

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of ATHENS CITY COUNCIL (REG. SESS.)

Meeting

BARRETT BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

Form 6101

Held JANUARY 18, 2022

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour with the following members present: Crawl, Grace, McCarey, Risner, Spjeldnes, Swank, and Ziff.

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

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Risner moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Session of City Council held January 3, 2022; Ziff seconded. Minutes were approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Knisely announced the following:

- Receipt of Police Chief Pyle's report on the 2021 Law Enforcement Trust Fund (LETF) and Drug Fund Expenditures/Revenue (see attached).
- Several phone calls and emails were received regarding snow removal. The City has been diligently working to clear snow from the streets. She reminded residents that snow removal from the sidewalks is the responsibility of the property owner.
- **Council Member Spjeldnes** in receipt of correspondence from two west side resident home owners, both concerned about pedestrian and traffic safety. She has forwarded these to Administrative staff, as appropriate, for their review and action moving forward. Co-owner of the Athens Cycle Path is concerned that DORA participants will cross from Union Street, near his shop, to Depot Street, and there is no painted crosswalk there.

Natalie Wittmann, resident, shared her concern about the state of the sidewalks/pedestrian infrastructure on the City's west side.

- **Council Member McCarey** acknowledged receipt of correspondence from Jordan Pazol, representing other Ohio University and community LGBTQ peers, in their opposition toward any funding increases for policing and surveillance in Athens. These funds would be much better used and appreciated for social services, rent relief, and community support.

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- **Council Member Swank** recently spoke with Ed Newman, a recognized leader in the area of environment and sustainability, about the City's garbage/recycling/composting program. Swank hopes this can be a topic at the next City & Safety Services Committee.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson reported that the City's plan for clearing streets after a snow begins with the steeper streets, triaging other streets as they can. Safe passage is made on the first round with repeated rounds clearing more each time.

The Mayor has received correspondence from individuals concerned about the removal of two trees in front of the County Courthouse. The removal of these large trees from the public right-of-way was not authorized by the City. His staff will review this action with County officials.

Swank asked the Mayor if the Open House at the Community Center is still planned for tomorrow evening to discuss the Fire Station design.

Mayor responded that it will be held as planned tomorrow evening from 6:00 to 9:00 in activity room A.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-01-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING UNNEEDED OR OBSOLETE MUNICIPAL PERSONAL PROPERTY TO BE SOLD BY INTERNET AUCTION.

0-02-22

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLE 17, MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX, CHAPTER 17.01, IN GENERAL, SECTION 17.01.012, PURPOSES OF TAX; RATE.

0-03-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Discussion: Spjeldnes had asked during the committee meeting if these funds could be used for unsafe sidewalks, or to help with the accessible sidewalks issue.

Mayor Patterson responded that he has spoken with Glen Crippen at HAPCAP, indicating that sidewalks do not qualify under this program.

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Swank read Section C regarding the primary development goals of the agreement as follows:

1. improving the affordable housing stock; and
2. providing for the affordable housing needs of low-and moderate-income persons in designated areas of the Housing Revolving Loan Fund.

He sees this as a golden opportunity, not for tonight, but hopefully before this legislation passes, to finally define, "What is affordable housing." And, what the criteria would be in the definition of low-moderate income persons. This is a great opportunity for the City to improve and provide affordable housing stock.

President pointed out that affordable housing and low income housing are different depending upon the program.

Spjeldnes asked if there is a specific target for this type of funding, or is it an opportunity to look at options that haven't yet been considered.

Mayor responded that nothing has been identified to date.

0-04-22

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2022 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 150-21; AND AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE INTERFUND TRANSFERS.

0-05-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CITY FIBER NETWORK, PROJECT 347.

0-06-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT REOPENER WITH THE ATHENS CITY FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, OHIO LABOR COUNCIL, INC., AND THE CITY OF ATHENS PATROL OFFICERS, LIEUTENANTS, AND COMMUNICATION OFFICERS CONCERNING WAGES.

0-07-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A ONE-TIME RETENTION PAYMENT FOR THE CITY OF ATHENS PATROL OFFICERS, LIEUTENANTS, AND COMMUNICATION OFFICERS. Discussion: Spjeldnes asked when the current contract expires.

Crowl responded December, 2023.

Ziff can't imagine that a \$1000 retention payment would entice an officer to stay; it feels more like a \$1000 bonus.

Swank asked the reasoning behind this retention payment.

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Crowl understands that it was a creative negotiating method used in order to reach an agreement. The officers were looking for a higher wage increase than the City was willing to offer, and this was used as a counter offer.

Swank questioned that this might be precedent setting in upcoming negotiations, and asked whether this is a financial obligation the City is willing to commit to.

McCarey asked about any community response to negotiations, engagement, or response.

Mayor responded that citizens have spoken during Council meetings as the negotiated agreement goes through legislative readings.

0-08-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE UPTOWN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, PROJECT (#329).

Discussion: Swank asked if these designated areas, Washington Street between Congress and College, and State between Congress and College will mirror the improvements made to Union Street between Congress and Court.

Mayor responded that they will be similar to that block of Union.

Swank asked if Mill Street between Court and College could be added to the ordinance. This one small block will look different.

President noted that the grant has been awarded and the project description is in place, and any change would need to go back to the granting authority for consideration.

Mayor agrees, the grant was funded by ODOT as written, but can check with them on any leeway to include this portion of Mill Street. As an alternative, the City could plan ahead and Mill Street could be scheduled as a project using the City's capital improvements funds. Also, other State grant sources can be researched.

Swank appreciates the Administration reviewing this proposal.

0-09-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN VEHICLES NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

0-10-22

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY USE PERMIT TO PAUL RICHARD, OWNER, DBA GOOD WORKS, INC., 100 CENTRAL AVENUE, TO CONSTRUCT AN ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACE. Discussion: Spjeldnes believes Mr. Richard is the Director of Operations, and not the owner.

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0-11-22

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A UTILITY AND INGRESS/EGRESS EASEMENT ON SOUTH BLACKBURN ROAD.

0-12-22

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A PERPETUAL EASEMENT TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN A SEWER IN THE NAME, AND FOR THE USE, OF THE CITY OF ATHENS.

0-13-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN INTRA-COUNTY MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ATHENS AND THE ATHENS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

0-14-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SOFTENING SALT FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT.

0-15-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR A NEW RESTROOM FACILITY AT THE WEST STATE PARK, PROJECT #349. Discussion: McCarey noted that Service-Safety Director Stone indicated this will be a very rugged and durable facility.

Swank asked about incorporating art on the facility, perhaps a mural, to mitigate graffiti.

Mayor indicated that at the time of construction, the City can explore options.

President noted that in the past the City has worked with the Athens Municipal Arts Commission (AMAC) for public art projects.

Crowl understands the City has been discussing a local volunteer project as part of the renovation of the old restroom facility at the Park, and suggested starting it this spring or summer, before the new facility is constructed.

Risner agrees this would be an ideal mural project for AMAC.

McCarey asked if the Arts, Parks & Recreation (APR) Advisory Board would be involved in coordinating potential art work.

Swank believes it would be a combination of AMAC and the APR Advisory Board. As liaison he will bring that conversation to the APR Board meeting.

0-16-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BUSINESS SYSTEM SOLUTIONS, INC. (BSSI) FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NETWORK MANAGEMENT SERVICES. Discussion: Swank asked if the City of Dublin uses this company.

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Mayor responded, "They do not."

He did not see any municipalities listed on the BSSI website. All of their testimonials are for small businesses. He asked if we are aware of any other municipalities BSSI works with and manages.

Mayor believes Service-Safety Director Stone indicated that there is a municipality they manage. He can get back to Council on that question.

McCarey recalls that only the Cities of Dublin and Powell have made this switch to remote management of technology, and it has been working well for them.

Ziff recalled the discussion of whether this outsourcing will cost more or less than having our own in-house IT staff, and he understands it will be net neutral, with the potential of a small amount of savings.

McCarey recollects that the cost of having the two vacant full time IT positions with salaries and benefits is approximately \$160,000, and this 12-month contract is approximately \$132,000.

Crowl suggested that Council remain open to this "upgrade" of services.

Grace asked if our Government Channel staff has had the opportunity to meet with BSSI, Service-Safety Director Stone, and IT Tech Huston to work through specific concerns they may have regarding their network equipment and whether this agreement will be supportive of their work.

President noted that a specific request to the Administration was made last week about scheduling a meeting with the Government Channel prior to final reading of this ordinance.

Mayor will check with Service-Safety Director Stone on scheduling the meeting.

0-17-22

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 84-21, TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE FOR STRUCTURAL REPAIRS TO THE ATHENS FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, PROJECT #343.

0-18-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION DESIGN FOR A NEW ATHENS FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, PROJECT #346.

Discussion: McCarey reminded all of the first of two Open Houses scheduled for tomorrow evening from 6:00 to 9:00pm at the Community Center to provide an opportunity for community members to explore ideas, express concerns, and ask questions about the proposed site location on Stimson Avenue.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Swank moved to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Daniel Brown to serve his third term as a member of the Recreation Advisory Board; Ziff seconded. Reappointment was unanimously approved.

McCarey moved to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Rose Dikis to serve her second term as a member of the Commission on Disabilities; Grace seconded. Reappointment was approved unanimously.

Ziff moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Chris Fahl to the Shade Tree Commission; Risner seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

At approximately 8:10 p.m. Grace moved to Adjourn the meeting; Ziff seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Christian B. Konisely
President of Council

ATTEST:

Debra G. Walker
Clerk of Council



CITY OF ATHENS POLICE DEPARTMENT

THOMAS D. PYLE II, CLEE, CHIEF OF POLICE

To: Athens City Council

From: Chief Tom Pyle 

Date: 11JAN2022

RE: 2021 LETF and Drug Fund Expenditures/Revenue

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 2925.03 and 2981.13, I am verifying that the funds listed on the following pages were expended (see Table 1) only for the purposes authorized by law and as defined by our internal policy.

Table 2 represents revenue in these fund lines for 2021.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions

Xc: Steve Patterson, Mayor
Andy Stone, Service-Safety Director
Kathy Hecht, Auditor
Andrew Chiki, Deputy Service-Safety Director

Detail Expense Transactions by Fund - City of Athens
for Year 2021 Month 01 to Year 2021 Month 12-293 LETF Law Enforcement Trust Fund

[illegible]

Detail Expense Transactions by Fund - City of Athens
for Year 2021 Month 01 to Year 2021 Month 12 MDT Mandatory Drug Fine

Detail Expense Transactions by Fund - City of Athens										6/30/78
for Year 2021 Month 01 to Year 2021 Month 12 MDT Mandatory Drug Fine										
Date	Site	Vndg#	Vendor Name	PO#	Inv/ Seq	CINV Trans	Proj	Amount	Remark	
0 Transactions										

TABLE2

Detail Revenue Transactions by Fund - City of Athens
For Year 2021 Month 01 to Year 2021 Month 12 LETF Law Enforcement Trust Fund

Date	Site	Paym	Trans	Inv Seq	Proj	Amount	Remark
04/19/2021	REC	23354003	R2103712	23354003		214.20	NICK CONGROVE - RESTITUTION
06/14/2021	REC	23585006	R2106045	23585006		1,141.20	T REASONER - 20CR0258 & 20CR0353
06/23/2021	REC	23619004	R2106399	23619004		294.60	16CR0393 - B DRYER SEIZED
09/30/2021	REC	24048019	R2110257	24048019		1,155.60	19CR0143 - NICHOLAS SNIDER
10/11/2021	REC	24088002	R2110430	24088002		2,820.00	MICHAEL HANKINSON - 19CR0182
293.000.433700	REC SEIZ & FORF ASSETS					5,625.60	

Fund: 293

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND

5,625.60

Detail Revenue Transactions by Fund - City of Athens
For Year 2021 Month 01 to Year 2021 Month 12

Date	Site	Paym	Trans	Inv Seq	Proj	Amount	Remark
01/27/2021	REC	23044025	R2100752	23044025		10.94	CODY PERRY - APD DRUG FINES
01/27/2021	REC	23044031	R2100759	23044031		10.68	CODY PERRY - DRUG FINES
02/28/2021	REC	23190003	R2102051	23190003		10.55	CODY PERRY - RESTITUTION
03/22/2021	REC	23256005	R2102740	23256005		2.00	ATHENS CO MUNICIPAL COURT
03/31/2021	REC	23305002	R2103285	23305002		5.00	MEGAN VORE - RESTITUTION
05/12/2021	REC	23458003	R2104760	23458003		30.00	MEGAN VORE - RESTITUTION
06/14/2021	REC	23585005	R2106044	23585005		20.97	CODY PERRY - RESTITUTION
06/23/2021	REC	23619008	R2106404	23619008		5.00	MEGAN VORE - RESTITUTION
07/28/2021	REC	23755008	R2107857	23755008		25.00	CODY PERRY - RESTITUTION
08/23/2021	REC	23860001	R2108715	23860001		5.00	MEGAN VORE - DRUG FINES
11/09/2021	REC	24245001	R2111522	24245001		10.00	MEGAN VORE - APD DRUG FINE
294.000.433700	FINES RECEIPTS					135.14	

01/31/2021	MEM	09-21	M2100030	23093001	13.83	JAN 2021 INTEREST EARNED
02/28/2021	MEM	17-21	M2100133	23196001	0.23	FEB 2021 INTEREST EARNED
03/31/2021	MEM	23-21	M2100165	23315001	0.90	MARCH 2021 INTEREST EARNED
04/30/2021	MEM	32-21	M2100221	23429001	1.25	APRIL 2021 INTEREST EARNED
05/31/2021	MEM	48-21	M2100291	23550001	0.57	MAY 2021 INTEREST EARNED
06/30/2021	MEM	56-21	M2100362	23671001	0.45	JUNE 2021 INTEREST EARNED
07/31/2021	MEM	64-21	M2100415	23786001	0.41	JULY 2021 INTEREST EARNED
08/31/2021	MEM	74-21	M2100457	23924001	0.66	AUG 2021 INTEREST EARNED
09/30/2021	MEM	86-21	M2100521	24063001	0.65	SEPT 2021 INTEREST EARNED
10/31/2021	MEM	102-21	M2100604	24212001	0.69	OCT 2021 INTEREST EARNED
11/30/2021	MEM	111-21	M2100636	24357001	46.24	NOV 2021 INTEREST EARNED
12/31/2021	MEM	123-21	M2100695	24496001	0.85	DEC 2021 INTEREST EARNED
294,000.460100	INTEREST				66.72	

Fund: 294 DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT

201.86

23 Transactions

201.86