

# MINUTES

## JANUARY 25, 2015

### COMMITTEE-OF THE-WHOLE

Council Members in Attendance: Kent Butler  
Jennifer Cochran  
Chris Fahl  
Peter Kotses  
Patrick McGee  
Michele Papai  
Jeff Risner

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

#### Items Discussed:

- Yard Waste
  - Cochran – reminder to residents that the City has transitioned to using biodegradable brown paper bags for yard waste pickup – bags can be purchased from the City in lieu of the stickers – stickers will still be available to place on bundled sticks and branches – this is a more sustainable, environmentally friendly approach to avoid plastic bags
  - Mayor – this will remove about 7,000 plastic bags from the waste stream
  - Papai – asked if plastic bags will continue to be picked up
  - S-S Director – only until March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Cochran – stickers can be traded in for the brown paper bags, and are available at the City Building Utilities Billing office, the Code Enforcement office, and the Community Center front desk
- Local board of Tax Review (appointments)
  - President – appeal process – regulations have changed from Mayor appointing all members, to City Council appointing two and the Mayor appointing one – 3 members and an alternate have agreed to serve a two-year term – will be bringing forward the following for approval next week: Ric Abel, Steve Sloan, and Bic Weissenrieder, with Ann Gabriel serving as an alternate

- Community Relations Commission
  - President – appointments are for 3-year terms – most recent appointments have expired, and the City would like to move forward to reactivate this Commission – there are 9 members, and interested persons in the community who are interested in serving are asked to contact the Clerk of Council
  - Butler – would like clarification on the focus of this Commission
  - President – broad range – endeavors to bring about and maintain harmony within the Athens community, promote mutual understanding, disseminate information and educational materials to promote goodwill, assist various groups and agencies of the community to cooperate in educational campaigns devoted to the elimination of group prejudices, racial or area tensions, and intolerance of discrimination, cooperate with city, state, federal, and other agencies in order to promote better human relations, and recommend legislation in terms of its human relations impact

# MINUTES

## JANUARY 25, 2016

### FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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

Other Council Members: Kent Butler  
Jennifer Cochran  
Peter Kotses  
Michele Papai

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

#### Items Discussed:

- Storm Tunnel Repair (expenditure increase)  
-Mayor – contractor is obligated to pay prevailing wage (\$31,500) – the funds will be appropriated to the Storm Water Fund, 755
- Appropriations  
-Risner – Auditor requested reducing appropriations in Clerk of Court Computer Fund, 231, by \$55,000 as it is over budgeted, and to increase the appropriation to the Parking Garage Fund, 730, by \$161,000 to transfer to the Parking Garage Debt Fund, 730, for the loan payment – City Council budget was underfunded in its professional services line by about \$14,000, bonds line approximately \$1000, \$2200 for TGC in the subscriptions and publications line, and an amount to be determined in the travel and training lines  
  
-Scott Thompson – addressed the needs of TGC – would like to add Civic Ready to our Civic Plus (website host) to provide emergency communications through our website (\$7,850) and a substantial discount for our web redesign (\$2200), primarily to improve navigation and upgrade of site (see attached); (\$1,995) Tri-Caster virtual weather and software upgrades  
  
-President – Council Members attending professional conferences can be a valuable resource

-S-S Director – the Parking Garage improvements will have a cost overrun that will be addressed as the work progresses

- Depot Street (lift station)  
-S-S Director – 2<sup>nd</sup> bid opening will be one week from today – may need emergency legislation if bid comes in within 10% of the allowed expenditure – there is an August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to use the CDBG Critical Infrastructure grant funding

-Mayor – this is a major lift station, feeding our medical corridor and the west side

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

1. Storm Tunnel
2. Appropriations
3. Depot Lift Station

## MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2016

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

Other Council Members: Jennifer Cochran  
Peter Kotses  
Michele Papai

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

#### Items Discussed:

- Community Food Initiatives

-Mary Nally, Executive Director – CFI is currently developing a new strategic plan to include: vision – everyone in our community has access to an equitable, inclusive, and thriving local food system; mission – support a local food system that assures and expands access to fresh, healthy foods for all people in our region; and values – culture & community (identifying assets), education & empowerment (sharing knowledge, peer to peer learning), justice, and collaboration – CFI now has (6) community gardens offering 20,000 square feet of garden space – it has expanded its workshop series to (34) – it offers community orchards and seed sovereignty – (39) school garden teaching events (offer professional development and technical support, material support, and direct service teaching) – YEAH Kids, a summer education and work program for low income children – The Donation Station saw a record breaking year collecting and distributing local food to local food pantries with 86,991 pounds of local food distributed to 41 pantries and agencies in Athens, Morgan and Vinton Counties (donations fueled investment of \$14,599 in the local food economy) – the Discovery Kitchen, an educational arm of the Donation Station – teaches people how to prepare healthy meals using available local ingredients – The Give-Aways – seed potato, seed packets, and plant starts – The Seed Company (a regional social enterprise) provides income for seed savers, increases food security and invigorates part of our Appalachian heritage and local food

economies of making locally-sourced seeds available for all – realized profits of (\$2,205) from retail sales in the first year pilot – 2015 Financial Report – created (3) new staff positions, plus an AmeriCorps Vista volunteer; were able to offer health insurance options for the first time; almost doubled income, and expenses through grant opportunities – 2016 Goals – continue support to community gardeners for better production and higher yields; Community Orchard Project protection and signage; School Gardens – continue support, hosting Farm to School Conference; and the Donation Station will work on partnering with neighboring counties – Strategic Plan Goals – increase impact of programs, improve upon human resources management, strengthen financial management, and improve public relations to increase awareness, and how to get people involved

-Fahl – City has budgeted \$3000 for CFI composting and \$3000 for CFI community gardens

-Papai – asked how long CFI has been operating

-Nally – this will be its 23<sup>rd</sup> year

-Risner – asked if they have considered looking into medicinal plants

-Nally – do offer a workshop on medicinal foods

-Kotses – feels CFI is ahead of the curve – is a wonderful resource for our community

-Mayor – CFI has seen exponential growth – a fantastic program

- Litter Citations (process)

-Fahl – legislation is needed to add an appeals process

- Annual (2015) Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

-Fahl – the state of our water quality is very, very good

-Mayor – our City water production and delivery is excellent – City has no lead pipes in our system

-Papai – our Wellhead Protection Plan, in place since 2002, offers additional protection to keep our drinking water safe

- Bed & Breakfasts

-Fahl – feels the process needs to move forward in two distinct steps; traditional Bed & Breakfasts (current recommendation from Planning Commission); and Sharing B & B's will be a later process (recommendation from Planning Commission is required), as the Sharing B & B issue was not part of the Planning Commission's Bed & Breakfast discussion

-Papai – clarified that the traditional Bed & Breakfasts are in Business Zones, and the Sharing B & B's are generally in residential zones

-Risner – need to make sure the first Planning Commission recommendation works successfully before discussion of expanding to the home sharing concept into residential neighborhoods – Council cannot move forward until receiving a recommendation from the Planning Commission

-Mayor – suggested that the initial work of looking at social economy matters should fall to the Comprehensive Plan Task Force

-Papai – need time to look at other cities and how they're handling these matters in residential zones – need to educate ourselves and move forward cautiously

-Mayor – encouraged Council Members to review information provided on Sharing B & B's by the National League of Cities

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

1. Litter Citations

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### JANUARY 25, 2016

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

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

#### ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- International Street Fair (street closure)
  - Papai – discussion postponed until February due to organizer being out of town
  - S-S Director – thought is to keep same date, but offer street closure on Court from Washington to Mulberry, and Union from Court to College, using the Campus Green as backdrop
  - Papai – would like the Administration, when meeting with Number Fest organizers, to talk about impacts to International Street Fair
  - Mayor – Number Fest no longer allowing “byob” should keep at bay the interruption of attendees carrying cases of beer through the International Street Fair festivities – he is disheartened that this 34-year event has to make major adjustments
- Salt Truck (purchase)
  - Papai – need to replace our “aged” vehicle – appropriation is needed
  - Mayor – cost estimate: \$80,000-\$100,000 – new truck has at least a 6-month buildout period (chassis and customization)
  - Papai, McGee, and Fahl expressed the additional snow/ice concern with regard to the safety of the sidewalks after a snow event – the streets and

parking lots are clear, but many citizens and businesses are not removing snow from their sidewalks – questioned enforcement

-Butler – suggested this issue may need to be addressed during a City & Safety Services Committee meeting

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

1. Salt Truck