

MINUTES
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 22, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Micah McCarey, Chair
Alan Swank, Member
Jeff Risner, Member
Jessica Thomas, Member

Administrators and
Other Elected Officials:

President Crowl
Mayor Patterson
Service-Safety Director Stone

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- 2024 Water Softening Salt (authorize expenditure of \$184,860)
 - McCarey – authorization is needed to bid and authorize the expenditure for the City's annual WTP water softening salt – asked about the cost increase from last year's cost of \$168,000
 - S-S Director – likely due to product inflationary pressures
 - Swank – asked, when the City has bidding opportunities such as this and Council action is public, whether companies gauge their bid by the Council's authorized project amount
 - S-S Director – it is possible if they are paying attention, keeping in mind that this is a competitive bidding process – the product will still be price sensitive
 - Risner – asked about how many tons the City will need
 - S-S Director – will check and report back

ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Water Softening (WTP)

MINUTES

JANUARY 22, 2024

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

7:00 P.M.

Council Members in Attendance:

Beth Clodfelter
Micah McCarey
Jeff Risner
Solveig Spjeldnes
Jessica Thomas
Michael Wood

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials:

President Crowl
Mayor Patterson
Service-Safety Director Stone

Items Discussed:

- Disabilities Commission (2023 Year-end Review)
 - Davey McNelly, Chair – provided a Commission update and information on Powers and Duties (see attached presentation)
 - Michelle Hahn, Member – presented 2023 Highlights of the Commission, and provided information as Co-Chair of the Outreach and Communications Committee
 - Dr. Ally Hughes, Secretary and Co-Chair spoke about the Accessibility and Advocacy Committee
 - President Crowl – asked about meetings
 - McNelly – the full Commission meets at 5:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Community Center; the Accessibility and Advocacy Committee meets at noon on the 2nd Friday of each month on the first floor of the City Building, and the Outreach and Communications Committee meets at 5:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month on the first floor of the City Building
 - Swank – asked about the top accessibility challenges the City faces
 - McNelly – sidewalk accessibility is a huge issue – putting together a 10-year plan to address this need is critical
 - McCarey – asked about the Walk, Talk and Roll event
 - Hughes – will be held this year on April 19th

-Spjeldnes – is impressed with the amount of work being accomplished by the Commission

-McNelly – the Commission has a very talented and able group of people

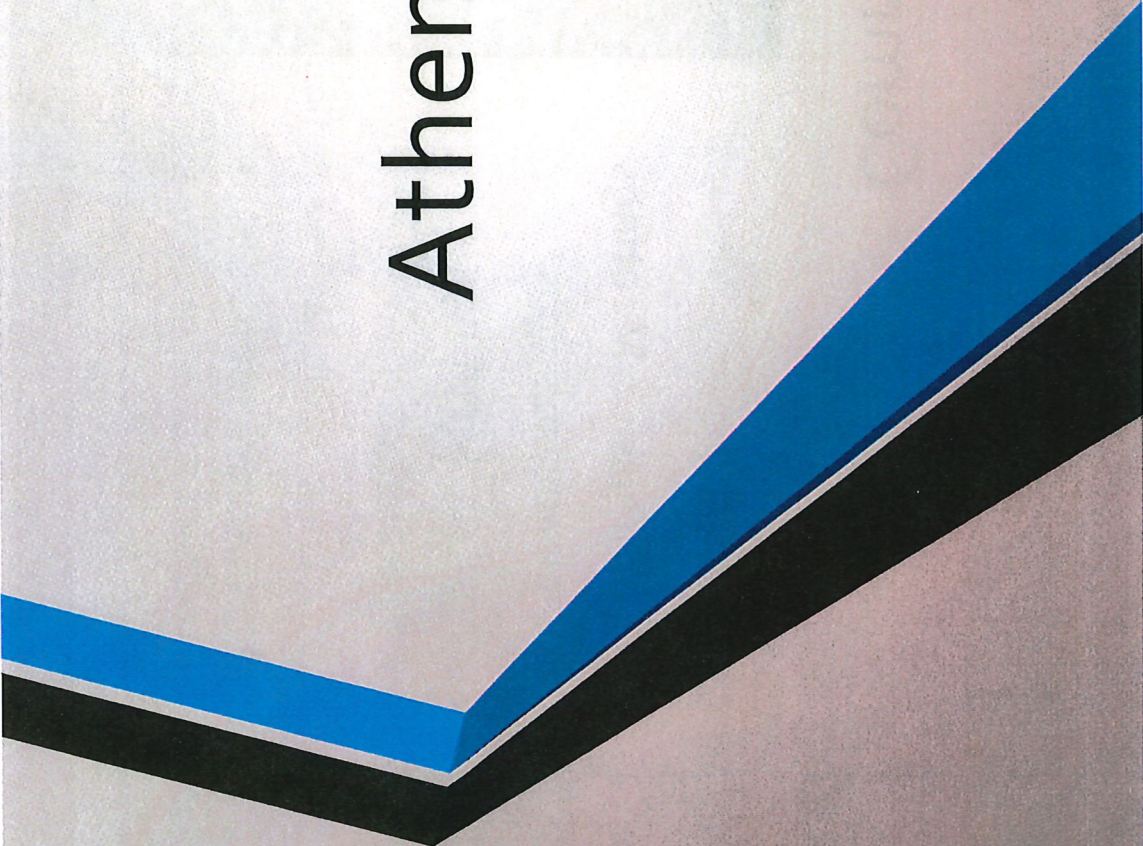
-Hahn – pointed out this is the 10th annual year of the Commission

-Wood – asked about the accessibility matrix

-Hughes – accessibility issues are documented, addressed and updated frequently

-McNelly – issues are tracked and prioritized quarterly

-Mayor – recognized the City's match grant to assist businesses to become ADA accessible – Megan Jennings, new City Planner, will begin February 12, and will continue moving forward with the ADA Transition Plan – upcoming soon is the City's Uptown Improvement Project that will improve accessibility – he applauds the work of the Commission



Athens City Commission on Disabilities

2023 YEAR END REVIEW

Work, Accomplishments, Requests and Opportunities

Commission Update

12 Members

Full Commission Meetings

- Monthly meetings

Committee Meetings

- Accessibility and Advocacy
- Outreach and Communication
- Executive Team



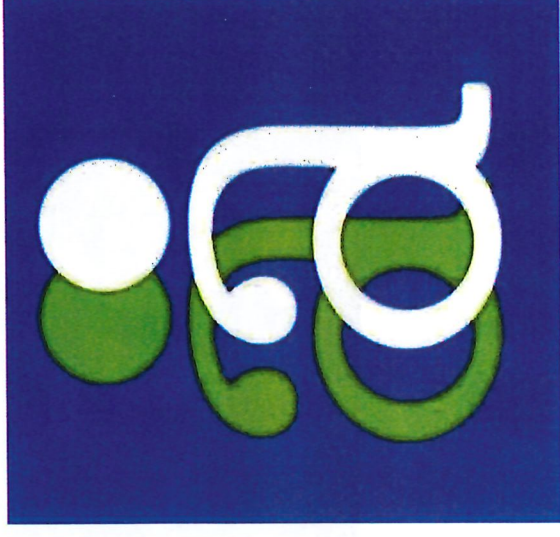
Commission Membership

- Dr. Dianne Bouvier (Vice Chair)
- Debra Burleigh
- Dr. Carolyn Lewis (Treasurer)
- Davey McNelly (Chair)
- Annah Korpi
- Lacey Rogers (City Staff Representative)
- Lisa Simpson
- Dr. jw Smith
- Dr. Ally Hughes (Secretary)
- Michelle Hahn
- Joe Brumfield
- Dr. Micah McCarey (City Council Representative)



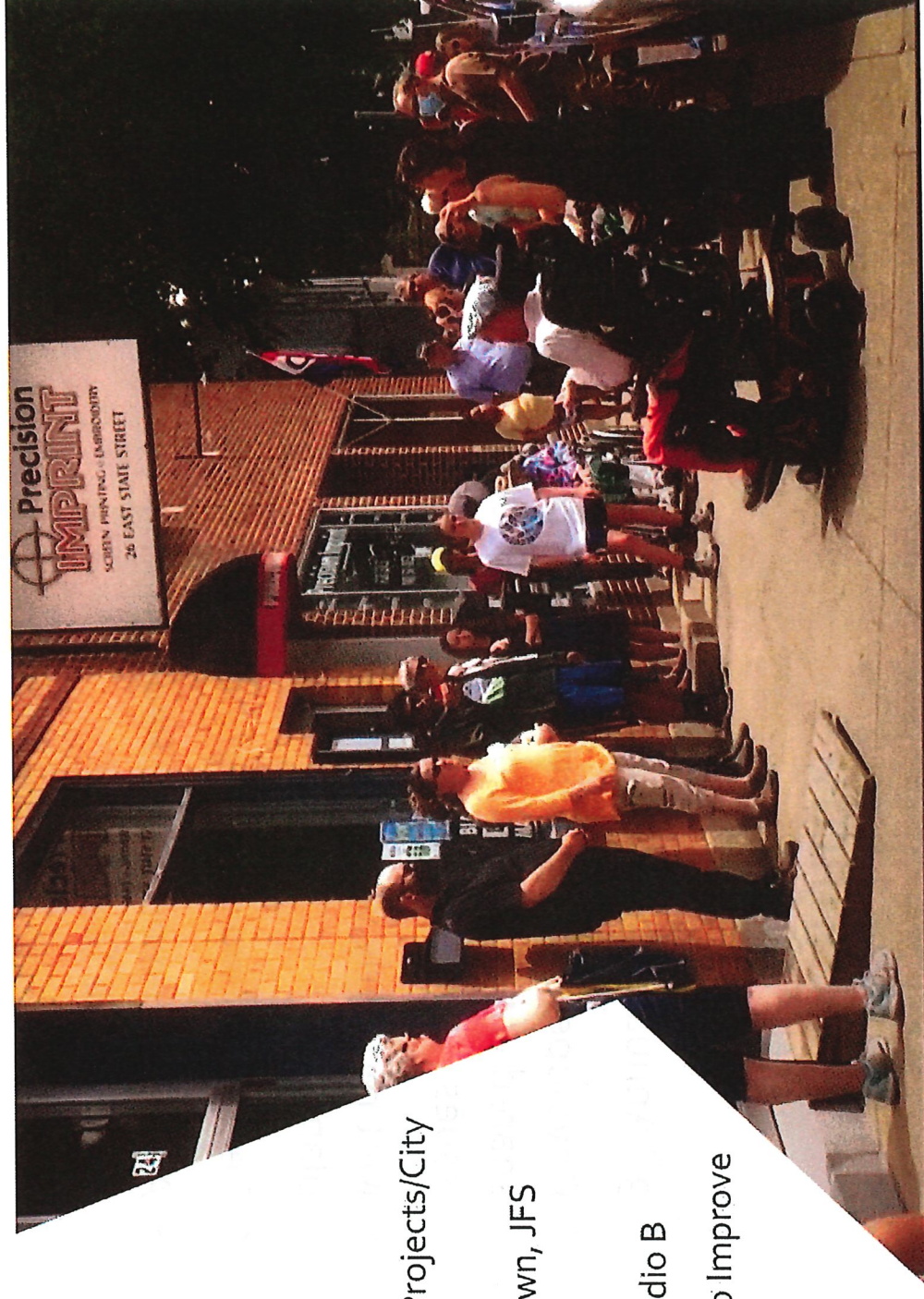
Powers and Duties

- Recommends City services related to the needs of persons with disabilities to Athens City government
- Acts as liaison between members of the community and local government
- Responds to questions from the public, local government, and community
- Consults with Athens City officials, City Council, and citizens
- Informs the City of grant opportunities
- Submit activity reports and recommendations to the Athens City Council



Highlights

- Walk, Talk, and Roll
- Consults for Sidewalk Projects/City Park Audits/Businesses
 - Union Street, Uptown, JFS
- Letters to the Editor
- Conversations from Studio B
- ABC Matching Grants to Improve Accessibility



Highlights

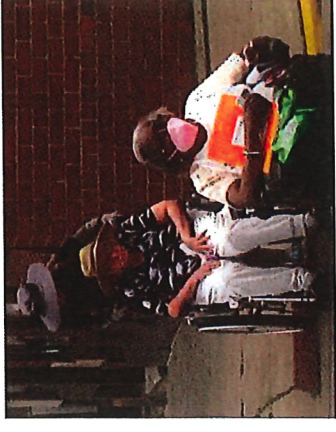
- 9th Annual Athena Award
- Developed Accessibility Matrix and regularly shared with City officials to point out accessibility issues
- Met regularly with EPW and gave feedback on plans
- Recruited two new members to the Commission
- Appointed member to Pedestrian Accessibility and Bicycle Task Force



Accessibility and Advocacy Committee

Co-Chairs: Dr. Ally Hughes and Dr. Dianne Bouvier

- Conducted Walk, Talk, and Roll of Uptown Athens
- Highlighted improvements and ongoing issues
- 80 attendees combined
- Collaborated with EPW about Washington, Union, and State St Projects

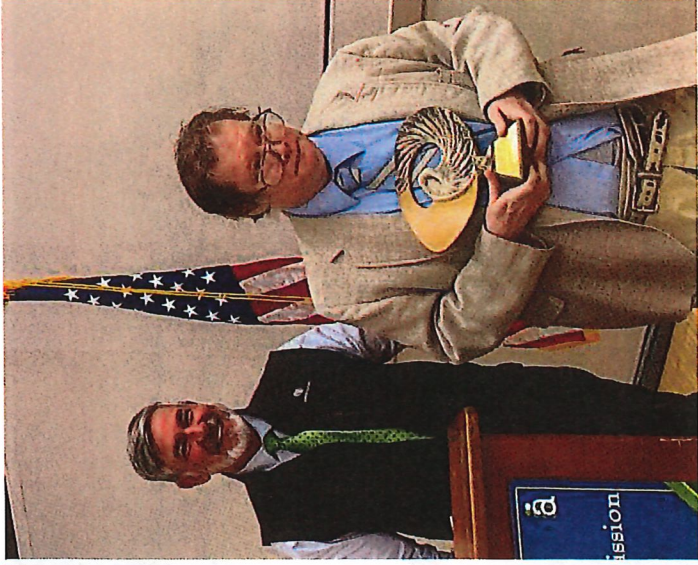


Accessibility and Advocacy Committee

Co-Chairs: Dr. Ally Hughes and Dr. Dianne Bouvier

- Began Matching Grant Fund with City to improve accessibility
 - Door openers, ramps, entrances, furniture
- Accessibility Consultations at local spaces
 - JFS, Burr Oak, Brennan's, Bagel Street, etc.
- Provided consultation to Engineering and Public Works on street and sidewalk projects





Outreach and Communications Committee

Co-Chairs: Michelle Hahn and Debra Burleigh and Dr. Carolyn Lewis

- Hosted Athena Award ceremony
 - Five excellent nominations
 - Coverage from City Channel, Athens Messenger, ANEWS, WOUB, and others
 - 100 attendees
- 2023 Recipient: Billy Peacock, People First Founder and Activist
- Excellent coverage of Walk, Talk and Roll
 - Well covered by news and media outlets



Executive Team

Chair: (not a Dr.) Davey McNelly

Vice Chair: Dr. Dianne Bouvier

Secretary: Dr. Ally Hughes

Treasurer: Dr. Carolyn Lewis



Thank You!

Dr. jw Smith



- They complete service on the Commission at the end of this year.
- We appreciate their dedication.

How to become involved

- Join one of our Committees or attend a Commission meeting. To express your interest, email: disabilitiescommission@ci.athens.oh.us Let us know if you need any accommodations to participate.
- Visit, like, and share the Commission's Facebook page: facebook.com/athenscommissionondisabilities



Requests and Opportunities

- Continue to include the Commission and persons with disabilities in decision-making related to City planning, street-scaping projects, and City programs and services.
- Support the City's DEI Accessibility Coordinator position to help make changes to improve accessibility.
- Complete ADA Transition Plan, give updates to the Disability Commission, and complete a ten year plan to improve Athens sidewalks and accessibility with funding.
- Collaborate on making sure that community accessibility concerns are followed up on using our Accessibility Matrix.
- Continue the Accessibility Matching Grants program at it's current level for this year. We are embarking on a publicity campaign to highlight ways that businesses and spaces can become more accessible using this grant program as an example.

*Thank
You!*

The ongoing support of Mayor
Patterson and other City officials,
City Council, and the community
is greatly appreciated.



MINUTES: JANUARY 22, 2024

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance:

Jeff Risner, Chair
Beth Clodfelter, Member
Micah McCarey, Member
Michael Wood, Member

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials:

President Crowl
Mayor Patterson
Service-Safety Director Stone

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

Appropriations:

\$20,432.70 to ARPA Fund, 286, capital improvements, and closing out the Fund

Decrease and Increase Appropriations:

Decrease Diversion Fund, 232, personnel, by \$44,900

Decrease Court Community Corrections Fund, 235, personnel, by \$66,500

Increase General Fund, Court, 101.106, personnel, by \$115,000

-Risner – explained the Court has two State-funded grants – understands these grants are expiring halfway through the year – Judge will need \$115,000 from the General Fund to continue these two staff positions – since these positions are currently funded, he suggested waiting until the Judge can attend City Council to explain the need to use General Fund dollars

-S-S Director – agrees, the Court needs to make a case to receive additional funding from the General Fund – these two grant funded positions end in August – the Auditor has requested decreasing Funds 232 and 235, at this time in order to certify the resources

-McCarey – since it appears this is not urgent; he would like more information on the grant funding process

-Wood – questioned whether, without grant funds, these two positions would continue

-S-S Director – only with assistance through the City's General Fund

-Clodfelter – asked if, after this year, these positions would continue to be funded annually from the General Fund

-S-S Director – that question would need to be directed to the Court

-McCarey – asked if these amounts are for salaries, or are benefits included

-S-S Director – it includes all personnel costs

-Swank – asked about positive impacts, measurables from these programs – is uncomfortable appropriating General Fund monies without additional information from the Judge

-Risner – understands that if the Court's costs are reasonable, the City is obliged to pay – City can only deny requests that are excessive – added, the Court was aware this

item was on the agenda this evening for discussion – he would like to see more cooperation from the Court

-Spjeldnes – agrees, additional information is needed

-President – believes the ORC stipulates that if a Court is running in the black, then the Council must provide funds necessary for its operations, but if the year prior their revenue is less than their expenses the City Council can question the Court's expenses – next step would be to ask the Judge to come and answer questions

-Mayor – agrees, the Judge should be requested to attend to provide additional information

-President – will contact the Judge to attend an upcoming meeting

Interfund Transfers:

\$75,000 from General Fund, 101, to Cemetery Fund, 210

\$5,000 from Parking Garage Fund, 730, to General Fund, 101

-S-S Director – this is part of a loan payback

\$161,000 from Parking Garage Fund, 730, to Parking Garage Debt Fund, 733

-Swank – asked if this is a scheduled payment, and approximately how much is still owed

-Mayor – this is a scheduled payment – he will check on the balance of the loan

-Spjeldnes – asked about improvements to the Municipal Garage

-S-S Director – design firm has been delayed

\$396,000 from Water Fund, 740, to WTP Improvement Debt Fund, 744

ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Appropriations/Transfers

MINUTES

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

JANUARY 22, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Alan Swank, Chair
Solveig Spjeldnes, Member
Jessica Thomas, Member
Michael Wood, Member

Administrators and/or Other Elected Officials: President Crowl
Mayor Patterson
Service-Safety Director Stone

Items Discussed:

- Deed for 83 Columbus Road (transfer to CIC)
 - Swank – this is a vacant lot that was forfeited to the City by the State – was formerly a gas station that has since been remediated and is not an environmental hazard – property is proposed to be conveyed to the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) – the CIC can offer economic development options that might not otherwise be possible should the property remain municipally owned, similar to the Armory – a sale would return the land to the tax rolls – there is a deed restriction that no intoxicating liquor shall be manufactured or sold for consumption on these premises – there are ways this could be addressed, if needed
 - Spjeldnes – asked for clarification on the purpose of the CIC
 - Mayor – functions similarly to the Economic Development Council (EDC) or Port Authority to access historic tax credits, or other potential funding streams – Board consists of Mayor, S-S Director, President of Council, Auditor Hecht and two business leaders, Leslie Schaller and Mark Snider – for Council to divest of a property, it would need to be by sealed bid to the highest bidder – City would have no control in identifying, from an economic development standpoint, who would be the best end user – the CIC can
 - Swank – this will continue to improve the look and feel of this City corridor
 - Spjeldnes – asked who paid for remediation
 - S-S Director – City Water funds were used to remove the tanks and contaminated soil to clean up any threat to the City's aquifer as the property is in the wellhead protection area – the building was remediated of asbestos through the Land Bank and State grants

ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Deed Transfer