

**MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

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

**Items Discussed:**

- Pool Update
  - President – Levy was approved in November, 2014, with a collection date effective January 1, 2016, for the purposes of funding a pool and improvements to our park system – most recent public hearing was held on July 12th – Council is now moving forward with legislation to approve the bond to borrow money for construction of the pool
  - Butler – attended most recent Recreation Advisory Board meeting where Recreation Director and Service-Safety Director offered images/options of potential pool plans provided by consultant, MSA Sport – information gathering continues
  - Kotses – noted that there are (3) pool options, all relocating the outdoor pool area – there has been some discussion about collaborating with Ohio University on an indoor pool, however, recently became aware that it is not the mission of Ohio University to provide community programming, and therefore, does not think Ohio University should be part of the conversation at this point – understands that Farmers Market is pushing relocation of the outdoor pool, possibly not in the best interest of the pool, but of that for the Market – he questioned whether the Levy was put forth to support that – is curious about the cost comparison between keeping the current pool location and relocating it – relocating will require more earthwork – questioned rushing through the Bond ordinance at this time
  - Mayor – MSA Sport will be presenting the three options to City Council on September 26<sup>th</sup> – of the images, there are options A, B & C in different

configurations, to include the following features: leisure pool, 8-lap lanes, dive well on the side, toddler pool, splash pad and runout slide – Administration believes option C is the most conducive – has asked MSA Sport for a cost estimate for building on the existing pool site – the downside of relocating to the southeast corner of the Community Center is the significant amount of grading that would be needed for elevation, while the upside would be that the City would have one more year of our current pool during construction of the new pool – if built on the existing site, the timeline is too short to have the new pool demolished and rebuilt by next summer, probable timeline would be early fall – MSA plan also shows the location of a future natatorium attached to the side of the Community Center, near the basketball courts, emphasizing that the Levy dollars will be used for the outdoor pool

-Papai – at the Council's recent luncheon with President McDavis she did broach the subject of a shared indoor aquatic center with the Director of Student Affairs – she is hopeful the University will move forward with continuing to serve the very strong indoor swimming population of this community – understands that the compilation of options A, B & C were designed from public input at the most recent public meeting  
-Mayor – the consultant also engaged with approximately 35 youth pool users about features they would like to see in the new pool

-Papai – while there has been no public comment, she shared that there was a bit of disappointment at the last public hearing because the consultant only discussed an outdoor pool concept – that was confusing for many folks attending who thought they were also going to hear indoor pool options

-McGee – asked whether he is understanding that the indoor pool aspect is now off the table – if so, he questioned who made that decision  
-Mayor – pool public meetings have been ongoing since 2014 – the Levy is just not for a swimming pool, it is for all City Arts, Parks & Recreation areas – borrowing \$7.3 million dollars to construct a swimming facility and trying to make that work for both an indoor/outdoor facility leaves us with two sub-par pools – we're moving forward with an outdoor pool, with the proposed location of a future indoor facility

-Butler – added, the previous pool consultant, Branstetter Carroll, acknowledged that indoor pools typically do not generate revenue, unlike outdoor pools – also, indoor pools have lower attendance than outdoor pools, even with the shorter season

-President Knisely – shared the attached correspondence from County resident Todd Swearingen – President then noted the delicate balance between administrative and legislative branches, all listening to comments

and holding public meetings to work through the process in a timely fashion, and to move forward with a swimming facility that will serve the public well, hopefully as well as the existing pool has for the past 40 years

-Todd Swearingen – commented that the future natatorium dimensions presented by MSA Sport is more the size of a physical therapy pool, not a natatorium – would like to see numbers on the cubic fill dirt needed for the new location

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

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

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

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

### ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Municipal Bridge Inspection (ODOT renewal)
  - Papai – this program is offered every three years – municipality needs to agree to inspection – LPA agreement with ODOT includes bridge load rating calculations, scour assessments, bridge inspections, and fracture critical plan development – the State will assume and bear 100% of all of the cost for Bridge Inspection Program Services requested by the City and agreed to by the State – the City agrees to pay 100% of the cost of those features not included as part of the Project
  - Risner – asked about the number of bridges
  - Mayor – 9 inside City limits
  - President – City Engineer has been very diligent with maintaining our bridges
- Other Vehicles on City Streets
  - Papai – effective January 1, 2017, the State Legislature has passed a ruling that will allow ATV's and golf carts be allowed on streets with a speed limit up to 35 – City must ban by ordinance such use prior to the end of this year

-Mayor – concerned about semi-truck traffic alongside golf carts – there is safety disaster written all over it

-Cochran – can see that it might be a safety issue – need to look over ruling carefully – would like Council to also think about the danger of distracted driving, and encouraged reviewing potential legislation similar to that of Marietta regarding the use of hands-free devices

-Risner – ruling is a disaster waiting to happen

-Kotses – attended a trail user's workshop sponsored by Wayne National Forest and was able to speak with the President of the Ohio Motorized Trails Association who felt this legislation was for smaller communities – a setting similar to New Straitsville, an economic boon for them – not Athens

-McGee – rather than to condemn wholeheartedly – could give some thought to using golf carts as a possible shuttle service from parking areas outside the uptown area – could be a benefit to the community and our parking concerns

-Cochran – potential legislation could impact already existing Ohio University special event golf carts – are they exempt

-Mayor – has conveyed this to President McDavis – Mayor reiterated his concern with competing road resources

-McGee – Nashville is a good example of how this can work

-Papai – requested Clerk provide Council with a copy of the new ruling

-Greg Polzer, citizen – three words concern him immediately, alcohol and smart phone, along with 25,000 students on the streets in Athens, and the potential for serious problems – could jeopardize the quality of the community, and given the nature of our community, he requested Council do the reasonable thing

-Papai – suggested that possibly the Police Chief could attend Council in October to discuss both the upcoming changes to the motor vehicle legislation, along with hands-free devices

-Mayor – both are vehicle related, but sees them as two separate issues

-Papai – she understands they are separate, but was thinking about the Chief's time

-President – certainly both issues are of concern, however other vehicles being added to City streets is the more pressing issue since it must be addressed prior to the end of the year