

MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2014
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Steve Patterson, Chair
Jennifer Cochran, Vice-Chair
Jeff Risner, Member

Other Council Members: Kent Butler
Chris Fahl
Chris Knisely
Michele Papai

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Sands
Mayor Wiehl
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley
Auditor Hecht

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Dowler Property (amendment)
 - Patterson – amendment is to clarify the total acreage – survey has increased acreage from approximately 15 to 17.371
 - Mayor – accurate acreage is needed when filing paperwork with the State to exempt City from property tax
 - Patterson – suggested replacing the location identifier from Cardiff Lane to Farhills Subdivision
- Street Sweeper
 - Patterson – Administration has requested replacement of the City's 10-year old street sweeper, purchased in 2004, has reached end of life expectancy -- \$220,000 has been appropriated for purchase of this new equipment – asked about disposal of the old street sweeper
 - S-S Director – EPW staff is still evaluating
 - Mayor – due to a low trade-in value the Street Director is considering repurposing it as a leaf vacuum
 - Papai – maintenance time is high for a street sweeper, especially one that is 10-years old

- Zero Waste

-Patterson – Athens-Hocking Zero Waste Action Plan – zero waste is when 90% or more of waste is being recycled

-Erin Sykes, Zero Waste Team Administrator for Rural Action, working on the Appalachia Ohio Zero Waste Initiative (AOZWI), a partnership between the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs and Rural Action, funded by the Sugar Bush Foundation – (AOZWI) formed in 2010 in response to the really low recycling rates of 8.8%, the third lowest solid waste district in the State – this number is rising, up to 14% -- current OEPA goals are 25% diversion rate of recyclables from the landfill – plan was drafted from a series of 10 community meetings that were hosted in 2012 – the plan's big vision is to reach zero waste in a way that benefits our environment, our local economy, and our residents – goals from these community meetings: 1) recycling should be easy; 2) it should be convenient; 3) good education; and 4) in a way that benefits the local economy – (AOZWI) drafted a plan (see attached), completed December 10, 2013 – currently seeking letters and resolutions of support for the Plan – February, 2014, expect to launch Athens-Hocking Zero Waste Committee that will oversee implementation

-Papai – would like City Council to support the Plan through a Resolution

-Mayor – will also write a letter of support – Plan provides guidance for our Solid Waste District – good process with defined ideas – noted that City recycling efforts are at about 25%

-Knisely – exciting to see this happening in Southeast Ohio – asked about the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) study, and or Transfer Station

-Sykes – explained that the Athens-Hocking Recycling Center has split from the Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District – with the split the MRF/Transfer Station has been delayed, however, the Athens-Hocking Recycling Center is still interested and looking into the MRF – the District also put out a call for proposals to look into other options as well

-Butler – asked Sykes to explain a MRF

-Sykes – where all curbside recyclables are placed – like items are baled and sold

-Papai – was in a group that dealt with difficult to recycle items that our current system does not handle – many items that have to be moved quite a distance – there are huge transportation costs (to Columbus and Pittsburgh) – MRF would be helpful to this region

- Sykes – pointed out that the Plan also addresses importance of keeping jobs local – important factor expressed by community
- Day of Service
 - Knisely – in keeping with Dr. King’s legacy of service, Barb Harrison, Ohio University Residential Housing, is coordinating with Off-Campus Housing a “Martin Luther King Day of Service” on Saturday, January 25th – the City’s effort is a graffiti removal component in the uptown and public access areas – volunteers can sign up on the University’s Community Service Website
- Fire Pumper Truck
 - Risner – asked about plans for replacement
 - S-S Director – the current fire pumper truck is 20 years old – would like to have available in 2015 – need to identify funding source – Fire Chief Troxel has established a committee that is looking into pricing – the first estimate exceeds \$550,000
 - Risner – asked if Ohio University has been approached as a funding partner
 - S-S Director – has been discussed in meetings with the thought that Ohio University participate as an on-going partnering contributor for fire emergency services
 - Mayor – Ohio University remains non-committal at this time
 - Papai – suggested this as a topic at Council’s upcoming Presidential luncheon
- Noise Issues
 - Butler – barking dog concerns – this issue is being discussed – working toward an amicable solution – asked citizens to be mindful of their pets and neighbors – this is a community effort
 - S-S Director – indicated that residents can call in a barking dog complaint to APD
 - Mayor – animal complaints are currently tracked by APD
- Electric Aggregation
 - Papai – requested an update
 - Mayor – working with County Commissioner Chris Chmiel

- S-S Director – a public forum will be held in February or March
- Joint Police Advisory Council
 - Patterson – next open meeting will be held on Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Baker University Center and the following month at the Community Center on February 6th at 6:30 p.m.

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Dowler (amendment)
2. Street Sweeper (purchase)
3. Zero Waste Resolution

MINUTES JANUARY 13, 2014

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Chris Knisely, Chair
Steve Patterson, Vice-Chair
Chris Fahl, Member

Other Council Members: Kent Butler
Jennifer Cochran
Michele Papai
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Sands
Mayor Wiehl
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley
Auditor Hecht

Items Discussed:

- Clean Ohio Trails Grant (Columbus Road bike path)
 - Knisely – continuing efforts to improve the bike path and increase transportation mobility – funding includes \$735,000 awarded from the Transportation Alternative Grant Program – will authorize upcoming legislation to submit an application for the COT grant through ODNR – application deadline is February 1st – credit received through the TAG program can be used as cost share on this COT grant that will help our grant score -- there is a \$500,000 cap on this grant, with a 75/25 split – this project will link Columbus Road to the existing bike path
 - Fahl – emphasized that our extended bike path is planned to link with a larger regional path to Belpre and into West Virginia that will extend, ultimately, to Washington, D.C.
 - S-S Director – City will need to allocate an additional \$200,000 – project will be constructed in 2015
 - Knisely – if awarded the COT grant this summer, the construction will need to be completed within 15 months

- Amendment to Non-Union (paid absence days)
 - Knisely – need to clarify that paid absence days must be taken in 8-hour increments for ease of administration and tracking accurately
- Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) (appropriation)
 - Knisely – need to appropriate \$460,000 – program is administered through Hocking.Athens.Perry Community Action Program, HAPCAP
 - Mayor – amount includes about 13% for administrative costs
 - Knisely – will include rehabilitation of low-moderate income housing: (3) private homes, (13) rental home repairs, (1) habitat home in the City, and providing rehabilitation assistance to properties owned by (2) local landlords – grant work is to be completed by October, 2015
 - Auditor – understands that HAPCAP will need a drawdown as early as February and requests Suspension of the Rules
 - Papai – asked for clarification on the local landlord assistance being provided
 - Mayor – there is a 50% match for the landlords – again, targets low-moderate income service providers, including upgrade of Athens Metropolitan Housing within the City – is aware of other grants, including neighborhood and uptown revitalization, that the City may want to pursue – he is currently reviewing them – grants are up to \$300,000 with a 50% match
 - Knisely – good to pursue such opportunities

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. COT Grant
2. Paid Absence Days (amendment)
3. Appropriation
4. CHIP

MINUTES TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 10, 2014

Members in Attendance: Michele Papai, Chair
Kent Butler, Vice Chair
Jennifer Cochran, Member

Other Council Members: Chris Fahl
Chris Knisely
Steve Patterson
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: Mayor Wiehl
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Transit (update)
 - Papai – introduced Michael Lachman, Athens Public Transit Manager; Lantz Repp, Mobility Manager; and Carolyn Conley, GO BUS Manager, who will present their annual review
 - Lantz Repp is Athens Mobility Coordinator through Hocking.Athens.Perry Community Action Program (HAPCAP), and supervisor of the GoBus, Athens Public Transit, Logan Public Transit and Athens On-Demand Transit – overall, HAPCAP was responsible in 2013 for 358,779 riders in Athens County – renewed the 2007-08 Athens County Human Services Transportation Coordinated Plan that was put together by the Voinovich School and adopted, to be renewed every 5 years – the renewal has been approved by the County Commissioners and forwarded to ODOT – any funding through the FTA or ODOT requires such a plan in order to receive grant dollars – Athens On-Demand Transit (2013 first full year in operation) providing rides to persons with disabilities and the elderly to get to medical appointments and other health and human services – it operates 5 days a week with a \$2.00 one-way fee – pre-registration is necessary – 5,636 riders in 2013: 3,368 persons with disabilities,1220 accessible rides, and 764 elderly needs – 36% of the rides were work-related, 28% medical, 23% health and human services

Carolyn Conley – GoBus is still going strong – 2013 ridership was just shy of 48,000 – down about 8% from 2012, but still really holding strong – academic school year this Fall semester has seen a 5% increase in ridership – 2013 had two record-breaking months in October and November – improvements made in 2013 include: 1) new GPS tracking system – this GPS has been made available to riders by way of a mobile app (Find GoBus) for estimated arrival time of the buses; 2) improved controlling ticket sales; 3) adding 1-4 staff members directing passengers at the Ohio University stops; 4) a \$2.50 service fee added to cost of ticket – will be used for local match in securing grants to purchase new buses; and 5) worked closely with communities to provide better locations for stops at Batavia, Logan, Marietta and Parkersburg, and have received a lot of positive feedback – plan to improve website to be more user friendly, easier to read and access from mobile devices in 2014 – ready to distribute a new brochure with up-to-date information – seeking new ticket agents

-Michael Lachman – 2013 saw some big changes: 1) lowered standard fare from \$1.50 to \$1.00; 2) instituted fixed stops; 3) increased frequency of buses through uptown Athens from 1 an hour to 2 an hour; and 4) moved main connecting stop next to Baker University Center on Mulberry Street – these changes have produced healthy gains in ridership – the past 4 months have been averaging a 22% increase month to month from 2012 to 2013, and that has continued into January, 2014, despite the incredibly cold weather – 2013 statistics: general public ridership – 65,525, adding to that the service contract with the Summit at Coates Run, 225,792 for total riders at 291,317 – that is a record for the system, making it the largest rural transit system in the State of Ohio – highlights expected in 2014: 1) at least (4) new bus shelters; 2) GPS tracking system similar to the GoBus, partnering with Ohio University Student Government – (OUSG) was helpful in advertising a lot of the service changes – important to provide the ability to have real time tracking (website or mobile phone app) to see exactly where the bus is at any given time – will give riders a sense of reliability of the service – hope to have in place by the end of this year; 3) arts and transit projects

-Patterson – appreciates the growth of City transit – he is particularly passionate about Athens On-Demand – many positive aspects with this program – values the low fare

-Knisely – GPS will be very helpful – questioned whether the funding source for GoBus is still looking firm with the low fees staying in place

-Conley – prices will remain – State is pleased with the ticket revenue – new FTA rules includes language that makes federal funding access more permanent – a good sign for the future

- Repp – the State formula provides for a percentage of FTA dollars that must be spent on inner city bus routes – added protection
- Knisely – asked about a student fee that would go toward transportation for all students and whether that is moving forward – much like Ohio State and Indiana University
- Lachman – will continue to discuss with Ohio University
- Repp – Ohio University is a collaborative partner on many different fronts, including the GPS tracking system
- Mayor – asked about the number of buses and their schedule for replacement of the GoBus's
- Conley – currently have (3) buses owned by the City of Athens – she would like to have a fourth, so buses wouldn't need to be leased from Lakefront Lines on busy days – would provide more revenue in our pockets – working with the State to add another bus – hope to begin this summer on replacement – have been working to stagger mileage on the buses, so that one will be ready for replacement before the other two – they are supposed to be million mile buses, but will hopefully swap them out at closer to 500,000 miles, if not a little sooner
- Mayor – asked about locations for the new bus shelters
- Lachman – still working on that
- S-S Director – would like to connect Athens Transit with the City media regarding inclement weather days when the buses are not running, so it could be reported through our channel and website to residents – also, suggested checking with the Athens Municipal Arts Commission regarding the arts/transit project endeavor
- Butler – potential is there for the arts/transit project and the bus shelters to be both creative and utilitarian, possibly through the Essence of Athens venture – applauds HAPCAP's efforts toward a very successful transit system – lack of transportation can be a huge hindrance to employment and is essential for progress
- South Green Drive (extension)
 - Papai – requested an update
 - S-S Director – still in the planning stage with construction planned for this summer