

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014, 7:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour with the following members present: Butler, Cochran, Fahl, Knisely, Papai, Patterson and Risner.

Also present: President Sands, Mayor Wiehl, Law Director Lang, and Auditor Hecht.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Knisely moved approval of the Regular Session held January 6, 2014; Patterson seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Sands reminded City Council Members of the scheduled luncheon with President McDavis next Tuesday, January 28, at noon in the President's dining room in Baker University Center.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Wiehl reported the following:

- No delay on garbage/recycling pickup this week due to the holiday; it is on the normal schedule
- Reminder that residents are required to clean snow/ice from their sidewalks within 24-hours of a snowfall

Councilman Butler is aware that there are communities that offer small salt buckets through their public works office to elderly/retired residents who may be challenged to keep their sidewalks clear from snow/ice. He would like the City of Athens to consider such a practice.

Auditor Hecht updated City Council on the following:

- CCA Collections in 2013 (5 years sought through year 2010 delinquencies) – City received \$200,003.57, plus \$85,250 in-house collections and the Amnesty collection brought in \$52,037. Final assessment letters have been mailed out to those not responding to earlier attempts to collect delinquent

taxes currently owed the City. The Auditor's office will work with residents to clarify the amount owed and with payment schedules. She emphasized that ignoring this final attempt at collection will result in legal action.

President Sands noted that this program was very successful this past year, and asked about the anticipated amount for 2014.

Auditor Hecht is hopeful that collections can reach \$50,000 for 2011-2012 delinquencies.

Councilman Risner asked if collections for this year and the next are lower than projected, might that indicate that people are, in fact, filing.

Auditor Hecht responded, yes, pointing out that a lot of those who paid did not understand that they should be paying City of Athens income tax. Approximately 200 new tax accounts have been opened. There will be increasing revenue in tax because of these new accounts, though not through the CCA.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-01-14

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A CLEAN OHIO TRAILS FUND GRANT FOR THE COLUMBUS ROAD BIKEPATH SPUR; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Discussion: Knisely noted that this grant will complement funding the City already has in place through the Transportation Alternative Grant Program (\$735,000). The City will apply for up to \$500,000 from the ODNR COTF with a 75/25 cost share. This spur will link the current bike path across the river via a bike bridge to the Columbus Road bike lane.

Butler supports this project, however, pointed out the need to provide future maintenance to this bike bridge.

Fahl moved for Suspension of the Rules; Papai seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Knisely moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-02-14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2014 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Knisely moved for Suspension of the Rules; Patterson seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Discussion: Patterson questioned the

timeframe of the new WWTP improvements coming on line.

The Mayor responded, 2015.

Knisely moved for Adoption; Patterson seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-03-14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 147-13, NON-UNION PERSONNEL FRINGE BENEFITS PACKAGE, TO CLARIFY THAT PAID ABSENCE DAYS MUST BE TAKEN IN 8-HOUR INCREMENTS.

0-04-14

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING A PORTION OF COURT STREET FROM UNION TO STATE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2014, FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STREET FAIR.

0-05-14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 93-13; AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF THE DOWLER FAMILY PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE FARHILLS SUBDIVISION TO REMAIN AS UNDEVELOPED PARK LAND.

0-06-14

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE A STREET SWEEPER; AND DECLARING CERTAIN EQUIPMENT NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

ONE-READING RESOLUTION:

R-01-14

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ATHENS HOCKING ZERO WASTE ACTION PLAN DATED DECEMBER, 2013. Patterson moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Cochran moved approval of the Auditor's December, 2013, financial reports as submitted; Knisely seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Cochran moved the following reappointments to the Athens City Shade Tree Commission with terms effective through December 31, 2015: David

Sincoff, David Ingram, and Jared DeForest; Fahl seconded. The reappointments were approved unanimously.

Patterson moved to appoint Noah Trembly to serve the remainder of Luther Haseley's term, who replaced Peete Bowen on the Athens City Commission on Disabilities; Fahl seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

Butler moved the reappointments to a second term on the Recreation Advisory Board, term ending on February 28, 2016, for the following: Ric Abel, Paige Alost, James Petrik, and Bill Walker; Papai seconded. Reappointments were approved unanimously.

The following committees will meet next Monday, January 27th:

- Planning & Development
- Transportation
 - Transit update from Lantz Repp and Michael Lachman
- Finance & Personnel
- City & Safety Services

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO SPEAK ON LEGISLATIVE ITEMS AND CITY SERVICES NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA:

Charles Murray Rose, 4 Ridgeview Road, a post office letter carrier and advocate for public safety, reiterated his concern for natural gas safety in the Athens community. Last month he, once again, detected the odor of a problem at 260 ½ East State Street. He left a note suggesting the residents contact Columbia Gas immediately. Mr. Rose urged acceleration of the planned replacement of aging gas pipeline by Columbia Gas of Ohio.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council