

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 2016
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Sludge Management
 - Butler – need to go out to bid for a new service provider to haul and spread sludge to our property in Canaanville – the cost of this past annual contract was authorized up to \$215,000

 - S-S Director – through bidding, may be as low as \$150,000

 - Papai – with the recent WWTP improvements, do we have more or less sludge?
 - Mayor – with the new system, it's not so much more sludge, as it is more condensed sludge

- Ohio Collaborative Program
 - Butler – task force created by Governor Kasich that makes recommendations to law enforcement for best practices – Lexipol service provides online development, implementation, documentation, and training of policies for each department based on current federal and state case law in best practices and risk management – staff will be provided access and training bulletins on a daily basis – service cost is \$9,328 annually and the City will receive a 10% discount if we sign up with Ohio University and, if signing up within 30 days, will receive an additional 10% discount for the first two years – ultimately, this will help protect the City from liability and provides our community with a better quality of police service, specifically through police policy management and training – this is an opportunity to be proactive, implement best practices, better documentation and prepare for the responsibilities of the position of law enforcement – a wise investment

 - Mayor – aids our Police Chief's ability to track policy changes as they occur

-Risner – questioned whose best practices
-S-S Director – best practices nationally – all Ohio law enforcement agencies must be in compliance with the Ohio Collaborative by 2017

-Papai – in terms of best practices, do these policies meet our philosophy on how we police

-President – sees this as minimum guidelines that the City should be following – doesn't see this as preempting leadership style practiced by our Police Chief

-S-S Director – this is actually to help eliminate confusion – will check with the Police Chief on the flexibility of incorporating our own practices

-Butler – Police Chief acknowledged that we're ahead of the game in a lot of best practices, such as our hiring policies, but somewhat behind in others

-Mayor – one of the claims with Lexipol training is the drop of 48-50% in risk liability

-McGee – likes that fact that there is a national policy with continued training of our officers in best practices

- Fests (closing streets)

-Papai – was asked this question by a reporter, and asked if the Administration has had any discussions about closing streets for student fests

-S-S Director – no one has come forth to the Mayor's office with this proposal – the City is not in favor of surrendering our streets for a party that is non-sanctioned

-Mayor – chief concern would be liability

-Papai – expressed concern about safety as well as nearby neighborhood issues in these residential areas

-McGee – has been contacted by students, and it is his understanding that there is a petition being circulated with approximately 1,000 signatures requesting that High Street and Palmer Street be closed for their fests from approximately noon to 7:00 p.m. – students believe that it is much safer to have the street closed – hopes City will consider the petition

-Fahl – concerned that if the street is closed, the party will manifest itself into a huge spring fest – the City could potentially have 6 weeks of closing streets for the various student fests – it costs the City money each time a street is closed

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Sludge Management

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 22, 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:

- Athens Transit
 - Michael Lachman, Coordinator for the Athens Public Transit Program – provided a 2015 yearly report and 2016 projects (see attached) – He explained that Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Programs (HAPCAP) is the designated grantee, administering transportation programs on behalf of the City – key programs are Athens Public Transit, the GoBus (a statewide program), Athens On Demand Transit, and the Mobility Management Program that coordinates transportation services throughout the County
 - Mayor – asked if Transit has a snow removal plan surrounding the bus stops throughout the City
 - Lachman – currently there is no plan – it is not something that is typically undertaken by transit agencies, but he will keep in mind for the future, may need to take a more active stance
 - Papai – asked about 2015 ridership
 - Lachman – first year to cross the 100,000 mark for the general public ride service – in 2011 ridership was at 62,000
 - Papai – asked about the recent addition of the spur to Chauncey and The Plains
 - Lachman – this route has received approval from ODOT to continue as part of the grant program – this route is successful in serving riders for jobs and school purposes, which was the intent of the grant
 - Papai – getting people to medical care within the City is also important

-Cochran – the City is really lucky to have such a vibrant transit system – is a great contribution to our sustainability efforts as a community

-Lachman – thanked the Council and City for supporting our transit system

- Between the Bridges (project #291)
 - Papai – this project is on Richland Avenue from the bridge at South Shafer to the bridge at President Street – this is a joint project with Ohio University – the project is to improve safety and aesthetics in the area – the University will be replacing sidewalks and, for pedestrian safety, possibly adding an island at Bobcat Lane, as well as ideas to funnel pedestrians to the crosswalk, and the City will be paying for the decorative lighting – design is estimated to be (\$43,325) and will need authorization for expenditure of that amount

-Mayor – while the University will be paying for sidewalk and pedestrian safety improvements, the City will be managing the project – the island will be a good corrective action to deter illegal left-hand turns into and out of Bobcat Lane that has continued to be a problem since it opened; many motorists have been cited

-Kotses – understands the island will help with traffic calming, however, he has been approached about the concerns with the pedestrian crosswalk at Porter Hall and asked if any traffic control device is being considered

-Papai – our City Engineer has looked at this area very closely the last several years – no traffic control device will be added with this project, but planning and design will be mindful of the concerns with the crosswalk

-Mayor – the crosswalk is a dilemma – City Engineer is exploring possibly raising the road deck by 7' and tunneling under Richland to install a causeway that will connect West Green with Baker University Center, the bulk of the foot traffic

- Bounty on the Bricks
 - Papai – amend Ordinance to begin street closure at 8:00 a.m. for setup
- Cruise-Ins
 - Papai – amend Ordinance to ban parking at 2:00 p.m.
- Buckeye Hills Regional Transportation Group
 - Papai – Council Member Cochran has served at these meetings and is no longer able to attend

-Cochran – shared that this group has several different committees; she served on the Citizens Advisory Committee – it's a good way to stay in touch with what's going on at ODOT and regional transportation services

-Papai – questioned whether another Council Member may be interested

-S-S Director – assured that representation from the City will continue

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Between the Bridges