

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017, 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.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Fahl moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Session of Council held January 3, 2017; Papai seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Member Butler is in receipt of a letter from a citizen from the west side, expressing some concerns and frustrations with the Athens Municipal Arts Commission, noting that the role and policies of this Commission are fully explained on the City's Website.

Council Member Papai is in receipt of correspondence, which she has forwarded to the full Council, regarding upgrades to West Union Street. Citizens would like to see the *Essence of Athens* incorporated in such items as the bike racks, benches, etc.

Council Member Cochran mentioned communications from a number of residents on the east side concerned with recent thefts from parked cars on the street and in driveways.

Council Member Butler, acknowledged similar communications from west side residents. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Police Department with any suspicious activity. Police Chief Pyle has addressed this issue publicly and APD continues to actively engage this concern.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson has received a number of communications from City residents regarding a change in the Athens City School facilities and their concerns with the process as it moves forward.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-01-17

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A VARIANCE FROM THE ATHENS CITY SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS, CONTINGENT UPON DEED RESTRICTIONS, FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2 & 4 DALTON AVENUE, TO ALLOW A MINOR LOT SPLIT.

0-02-17

AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE 110 WEST UNION STREET FROM A SPLIT R-3 AND B-1 ZONED PARCEL TO A B-1 ZONE.

0-03-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2017 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE; AND AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE INTERFUND TRANSFERS. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to timely pay a utility bill; Papai seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-04-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 0-127-12; REALLOCATING REVENUES FROM THE CITY INCOME TAX; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to post weekly tax receipts using the new formula; Papai seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Discussion: Butler acknowledged his support for adding an extra percent to the Street Fund. Council Members often receive complaints that street paving isn't given enough attention.

Both Risner and Papai concur that street funding does need to be increased to help address annual paving and repairs.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-05-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 151-16, THE 2017 STAFFING LEVELS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet operational needs of the Human Resources Department, due to a new director and implementation of new programs; Cochran seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-06-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 86-16; AUTHORIZING SIDEWALK ENHANCEMENTS ON WEST UNION STREET (PROJECT #305); AND AMENDING THE 2017 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Discussion: Kotses believes this is a great project for commerce. However, he is concerned that the design does not adequately address pedestrian/bicycle safety issues and, even though it is prohibited in the uptown area, bicyclists may continue to traverse on the sidewalk (as is allowed in the rest of the City), as opposed to sharing the street with other vehicles. There may not be a workable solution for this one block area, but he strongly encouraged engineering design considerations for bike lanes in future projects.

Butler understands that some bicyclists don't feel comfortable sharing the street with other vehicles.

Mayor Patterson has discussed with APD a campaign to "walk your bike and carry your board," in the uptown area, and clarified that these activities are not allowed on the sidewalk due to a very dense pedestrian traffic. The Parking Enforcement officers will also be used to promote awareness of "no" riding on the sidewalks.

0-07-17

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN VEHICLES NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

0-08-17

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE WATER METERS; AND AMENDING THE 2017 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

0-09-17

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SOFTENING SALT FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

President Knisely announced that City Council will not be meeting on the fifth Monday of the month, January 30th; the next Regular Session of Council will be on February 6th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. with a Public Hearing on the rezoning of 110 West Union Street.

Mayor Patterson announced that on Tuesday, January 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center, the League of Women Voters is hosting the State of the

City Address, to recap 2016 completed projects along with future endeavors for 2017.

Papai asked if the school issue is an appropriate topic for discussion.

Mayor will entertain discussion as it affects and impacts the City, noting that the final decision will be made by the Athens City School Board.

Kotses moved to appoint John Valentour as a member on the City's Historic Preservation Commission; Fahl seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 7:45 p.m. Fahl moved to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining, and invited the Mayor, Service-Safety Director, and Law Director to attend. Cochran seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Butler, aye; Cochran, aye; Fahl, aye; Kotses, aye; McGee; Papai, aye; and Risner, aye. At approximately 8:10 p.m. Fahl moved to come out of Executive Session; Cochran seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. Fahl then moved to adjourn the meeting; Butler seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council