

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL (REG. SESS.)

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held

NOVEMBER 18,

20 24

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour with the following members present: Clodfelter, McCarey, Risner, Spjeldnes, Swank, Thomas, and Wood.

Also present: President Crowl, Mayor Patterson, Law Director Eliason, and Treasurer Thomas.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Session held November 4, 2024; McCarey seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Clodfelter moved to approve the minutes of the Special Session held November 12, 2024; McCarey seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Member Spjeldnes recently presented to the Board of Realtors on behalf of the Affordable Housing Commission. She indicated that the group is very supportive of affordable housing, and shared several resources and ideas. The Board is in favor of owner-occupied Airbnb's, more senior housing, assisted living, accessory dwelling units, and tiny houses. They also expressed concern about not having enough contractors in the area, spoke about creative financing, and welcome continued communication about new programs.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson shared the following:

- Deputy Service-Safety Director Chiki accompanied him to the National League of Cities (NLC) Conference where Chiki presented on a panel speaking about the City's CFI grant for charging and fueling infrastructure, which was very well received. They attended several sessions on the NLC's Housing Accelerator Program as the City continues to explore ways to increase our housing stock.
- The Mayor announced he will be representing the National League of Cities next year as their First Vice President.
- In response to emails from both Council Member McCarey and President Crowl, the Mayor's office is putting together a list of City accessibility projects, both past and upcoming. This list will include the Highland Park Project, assisted by a Snapple Kaboom grant, a requirement to have 100 people help to

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held November 18, (PAGE 2 OF 6)

20 24

install ADA accessible playground equipment. There was a lot of sweat equity from area neighbors. The cost of the project was approximately (\$100,000). Various ADA projects occurring between 2003-2015 with a cost estimate of about \$4 million. Between 2016-2024 over \$15 million was spent on ADA improvements. A large number of projects having ADA elements includes hydraulic door openers connecting the City Building with the Law Administration Building, a mobility lift to the Mayor's office, building new sidewalks, and improvements to a house the City owns at 458 Richland Avenue that received a thorough ADA makeover, being managed by the Metropolitan Housing Authority. The City used Community Development Block Grant funds on two homes the City used to own on North Blackburn Road that received significant ADA improvements, most notably rebuilding a driveway for accessibility. These homes have since been sold/donated to the Athens Metropolitan Housing Authority. For projected improvements through 2027, the City has over (\$6,650,000) in projects planned that include ADA elements. Next year the City will begin work on grant funds received for improvements to our City curb ramps, the Columbus Road multi-use path where a sidewalk does not currently exist, the Stimson Avenue Bridge project that will have a first-time sidewalk with a crash barrier, westside sidewalks, West State Park bathroom improvements, and the Uptown Improvements project.

He stressed that the City is not sitting on its hands when it comes to ADA improvements. He will make this document, which is constantly being updated, available to the Council.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-101-24

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 1.03, CODE FEES ESTABLISHED, SECTION 5.04.08, SEWER RATES. McCarey moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-103-24

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2024 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 130-23. Risner moved for Adoption; Thomas seconded. Discussion: Spjeldnes asked about plans for the next round of CDBG funding.

The Mayor responded it will go toward ADA sidewalk improvements. Adoption was approved unanimously.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of ATHENS CITY COUNCIL (REG. SESS.)

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held NOVEMBER 18, (PAGE 3 OF 6) 20 24

0-104-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT(S) FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING OF THE CITY SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT #330; AMENDING ORDINANCE 10-24; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Adoption; Thomas seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-105-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA), A COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM. Risner moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-108-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY, PROJECT #373. McCarey moved for Adoption; Thomas seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-112-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE CITY'S TRANSIENT GUEST TAX FOR THE OPERATION OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL OF APPALACHIA (ORCA). Thomas moved to Amend to change the General Fund reserve balance from 9% to 8%; McCarey seconded. Discussion: Swank questioned that the City has held fast to 9% and doesn't understand the decrease to 8%, especially when the Council is being asked to increase City income tax.

Thomas responded the Auditor indicated that the reserve balance will not reach 9% this year nor by March of next year, and the City has committed to making this payment.

Clodfelter asked about the current level of the reserve balance.

Treasurer responded that it is at 8%, noting that the Auditor fully supports this amendment.

Amendment was approved by a 6/1 vote; with Swank voting in opposition.

0-113-24

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2024 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 130-23.

0-114-24

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 131-23, THE 2024 STAFFING LEVELS AND PAY GRADES IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules to allow the current

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held NOVEMBER 18, (PAGE 4 OF 6)

20 24

employee time to train the new hire; Thomas seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-115-24

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025.

0-116-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING 2025 NON-UNION COMPENSATION; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-117-24

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A FRINGE BENEFITS PACKAGE FOR NON-UNION PERSONNEL WITHIN THE CITY OF ATHENS AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-118-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO, OR TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING THE SERVICES OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025.

0-119-24

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 1.03, CODE FEES ESTABLISHED, TO INCLUDE SECTIONS 23.03.11(D), ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND ACCESSORY ENERGY SYSTEMS, AND 23.03.12(B), PRINCIPAL RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-120-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT EXTENSION TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ATHENS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-121-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING 2025 STAFFING LEVELS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL (REG. SESS.)

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held *NOVEMBER 18, (PAGE 5 OF 6)*

20 *24*

0-122-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SERVICE CENTER TO SERVE AS THE CITY'S THIRD-PARTY HEALTH INSURANCE ADMINISTRATOR (TPA); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-123-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A GROUP EXCESS LOSS MEDICAL INSURANCE CONTRACT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-124-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A ONE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH SUNDAY CREEK HORIZONS, A CONSULTING FIRM.

0-125-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF VEHICLES NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

0-126-24

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 5, PUBLIC UTILITIES, CHAPTER 5.03, WATER REGULATIONS, SECTION 5.03.03, WASTED WATER CHARGED FOR; AND TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 1.03, CODE FEES ESTABLISHED. Discussion: McCarey indicated that this is an opt-in program, at an affordable rate (\$36.00 annually), to reimburse residential water charges caused by a waterline leak or break. A maximum credit of \$750 may be applied once per calendar year. He asked how often such breaks occur that would impact residences.

The Mayor responded that they do not occur often, maybe two or three times a year, but those that do happen can be significant to the homeowner. He noted that a letter will soon be accompanying utility bills reminding customers of a service line warranty program that is currently available to homeowners. This protection is for both water and sewer systems that the homeowner is responsible for, with a maximum credit of \$2000.

0-127-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO LEASE OR OTHERWISE MONETIZE THE CITY'S SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS (SRECs). Discussion: Mayor would like to see revenue generated from the lease of these SRECs go to further enhancing the City's carbon footprint reduction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Swank moved to Remove Ordinance 55-24 from the Table; Risner seconded.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held NOVEMBER 18, (PAGE 6 OF 6)

20 24

0-55-24

AN ORDINANCE REZONING UNDEVELOPED LOTS ON GRAND PARK BOULEVARD AND EDEN PLACE FROM R-2 RESIDENTIAL, ONE FAMILY/TWO FAMILY ZONE TO R-3 RESIDENTIAL, MULTI-FAMILY ZONE.

Discussion: Swank reported that a recent light pollution reading showed that the lights are now in compliance with the City Code.

The motion was approved unanimously. Swank moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

Swank moved to amend the Rules of Council as discussed in Committee on November 12th; McCarey seconded. The amendment was approved unanimously.

Spjeldnes and Wood would like to see committee item information attached to the Agenda's Civic Clerk app.

Thomas clarified that the Rule being changed speaks to the Committee Chairs providing information to their members that would be provided by email, not through the Civic Clerk app.

Mayor Patterson questioned the Rule that City Council meets in Regular Session on the first and third Mondays of the month and in Committees on the second and fourth Mondays. He believes it should be the opposite and would like the Council to give making that change some thought.

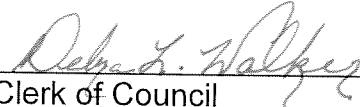
President Crowl indicated that Council Member Spjeldnes has asked that question as well. The amendments being considered tonight were suggested by Member Swank, noting that other members requesting changes will come forward at a later time.

At approximately 8:00 p.m. Thomas moved to adjourn; Swank seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.



President of Council

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council