

MINUTES

MARCH 10, 2014

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

Other Council Members: Jennifer Cochran
Michele Papai
Jeff Risner

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

Items Discussed:

- Utility Bills
 - Knisely – online portal is now available on the City's website to receive credit card payments -- \$3.95 convenience charge per transaction – cannot make credit card payments in the office
- Tax Year 2013 (valuations and tax rates)
 - Knisely – no action required – estimates have been updated based on current rates – there is a slight adjustment in the anticipated revenue
- Appropriations
 - Knisely – to cover taxes and assessments for City-owned property
Community Center Fund, 271 - \$12,000 (for Hocking Conservancy Improvements made during the year)
2013 property purchases: Hope; Dowler; Columbus Road –
General Fund, 101 -- \$8,000
 - Auditor – the process is underway for these properties to become tax exempt – when that happens these taxes will be refunded
 - Other City-owned properties: Blackburn Road; Central Avenue – appropriate \$4400 to CDBG

Community Center Fund, 271, currently has an unappropriated balance of \$351,000 of which the following should be appropriated: \$30,000 for supplies; \$7,000 for maintenance supplies; \$35,000 for electric; \$5,000 for natural gas; and \$20,000 for professional services, totaling \$97,000

-S-S Director – requested appropriation transfers from the T.C. 200-300 lines to T.C. 500, to cover departmental computer purchases; and an additional \$20,000 appropriation for computers and purchase of a plotter

-Mayor – still pricing the plotter, so the appropriation amount may increase

- Hocking.Athens.Perry Community Action Programs (HAPCAP)
 - Greg Andrews, Director of Housing and Community Development, HAPCAP, discussed the Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) opportunities – in 2013 the grant program was re-evaluated by the State and some significant changes made – the name has changed to the Community Housing Impact Preservation Program – a major change is that administration is now regional and with the development of partnerships in order to reduce the number of applications at the State level – these are two-year grant programs – the City applied and received funds last year for the following activities: 13 home repair; 3 private owner rehabs and 2 rental rehabs – typically the City wouldn't be able to apply this year, but to facilitate the partnering, the State will allow it – funding levels are \$50,000 more when partnering – applications are evaluated over a variety of criteria, potentially 100 points – folks that are eligible to partner and do not will lose a considerable amount of points and these are very competitive grants – he encouraged the City to make application this year – since the City is currently funded for a 2-year program, this year's application will only be funded for half – only one entity can be the applicant, responsible for all other partners – he suggested the County be the applicant and the County Commissioners are willing to do that – each applicant can have a public hearing if so desired

-Papai – asked about the activities

-Andrews – activities have been reduced dramatically – those now available are private owner rehab, rental rehab, home repair, rental home repair, tenant-based rental assistance, and home ownership (down payment assistance)

-Risner – questioned whether it would be advisable for the City to wait two years until the next partnering cycle begins in order to receive a full grant as opposed to half a grant

-Andrews – never before have public entities been able to apply back to back – the State is offering this in order that the partnership cycles can sync (they are currently on different grant cycles) – this will simply align the City for future grant partnership opportunities

-Knisely – asked whether HAPCAP would be selecting the Housing Advisory Board that is needed for the grant activities

-Andrews – yes, the Board will be administered by HAPCAP, to keep from duplicating services – housing funds are limited to support affordable housing efforts

-Knisely – understands that the recommendation is that the City move forward, showing a good faith effort in partnering and putting forth the necessary legislation to make application with the County at this time

-S-S Director – application deadline is June 6th

-Glen Crippen, HAPCAP representative, reported that the State now offers a set aside program as part of the former CDBG formula, now renamed the allocation program, that the City automatically receives based on population and number of LMI residents – this additional competitive program is called the Critical Infrastructure Program to be awarded up to \$300,000 to address critically needed, single component, high impact infrastructure projects that include the following eligible activities: sewage facility improvements, water facility improvements, streets, curbs and sidewalks, flood and drainage – a project the City has upcoming is the rehabilitation of the sewage lift station on Depot Street that serves the entire west side, estimated cost \$400,000 to \$450,000 – requirements of the program: benefit area must be LMI block group or census tract – still using 2000 census data that reflects this area as 80% LMI, must be at least 51% -- believes this project has high potential for funding – if funded, HAPCAP will administer, offering program management, compliance, citizen participation, and performing the environmental review on behalf of the City, with the City remaining the grantee – an additional component would be that the City would provide match funding (more match the better for scoring purposes) – if application is made the funding would be a 24-month grant beginning in September

-Fahl – asked if engineering of the project would be in-house could that be used as match dollars

-Crippen -- yes

-Papai – seems like a significant project for our healthcare corridor

-Mayor – if the CDBG allocation grant is used (approximately \$60,000), and HAPCAP administers both the Richland South project and the Depot Street project and they are done in tandem, one can become the match for the other – added, this lift station is at the back end of its useful life

-Crippen – it was constructed in 1952

-Knisely – asked about the deadline for the critical infrastructure application

-Crippen – June 21st

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Authorize Application for CHIP and Critical Infrastructure Grants
2. Appropriations

MINUTES

MARCH 10, 2014

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

Other Council Members: Jennifer Cochran
Chris Knisely
Michele Papai
Steve Patterson

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

Items Discussed:

- Liquor Permit (transfer)
 - Fahl – consideration is being given to request a hearing on the liquor permit transfer **from** West Side Tavern, Inc., 12 E. Carpenter Street (in safekeeping) **to** JJ and J On Court, LLC, dba Fluff Bakery & Catering, 8 North Court
 - Patterson – has been a Council Member since 2012 – during that time there have been 5 liquor permit transfer requests, one very similar to this one – Council did not request a hearing on any of these
 - Knisely – noted receipt of a communication from the Chair, Coalition Advocating Responsible Drinking Decisions, that was forwarded to the Oho Division of Liquor Control opposing the transfer, thereby limiting the availability of alcohol in the densely student populated area on Court Street (see attached) – many community members and educators are members of this group
 - Risner – indicated that the law provides that the legislative authority have the opportunity to request a hearing on the advisability of issuing the permit – it is his opinion that if community members are concerned and

oppose the transfer, City Council should request a hearing for discussion on the issue – it is part of due process

-Jason Kopelwitz, owner, Fluff Bakery, addressed City Council (see attached memo)

-Jessica Kopelwitz, owner, Fluff Bakery, explained that they would like to have a full service restaurant, not own a bar – this license would allow them to update their menu and offer a mix at Fluff, dessert and wine or a cocktail – Fluff is fully owned 100% by her, and the liquor license is owned by J J & J On Court, of which she has a 50% managing interest in that – landlord is okay with the license, however, her lease does state that they cannot own a bar in that location, that liquor sales cannot be over a certain percentage of their sales

-Fahl – as a public entity, City Council represents all residents, and when concerns are raised, as they have been regarding this liquor permit, the logical decision is to take the next step, which is a hearing before the Ohio Division of Liquor Control

-Mayor – advised Council to request the hearing be held in our County seat

-Fahl – emphasized that the request to hold this hearing in no way is a reflection that City Council is anti-business or anti-drinking

- Voting Opportunities

-Fahl – the Auditor is requesting that City Council consider a one-reading resolution to address recent voting restrictions approved by the Ohio Assembly – in 2004 voting was expanded to include early voting and vote-by-mail – recent Senate Bills have rolled back some of the expanded voting opportunities – she requests that City Council voice its concern about the restricted voting opportunities in Ohio and forward to the Ohio General Assembly

-Hecht – hopes that other municipalities will follow

- Burglaries

-Risner – was asked by a constituent if it would be possible to get a copy of the police reports for his area – Jeff suggested that these reports should be made available on the City's Website – of course, such reports would not include Ohio University Police

-Patterson – feels Joint Police Advisory Council (JPAC) would be a good forum to discuss the practical dissemination of this type of information

-Papai – noted that Police Chief Pyle has been working closely with the neighborhood executives committee to provide neighborhood awareness – there is a Do's and Don'ts listing currently on the Website -- is important for residents to read and pay attention to it

-Auditor Hecht – attends the Westside Neighborhood Association meetings – the topic of burglary was recently brought forward for discussion – she understands this is a multi-neighborhood problem – majority of those attending were interested in seeing a current report for their area – she fears that there is too much personal information provided in the actual police reports on offenses other than burglaries – even though it is all public record she's not sure it's a good idea to make it all available on the City's Website – some of the attendees did not like having actual addresses included, but possibly streets

-S-S Director – not all calls for police services are reported

-Risner – he receives a detailed report of the police actions and noted that the media does as well

-S-S Director – any citizen can request the same report by going to the City's Website

-Risner – would like to see an effort made to make this type of information more visible on the Website

-Fahl – feels there is a privacy issue – interested residents can request this information – not really necessary to prominently display it – she would like JPAC to consider posting crimes of the week

-Hecht – would like information, not only for burglaries, but possibly suspicious persons sighted and vandalism – she had no idea there was such a big problem of burglaries in her neighborhood and just a week after hearing about it, she reported that her car was broken into to the Police

-Risner – doesn't remember seeing that report

-S-S Director – reports under investigation are not listed – she is happy to work toward a resolution – there are issues and concerns and looks forward to JPAC's discussion of the issue

-Mayor – acknowledged that December and January police service call reports have been shared with the executives of the various neighborhood associations

-Risner – understands and is cognizant that the reporting mechanism is complicated, involving increased staff time, but appreciates attempts discussed this evening to work toward a solution

-Knisely – JPAC approach is a good one – need to look at it from a number of different angles

-Fahl – asked Patterson to report back to Council after JPAC's discussion – in the time being, citizens can go to the City's Website and request to be placed on the list to receive police reports

-Patterson – JPAC is meeting Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Baker Center, and is open to the public

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Resolution – HB375

MINUTES TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MARCH 10, 2014

Members in Attendance: Michele Papai, 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
Auditor

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Columbus Road Bikepath Spur
-Papai – an Open House will be held Friday, March 14, from 2-4 p.m. in the ACENet conference room (Building C, 94 Columbus Road) to gather feedback from citizens on the preferred alignment, and any concerns about the Columbus Road Bike Path Spur connecting the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway in the Columbus Road area, near Columbus Circle, through construction of a new non-motorized bridge over the Hocking River, and will include environmental issues, historic issues, properties or features in the project area
- City Corridors
-Papai – reported that each member of the City Planning Commission, over the next month, will be reviewing one of the following corridors within the City – Richland Avenue, Columbus Road, Union Street, Stimson Avenue and East State Street to envision the future needs of the area, to include pedestrian and vehicular movement and safety, parking, architectural design, overall atmosphere, and possible modifications for possible zoning overlays

-Mayor – they will be reviewing the need to add overlays as they currently relate to the Comprehensive Plan

- Pedestrian Crosswalks
 - Papai – has been hearing many concerns with safety – will continue discussions during monthly Transportation meetings
- ODOT
 - Papai – ongoing traffic study (Federal, State initiative) is being conducted at the Rt. 33/East State intersection
 - S-S Director – public meetings will be forthcoming on the preliminary results – this is part of the recently funded safety study from Home Street to Walmart and will include concerns addressing sidewalk on the south side of the street, improving safety by eliminating left turn access, etc.
- Buckeye Hills (rural transportation planning)
 - Mayor – Buckeye Hills is reviewing transportation needs, public transit (mobility), rail, air, highways – looking at regional (10-county area) goals for southeast Ohio quadrant
 - Cochran – member of the citizen advisory committee – will keep Council updated