

# MINUTES JANUARY 9, 2017

## FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

Other Council Members: Jennifer Cochran  
Patrick McGee  
Michele Papai

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley  
Auditor Hecht  
Deputy Auditor Kreider

### Items Discussed:

- Income Tax (reallocating revenues)
  - Mayor – would like to decrease the income tax distribution in the General Fund from 73% to 72% and increase the Street Fund from 19% to 20% which will allow for additional annual street repaving
  - Auditor – explained there are (3) dedicated taxes that come off the top that will change as follows: operation of the Community Center from 3.03% to 2.7%, Arts, Parks & Recreation from 6.06% to 5.41%, and Street Rehabilitation from 6.06% to 5.41% – so, about 85% of the tax collection is then reallocated among the General Fund, Street Fund, Recreation Fund, Capital Improvements Fund, and Transportation – the majority of income tax dollars goes to the General Fund – healthy increase in tax revenue last year, at 3.5% overall – carryover in the General Fund was about \$625,000 less than the year before – something to consider when changing the mix – she doesn't see it as a problem, just wanting Council to be aware of the actual numbers
  - Risner – asked how much 1% will generate
  - Auditor – about \$700,000 annually – she will circulate a spreadsheet within the next couple of days

- Papai – understands the intent of the redistribution is to increase our ability to pave streets
- Mayor – this is an effort to get the City closer to \$500,000 in annual street paving – residents would like to see more streets done each year – partly, what the income tax increase was based on, and he is hoping Council will approve this change in the income tax mix
- Big Belly
  - S-S Director – the annual appropriation ordinance did not reflect the needed \$50,000 for this year’s professional service contract
  - Mayor – monthly fee of \$3,528 for (24) Big Belly garbage/recycling receptacles
  - Papai – there is some concern with placement of these receptacles – passengers have difficulty opening doors when parked next to the curb where these are placed
  - Mayor – they can be moved if problematic
  - Papai – asked when the old garbage containers will be moved
  - Mayor – soon, as weather permits – the new receptacles include recycling, and waste has already reduced by 77% -- with this success rate, he plans to look at putting additional receptacles at the Community Center and in the park areas
  - Fahl – pointed out that 77% less waste means less dollars the City spends on tipping fees at the landfill
- Athens Community Center (loan payoff)
  - Auditor – this loan was for energy improvements (Perfection Group) payoff is \$35,000, and is due February 24<sup>th</sup>
- Reimbursement from Ohio History Connection for Armory, and transfer
  - Auditor – a reimbursement grant was secured by Planner Logue to do a study of the Armory – reimbursement of \$10,000 was received at the end of the year -- \$8,000 was transferred from the Athens Enhancement Fund into the Armory Fund until reimbursement was received – she requests appropriating that amount to be transferred back into the Athens Enhancement Fund
- GoBus and Athens Transit Buses (disposal)
  - Auditor – HAPCAP secures the buses, but they are titled to the City – (2) older GoBuses (with approximately 600,000 miles each) have been auctioned and sold for a total of \$407,055 – this money is returned to HAPCAP to go toward the purchase of future buses, so it needs to be appropriated
  - Papai – informed the Council that HAPCAP is now leasing buses instead of buying them

- Staffing Ordinance  
S-S Director – new Human Resources Director has requested that her assistant be full time through August 31<sup>st</sup> as she transitions in and is implementing a new on-line program – funding is currently available to make this change from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to full-time for (8) months
- Appropriations  
-Auditor – have all been covered in earlier items

**ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. Income Tax Reallocation
2. Big Belly (appropriation)
3. Appropriations & Interfund Transfer
4. Staffing

**MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 9, 2017**  
**CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Members in Attendance: Kent Butler, Chair  
Jennifer Cochran, Vice-Chair

Other Council Members: Chris Fahl  
Patrick McGee  
Michele Papai  
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely  
Mayor Wiehl  
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley  
Deputy Auditor Kreider

**ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

- Athens Beautification Day
  - Butler – Athens Beautification Day will not be presenting this evening
  
  - Cochran – reported that the scheduled date is April 9<sup>th</sup>, with projects all across the City – presentation will be rescheduled in a couple of weeks
  
  - Butler – this City/University event has been very successful for many years in our community
  
- WTP Softening Salt
  - Butler – need authorization to bid and expend up to \$200,000
  
- Water Meters
  - S-S Director – need authorization to purchase up to \$200,000 for replacement meters, using a sole source provider
  
  - Mayor – same vendor will provide consistency in type of meter used throughout the City and supplying replacement parts
  
  - President – clarified that the Law Director will be reviewing the use of a sole source provider, as opposed to bidding
  
  - S-S Director – this is related to technology services, so will likely not need to be bid – Sensus readers are electronic

**ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. WTP Softening Salt
2. Water Meters

## MINUTES

JANUARY 9, 2017

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

Other Council Members: Kent Butler  
Jennifer Cochran  
Michele Papai

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley  
Deputy Auditor Kreider

#### Items Discussed:

- Rezoning (110 West Union Street)
  - Fahl – this property is also known as the Cat’s Den – the parcel currently has split zoning with one part R-3 and the other part B-1 – owners would like to upgrade structures – Planning Commission is recommending the full parcel be zoned B-1
  - John Kotowski, representing Star Partnership – explained that the parcel currently contains the Cat’s Den building that includes the bar on ground level and two 1-bedroom apartments on the second level, a single wooden 2-story frame structure on the corner that is a one-bedroom apartment, and an outbuilding used as a cooler behind the 2-story apartment – this 2-story apartment and the outbuilding both encroach upon the City right-of-way – owners would like to renovate and expand the bar – remove the 2-story apartment and move the outbuilding, thus getting it off the City right-of-way – the addition and the two 1-bedroom apartments would be renovated into a single four-bedroom apartment, and the outbuilding would go on top of the new addition – again, all pulled off the City right-of-

way – explained that the B-1 zone cuts through the Cat’s Den, about 1/3 of the parcel, with 2/3 zoned R-3 – owners were told by the Code Enforcement Office that renovating the property, it would then become a non-conforming use – activities surrounding this parcel appear to be more consistent with a B-1 zone designation – 2-story house is more of a remnant from the past

-Papai – asked about parking for the apartments

-Kotowski – believes there are 12 available parking spaces – may need to be a request for a variance for two spaces – plans are still on the drawing board until the zoning designation is decided

-Cochran – B-1 zone makes sense – suggested architectural plans be cognizant about concerns of open balconies

-Kotowski – pointed out that currently there is a balcony on the front of the Cat’s Den – he doesn’t know if it is accessible to the apartments – talks have not included changing the architecture of the existing building – goal is more along the lines of restoration, maintaining the existing building – the new addition will not have a balcony

-Fahl – a public hearing has been scheduled on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – always good planning to keep a single parcel in one zone – renovated property needs to be a conforming use

-Mayor – this is an opportunity to correct zoning – B-1 zone is a good alignment

- 2 & 4 Dalton Avenue (minor subdivision with variances and restrictions)

-Fahl – this property is the former Wayne National Forest Headquarters – current owner would like to split the lot into two parcels – the Planning Commission has recommended the split with a variance for width to depth ratio, along with deed restrictions on both lots to provide separate access, and that the lots remain single-family residences

-David Funk, representing owner, Crimson Tide – having been the former Ranger Station of the Wayne National Forest, this property is an important part of our history – this is an effort to preserve this acreage – noted that his attorney expressed concern with the Planning Commission’s use of the term “with no changes” in reference to the two permanent lots

-S-S Director – as a member of the Planning Commission, her impression of that language was that the use would remain as single-family, residential – R-1 zone definition

-Mayor – agrees, the Planning Commission wanted to be sure that none of the accessory structures would be used as a business

-Fahl – agrees, the lots need to conform to the R-1 zone

-Risner – asked about any signage that would speak to this property having been used by the Wayne National Forest as part of an R-1 zone  
-Funk – if a sign is permitted, they would indeed consider it  
-Fahl – a historical marker would be appropriate

-Papai – asked about any conversations held with the adjacent property owners regarding this recommendation  
-Mayor – no property owners came forward and addressed the Planning Commission in opposition

-Papai – asked if these would be rental properties  
-Funk – yes, in order to maintain control

-Cochran – as a resident of the area, she is happy to see this dilapidated property being repurposed – the progress is refreshing

**ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. Rezoning of 110 West Union
2. Lot Split on Dalton

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### JANUARY 9, 2017

Members in Attendance: Michele Papai, Chair  
Jennifer Cochran, Vice-Chair

Other Council Members: Kent Butler  
Chris Fahl  
Patrick McGee  
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley  
Auditor Hecht  
Deputy Auditor Kreider

#### ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- West Union (rebuild)
  - Papai – this project is between South Congress and Court Streets (block where fire occurred) – building projects are nearing completion, and the City now needs to look at the street infrastructure
  - Mayor – sidewalk enhancement will be on both sides, with curb bump-outs on either end to shorten the walk distance at the crosswalks, with a 4' width extension on the north side, all to be done in decorative brick, with something similar on the south side – this block will be free of parking meters – will have parking kiosks on both ends, as well as continued use of the Park Mobile app, using funds from Parking Enforcement – there will be (3) park benches, (3) tree benches, and (10) new lamp posts that match those on Court Street – underground fiber optic conduit will be added – storm improvements have already been corrected – upon completion of this work the street will be paved
  - Papai – ensured the public that this block will remain two-lanes with parking on both sides of the street
  - Mayor – will likely put in a few compact car parking spaces, and will gain at least two parking spaces with this improvement, as opposed to losing eleven
  - Butler – pointed out that there are also bicycle parking accommodations – would like the Administration to consider covered bicycle parking as an



option, if not in this project, then future improvements – appreciates the efforts to make this area pedestrian friendly — understands with the narrowing of the street there is no space for a bike lane – cars and bicycles will be sharing the roadway

-Fahl – the pedestrian curb bump-outs will be a good model for other uptown intersections

-Risner – asked about the species of trees that will be planted

-Mayor – there will be (8) Maples, and (6) decorative planters – City will maintain

-Papai – asked about the cost of the project

-Mayor – total project cost will be approximately \$160,000

-Cochran – curious whether the *Essence of Athens* will be incorporated into design of the bike racks, something unique to Athens

-Mayor – it certainly can be, and agrees it will further enhance the area – noted that custom design will add cost to the project – will explore associated costs

-Risner – we have a very large artistic community – encouraged exploring options

-Mayor – would also like to put the Big Belly garbage/recycling receptacles along this block

- GoBus MARCS (Multi-Agency Radio Communication System)

-Papai – HAPCAP would like to use this system in the buses – requesting (11) mobile units and (8) portable units

-S-S Director – this system is reserved for governmental users

-Mayor – only governmental agencies can purchase MARCS, so the Director of Transportation for HAPCAP, Jessica Stroh, has asked the City to serve as the agency pass through

-Papai – understands that the Ohio Department of Transportation, deems this system as best practice, real time

-Mayor – not only real time, but continuous communication – there are many dead zones in the areas the buses travel – fleet can always be reached in case of an emergency

-Auditor – asked for clarification about who is paying for the on-going monthly service fees

-S-S Director – HAPCAP will directly pay the monthly costs, and the cost of the equipment will simply be a City pass through, to be reimbursed by HAPCAP

-Risner – asked, technically, who is the owner?

-S-S Director – City of Athens operates and owns the buses

- Vehicle Disposals
  - Papai – need legislation to authorize
- Neighborhood Parking Passes
  - Papai – permit will allow resident to park on the street for a continuous 72 hours before receiving a citation – interested in beginning as a pilot project in a neighborhood in the near uptown area – houses that were built at a time when driveways weren't always included and have parking access issues – doesn't see the need, as proposed, to do a survey of the area since this will begin as a pilot project

-S-S Director – strongly feels that a survey is needed – would like to hear from the residents on the streets proposed for the pilot project as to whether they see the 24-hour parking as an issue, and whether they would support this endeavor

-Joan Kraynanski – doesn't believe a survey would alter anything that is being proposed – the project is not restricting or guaranteeing parking, just lightens the restriction of the 24-hour parking regulation that already exists

She outlined the following:

Pilot Project for: Residential street parking that will serve to reduce parking restriction on residents in geographically challenged neighborhoods and thus promote the general public welfare

Proposed changes:

- Permit parking exemption for a 72 hour period only
- With application, a resident with no off-street parking can apply for a maximum of two permits; a resident with one off-street parking spot can apply for one permit
- Applications will be vetted by Athens City Code Office
- Violation of permit usage will result in revocation of permit
- A review of the Pilot Project should occur at a time specified by Athens City Council

-Fahl – is concerned about equal treatment if it is only going to be offered in certain geographical, or topographical areas – need to formally garner

support for this project in the affected area – could be a public hearing – asked if residents would be provided with a specific space

-Kraynanski – no specific space, only on the designated street

-Fahl – finer points need to be addressed, and there needs to be public input beyond emails

-Butler – this being only a pilot program should simplify concerns – it is an experimental area within a limited time period

-Papai – pilot program would offer feedback to answer some longer-term questions that other areas of the City might have

-McGee – thinks 72 hours is a workable time period – is concerned about offering two permits for one household with no parking

-Kraynanski – shouldn't be a problem if parking situation is verified by the City – it is frustrating for residents to have to move their cars every 24-hours – if we are a community that wants to embrace less vehicular traffic and more pedestrian/bicycle traffic, it seems a bit archaic to enforce the 24-hour restriction on people who have no other option – if the pilot program shows low demand and a lot of abuses, the City can stop it – if the pilot program is successful, legislation can move forward to approve it City-wide

-Papai – could just change the current 24-hour regulation to 72-hours

-S-S Director – believes there are still too many unanswered questions to move forward with a pilot program – questioned opening this permit system to rental properties

-Kraynanski – to be fair, she didn't think it was appropriate to limit this permit system to just owner-occupied houses – feels the pilot is a worthwhile effort to bring the proposal forward and see what happens

-Mayor – thinks a pilot is appropriate at some point for a finite amount of time – pilot would test out issues

-Papai – would like to continue this discussion the second Monday in February – that would allow the Administration time to vet the application process and review the proposal with staff – suggested bringing in residents who have been impacted and would support the proposal

#### **ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. West Union
2. GoBus MARCS
3. Vehicle Disposals