MAY 3, 2022; AND DIRECTING THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF ATHENS COUNTY TO CONDUCT THE ELECTION. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order for this issue to appear on the 2022 Primary ballot; Fahl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crowl moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ONE-READING RESOLUTIONS:

R-14-21

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW PEDESTRIAN ACCESSIBILITY, MOST IMPORTANTLY THE CONDITION OF EXISTING SIDEWALKS. Smedley moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

R-15-21

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING A ZERO WASTE POLICY FOR THE CITY OF ATHENS. Fahl moved for Adoption; Crawl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

R-16-21

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, TO COUNCIL MEMBER CHRIS FAHL FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE. Smedley moved for Adoption; Crawl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

R-17-21

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, TO COUNCIL MEMBER ARIAN SMEDLEY FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE. McCarey moved for Adoption; Crawl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

At approximately 9:00 p.m., Fahl moved to adjourn the meeting; McCarey seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

MINUTES DECEMBER 13, 2021 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7:00 P.M.

Council Members in Attendance:

Sam Crowl
Chris Fahl
Sarah Grace
Micah McCarey
Arian Smedley
Jeff Risner
Ben Ziff

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials:

President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Law Director Eliason
Auditor Hecht

Items Discussed:

- Opioid Litigation Settlement
 - President – this is the Johnson and Johnson National Opioid Settlement – local governments, with populations of more than 10,000, have been instructed to vote regarding this settlement – 95% of the litigating subdivisions is needed to participate – legislation is needed to accept the OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding that was reached on July 21, 2021 regarding allocation and use of the proceeds of the settlements, specifically the items contained in the information packet – the City will potentially receive a settlement amount between \$98,827, and with 100% municipality participation, could receive \$141,182
 - Mayor – the City is still exploring what this settlement money can be applied to – it has to do with treatment for those who are either in recovery or post recovery, and possibly education for those challenged by the opioid pandemic – the City will be engaging with the County of Athens, the City of Nelsonville, and regional townships and villages to discuss pooling these allocations in order to have a larger impact
 - President – certainly the countywide approach would make a lot of sense – the County could receive from \$500,000 to a million dollars

- Ad Hoc Committee (condition of sidewalks)
 - Smedley – acknowledged that there have been a significant number of improvements made over the past decade or so with pedestrian accessibility – she wants to recognize there are still opportunities for improvement – she would like Council to create, by resolution, an Ad Hoc Committee to use the existing Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, and Complete Streets Policy, referencing all of these with the work that has already been done and looking at what's left to do – need to establish baseline information along with strategy and a timeline in identifying opportunities for improvement – she suggested the committee consist of (5) members made up of a resident, a member of the Disabilities Commission, an Ohio University student, a member of Council and a representative from the Administration, to be appointed by the President of Council – the Ad Hoc Committee would exist for one year and report to City Council quarterly, with the idea of meeting their goals no later than December 1, 2022

-Fahl – believes this is a good step

-McCarey – questioned whether this is divergent from traditional practice of creating Ad Hoc groups only when there is no preexisting committee to review these issues

-Smedley – while sidewalks do traditionally fall under the Transportation Committee, this would include pedestrian accessibility with special importance to the condition of our existing sidewalks – because it is so focused she felt there was still room for this specialized group

-Crowl – pointed out that it makes sense to create an Ad Hoc Committee since there is a different funding structure for streets as opposed to sidewalks

-President – correspondence was received today from the Disabilities Commission supportive of this action

MINUTES: DECEMBER 13, 2021

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance:

Sam Crawl, Chair
Jeff Risner, Vice-Chair
Arian Smedley, Member

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials:

President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Auditor Hecht
Law Director Eliason

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- 2021 Appropriations
 - Crawl – the needed appropriation is to accommodate a change in billing for financial software in order to make a second annual payment – three payments of (\$4900) will be debited from each of the following funds: Water, Sewer and Garbage

MINUTES

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 13, 2021

Members in Attendance:

Chris Fahl, Chair
Jeff Risner, Vice-Chair
Sarah Grace, Member
Arian Smedley, Member

Administrators and/or Other Elected Officials:

President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Auditor Hecht
Law Director Eliason

Items Discussed:

- **Plastics-Free by '23 (resolution)**
 - Fahl – this is to establish a zero waste policy for the City – Council would like the Mayor to take steps, as necessary, to become plastics-free by January, 2023 – this would include all City sponsored events held on City property; to purchase products and services that cause minimal adverse environmental impact; to conduct a waste audit of City facilities by September, 2023; and to develop a zero waste policy with benchmarks to be presented to Council – the City has previously completed a zero waste audit and a pledge in 2016 that can be used as baseline information as the City moves forward – the policy should be adaptive, with attention to the City’s earlier global climate emergency resolutions
 - Janalee Stock, Athens County resident, and a member of “Athens Rethink Plastics,” a group that came together at the time of House Bill 242 – this group has been meeting regularly for the last several years and is thoroughly committed to assist the City in any way to accomplish this goal – we all need to pay attention and to proactively take action
 - Milena Miller, Graham Drive, and a member of “Athens Rethink Plastics” shared the attached information – she conveyed her interest in recycling medical supplies and equipment – since April, eight events in various counties, of which two have been held at the Athens Community Center, collections have been delivered to Cleveland and then shipped overseas to countries in need – these are the same medical supplies and equipment that used to be sent to the landfill – this is not junk; it is very much usable and in good condition – pointed out that our small local actions are so important

-Melanie Smith, University Heights – 30% of single-use plastics are not being recycled – chemicals used in plastics for water bottles and straws are extremely toxic and have been associated with different types of cancer – single-use plastics don't need to be used – we use plastic bags for a few minutes, throw them away, and they never decompose; it is a forever plastic – for the sake of our health and the world let's put our brakes on the use of single-use plastics

-Amy Delach, Morris Avenue – serves as Chair of the City's Environment & Sustainability Commission – reducing plastics is an issue the Commission can lend a hand to – conveyed her personal support

-Nancy Pierce, Guysville, and a member of "Athens Rethink Plastics" expressed concern with the oil and gas industry's interest and plans along the Ohio River Valley to produce ethane for the production of more plastics – using plastic is a habit and a lifestyle that we need to be mindful of – we need to be conscious about it and set an example to help our environment

-Milena Miller – an "Athens Rethink Plastics" free July supported by the Ohio Sierra Club was attended by many businesses – businesses are making an effort to address this issue, and are willing to make changes to reduce their use of plastics

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 13, 2021

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair
Sam Crowl, Vice-Chair
Ben Ziff, Member

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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Ordinance 30-20 (amend)
 - Risner – this amendment is necessary for budgetary reasons
 - Mayor – the contract includes enforcement with an authorized expenditure of up to (\$70,000) – to date \$64,837 has been expended for enforcement – the contract also includes metered services not accounted for in the authorized expenditure, so the amendment is to remove the (\$70,000) cap on the expenditure, and add “as outlined in the attached contract”
 - Auditor – believes that enforcement will slightly exceed (\$70,000), just under 25% of the revenue – this adjustment is a good thing as it means our parking meters are being used – the amendment is to reference the fees as they are included in the contract, noting this is a 5-year contract