

**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: SUNSHINE LAW PRESENTATION: LAW
DIRECTOR ELIASON, MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016, 6:00 P.M.**

Athens City Council Members in attendance: Butler, Cochran, Fahl,
Kotses, McGee, Papai, and Risner.

Also Present: Clerk of Council Walker

Law Director Eliason presented information to City Council on the
Sunshine Law (see attached). No questions were entertained; Law Director
Eliason requested the members contact her directly.

**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, JANUARY 4,
2016, 7:00 P.M.**

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

Also present: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley, and Law Director Eliason.

Butler moved to appoint Debra Walker as Clerk of Council; Papai seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

Fahl moved the selection of Kent Butler to serve as President Pro Tem; Risner seconded. Selection was approved unanimously.

Butler moved the selection of Chris Fahl to serve as Acting President Pro Tem; Cochran seconded. Selection was approved unanimously.

Papai moved to designate Lisa Eliason as Parliamentarian; Fahl seconded. Designation was approved unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Papai moved approval of the minutes of the following sessions of Council held November 16, 2015; December 7, 2015; December 14, 2015; and December 16, 2015; Fahl seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Member Cochran acknowledged receipt of a letter from a community member that would like to see the statue of Hebe on public display. The statue is currently located at the Water Treatment Plant.

President Knisely noted that she and other Council Members have received communication from several citizens regarding Airbnb's. She welcomed those responses and looks forward to further discussion on this issue later in the year.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- Curbside pickup of live Christmas trees will be on Tuesdays and Fridays through the month of January by contacting Engineering and Public Works at 593-3343.
- Email server problem has been resolved and is back online.
- Armory bricks have been re-tucked and the structure has been water sealed.
- Repurposed generator for the Community Center is in the final stages of installation. In mid-January the Center may be closed for a day to allow AEP to provide the electrical hookup. With this larger generator, the Community Center can be used as an emergency shelter.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) presentation will be next Monday as part of a City Council Committee of the Whole.
- City offices will be closed in observance and remembrance of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 18th.
- One-day delay in trash and recycling pickup for the week of the 18th.
- Community Energy Savers Program competition is winding down, and he encouraged people to log onto the website and consider taking part.

Law Director Eliason presented her 2015 annual report (see attached).

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING:

0-01-16

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A REAL AND PRESENT EMERGENCY, THUS OBVIATING THE FORMAL BIDDING PROCEDURE, FOR STORM WATER REPAIR ON NORTH COURT STREET. Butler moved for Suspension of the Rules; Papai seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Butler moved for Adoption; Papai seconded. Discussion: Butler reported that the City's engineering office has viewed and deemed this repair needed as an emergency due to the potential for collapse. This storm tunnel services approximately 200 plus homes upstream. The repair cost will be about \$90,000 and will be paid for out of the Sewer-Storm Water Fund.

Papai asked about obstruction in the tunnel.

Mayor Patterson responded that this is one of the oldest storm tunnels in the City (150 years); it is made of sandstone. The City Engineer identified the obstruction as sandstone debris from the crumbling infrastructure. It is important

that corrective action be taken immediately; a failure of the tunnel could create significant damage for the neighborhoods it services.

Risner asked if the City has an easement.

Service-Safety Director responded there are no easements for 150-year old infrastructure. The failing system has been brought to the City's attention, and the City needs to make the repair. The work will begin this week.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Fahl moved to accept the Auditor's November, 2015, Financial Reports; Risner seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Butler moved to approve the appointment of Alison Stine as the 2016-17 poet laureate for the City of Athens; Fahl seconded. Discussion: Carol Patterson, Chair, Athens Municipal Arts Commission (AMAC), believes the City of Athens is the first city in Ohio to have a poet laureate, noting that the State of Ohio has just installed its first poet laureate this year. Discussion of the concept of a poet laureate in Athens was first brought to the attention of AMAC by Bob Winters. With his passing, AMAC continued with a more in depth discussion. Since that time, a committee was appointed to set criteria and review the candidates. Ms. Stine has been selected by AMAC to bring forward for City Council approval. Ms. Stine is a nationally recognized poet (see attached resume and project description). Ms. Stine is interested in environmental issues, hence *Words Like Water*, and is a wonderful advocate for Athens. She has lived in Athens for eight years, receiving a PhD from Ohio University.

Service-Safety Director noted that in her project proposal Ms. Stine suggested locations outside the City for a public art mural.

Patterson indicated AMAC will be matching up the artists with the locations, and assured the Council that a mural designed by Ms. Stine will be located within the City corporate limits.

Appointment was approved unanimously.

Papai moved to amend the Rules of Council, Rule 1 – Regular Meetings, to change the recess from August to July; Cochran seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

The following committees will meet next Monday, January 11th:

- Planning & Development
- Finance & Personnel
- Transportation

- City & Safety Services
- Committee of the Whole

At approximately 7:35 p.m., Fahl moved to adjourn the meeting; Cochran seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council