ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour with the following members present: Butler, Fahl, Kotses, McGee, Papai, Risner, and Smedley.

Also present: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, Law Director Eliason, and Auditor Hecht.

APPOINT ACTING CLERK:

Fahl moved to appoint Councilman Butler to serve as Acting Clerk for this session; Papai seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- There will be a one-day delay in garbage pickup during the week of the Christmas holiday and again during the week of the New Year holiday.
- WTP Manager, Sean Beasley, submitted to ODNR the presence of a Black Gum Tree in the West Union Cemetery as a State Champion Tree. It was reviewed and is now recognized as the largest Black Gum Tree in the State of Ohio.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-145-17
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO DEPOSIT 50% OF THE TRANSIENT GUEST TAX REVENUE COLLECTED FROM JANUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020, INTO THE TOURISM FUND; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-146-17
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ATHENS COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-147-17
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. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-150-17
AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Discussion: Mayor noted that in order to maintain a budget that would work, many of the capital improvement items were removed. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-154-17
AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT FIREARMS, OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT, AND FORFEITED AND ABANDONED BICYCLES, NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE. Butler moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-151-17
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING 2018 STAFFING LEVELS AND NON-UNION COMPENSATION; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to be in effect by January 1, 2018; Fahl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Papai seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-152-17
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. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to be in effect by January 1, 2018; Papai seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Discussion: Fahl believes it is important that the City Council speak out as the advocate for Non-Union employees as its representative.

Butler concurs with Fahl, noting that City Council needs to be mindful moving forward to advocate for the Non-Union personnel.

Adoption was approved by a 6/1 vote; with Butler voting in opposition.

ONE-READING RESOLUTIONS:

R-10-17
A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, TO COUNCIL MEMBER MICHELE PAPAI FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE. Butler moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Discussion: Kotses noted that her community-based knowledge will be missed.

President Knisely thanked her for her leadership.

Mayor Patterson appreciates the work she has done to enhance the City's transportation needs.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

R-11-17
A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, TO COUNCIL MEMBER ARIAN SMEDLEY FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE. Kotses moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Discussion: President Knisely appreciates Arian stepping forward to complete an unexpired term on City Council.

Mayor Patterson has been impressed with Arian's level of engagement during her brief time serving on the Council.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Fahl moved to Accept the Auditor's November, 2017, Financial Reports; Risner seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Fahl moved to Adjourn at approximately 7:25 p.m.; Papai seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

_____
President of Council

ATTEST:

_____
Acting Clerk of Council