

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 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: Mayor Wiehl
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Beautification Day
 - Cochran – introduced Rose Troyer, Chair of the Athens Beautification Day committee – Rose is attending Council to present details and opportunities for the 10th annual Beautification Day on April 13th, a collaborative effort between Ohio University and the City of Athens
 - Rose Troyer – is also Off-Campus Life Commissioner for Student Government – the first year Athens Beautification Day was sponsored by the Men's Water Polo Team, boasting 150 volunteers – last year's event exceeded 1400 volunteers and this year are looking forward to 2000 to 2500 volunteers and will be offering more projects – registration will begin at noon, with speakers at 12:30 – the project time has been expanded one hour from 1-4:00 p.m. in order to have time to cover more substantial projects – there will be food and entertainment – a new project has been added with the Wayne National Forest – the project area is being expanded to include The Plains and Nelsonville with 4-5 projects – plan to team up student volunteers with community members, town and gown intermingling – volunteers can register online by going to athensbeautificationday2014.eventbrite.com – all volunteers will receive a free tee-shirt – ideas for projects are due February 28th and can be sent to the following email address: OhioUOCL@gmail.com
 - Mayor – suggested the link be put on the City's website – City is a sponsor of this event with a donation of \$1000

- Patterson – indicated that team leaders need to be clear on where to return the equipment upon completion of the day – there was some confusion about that last year
- Troyer – hoping to have a well-informed team leader for each project this year
- Cochran – requested all community members who are able to come out and help alongside Ohio University students – it is a meaningful interaction between the community and the campus
- Solid Waste/Recycling (contract extension)
 - Patterson – the current contract expires June 30th – Administration is requesting a one-year extension from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 – coordinating with Ohio University who recently extended its contract period by one-year
 - Mayor – this one-year extension is being requested to span the organizational re-structuring between the Solid Waste District and the non-profit, Athens-Hocking Recycling
 - Butler – hearing support from the community for moving toward single stream recycling – he hopes that is part of the long-term goal
 - S-S Director – understands that single stream is so much easier for the consumer – funding is delaying implementation of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)
 - Papai – appreciates the service that has been provided during this winter's inclement weather – pick up has not been delayed or canceled

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Solid Waste/Recycling (contract extension)

MINUTES FEBRUARY 10, 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: Mayor Wiehl
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley
Auditor Hecht

Items Discussed:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Small Cities Formula
-Knisely – requests legislation to authorize the Mayor to submit an application and enter into an agreement with the Ohio Development Services Agency for calendar year 2015 funding – public hearings will be held to hear ideas for projects

-Patterson – is aware of a couple of projects: the Franklin Avenue drainage repairs and possibly the rubberized surface at the Community Center playground area, similar to that at the Southside Park
- Community Center Energy Efficiency (note)
-Knisely -- \$220,000 was borrowed – payment due date is February 28th – recommendation is to pay down \$75,000 plus interest, leaving a balance of \$145,000 – last year the interest rate was .35% and that rate will remain the same this year
- Parking Garage and Elevator (repairs)
-Knisely – a comprehensive evaluation of the structure and elevators is underway at a cost of (\$38,000)

- Electric Aggregation
 - Knisely – next step is for the City to appropriate \$25,000 for professional services in conjunction with the County
 - Mayor – would like the funds to be appropriated to the Athens Enhancement Fund, 250, for primary consultant work
 - Papai – overriding mission with passage of the ballot initiative is for lower rates
- Assessments
 - Knisely – final costs have been prepared and legislation will be forthcoming for both University Estates (street improvements) and the North Lancaster Street (sidewalk improvements)
- Appropriations and Transfer
 - Knisely – decreasing funds in the following: Tourism, 212, T.C. 500, by \$5,000; Clerks Computer Fund, 231, T.C. 500, by \$8,000; Recreation Fund, T.C. 100, by \$200,000; Capital Improvements Fund, 580.580, T.C. 500, by \$100,000; and Medical Internal Service Fund, 866, T.C. 300, by \$370,000 – the House Arrest Fund, 233, will be closed out and the balance in that account of \$2282.47 will be transferred to the DUI Court Grant Fund, 237 – a new appropriation is needed to track the remainder of the Oxbow (\$3.8 million) Project expenses of \$616,515.22 to Small Cities ODOT Fund, T.C. 500, of which approximately \$45,000 is O.U.'s remaining portion of this project
- Chief Information Officer
 - Mayor – noted that this vacant position is being posted

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. CDBG
2. Community Center (note)
3. Final Assessments
4. Appropriations & Transfer

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 10, 2014

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Chris Fahl, Chair
Jeff Risner, Vice-Chair
Kent Butler, Member

Other Council Members: Kent Butler
Chris Knisely
Michele Papai
Steve Patterson

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

Items Discussed:

- Revocable License (91 S. May Avenue)
 - Fahl – reminded Council that this issue was presented last year – the residents acquired additional property next door and requested to extend the fence line onto that land – Council did not approve the extension and advised the owner to submit a new application for the existing fence, with the corrected r-o-w encroachment – the Administration has reviewed this application, noting that the current fence line has been in existence for 16 years
 - Knisely – clarified that the application submitted last year was to extend the fence, and this application is renewing the current conditions in place since 1997
 - Fahl – yes, a renewal in accordance with R-02-00
- Revocable License (147 Columbus Road)
 - Fahl – a survey was recently done as part of the Columbus Road improvements project that indicated the sign for Carey Chiropractic (in place for many years) is in the City right-of-way – this will be corrected by allowing a revocable license

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
 - Fahl – response was received from ODNR (see attached) regarding the City's recent Resolution objecting to the K&H2 injection well permit in the County, located near Torch – she finds it disconcerting that the State's response to the City's concerns regarding fracking/waste is always “don't worry” – if the City was not worried the Resolution would not have been needed – these are health and safety issues at stake and she finds the State's response insulting

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Revocable License (91 S. May Avenue)
2. Revocable License (147 Columbus Road)

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