

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour with the following members present: Butler, Crowl, Grace, Kotses, McGee, and Risner.

Also present: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, Law Director Eliason, and Auditor Hecht.

Butler moved to appoint Debra Walker as Clerk of Council; Risner seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

Risner moved the selection of Kent Butler to serve as President Pro Tem; Crowl seconded. Selection was approved unanimously.

Risner moved the selection of Chris Fahl to serve as Acting President Pro Tem; Crowl seconded. Selection was approved unanimously.

Butler moved to designate Lisa Eliason as Parliamentarian; Risner seconded. Designation was approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Knisely announced that City Council Members will be having an Orientation Session on Saturday, January 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Ohio University Inn. Speakers include Mayor Patterson, Law Director Eliason, Auditor Hecht and Planner Logue.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Law Director Eliason presented her 2017 annual report (see attached).

Auditor Hecht reported on changes upcoming in the State Law regarding the use of credit cards. City Council will be required to approve a Credit Card Policy. Her office is working on a draft that she will present to Council once the legislation has been passed by the State.

She estimates the 2017 carryover to be \$1.1 million in the General Fund. The 2016 carryover was \$1.45 million. Payroll costs in the General Fund for the month of January is \$854,000.

Financial indicators from the State Auditor's Office indicates three (3) critical areas, all relating to the General Fund balance (see attached reports for 2015 and 2016).

President Knisely asked about contracting again with the Central Collection Agency for the purpose of collecting income tax due and owing to the City of Athens.

Auditor Hecht will review renewal of this contract with Income Tax Administrator Timberman, noting that delinquency notices forwarded by the Law Director's Office are very beneficial.

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- Potholes will be filled on East State Street, by-pass ramps, and Washington and West State Streets tomorrow.
- Columbia Avenue, hole caused by water break will be repaired on Thursday.
- One-day delay of garbage pickup this week.
- Free Christmas tree pickup, call 592-3343 to schedule.
- Two new City hires: HR Coordinator, Amy Struhar; and Community Center Program Child Care Specialist, Laura Sowers.
- Rebate of \$12,450 through NOPEC can be used for a number of energy projects – exploring idea of putting charging stations at the Community Center/new pool site.
- Poet Laureate request for proposals was extended to January 19.
- Cigarette butts collected from bins: 2016, 64 pounds; 2017, 70 pounds – these are recycled into park benches.
- Zero Waste Pledge with Rural Action – over the next 6 months the City aims to accomplish the following: Standardize recycling access, storage and signage for City employees and visitors; improve internal communications about recycling practices through employee training; create a City-wide Zero Waste Policy outlining the expectations for event organizers using City spaces; and put in place policies applying to all City buildings to promote zero waste, and institutionalizing zero waste practices.
- Received SolSmart bronze designation recognizing communities for taking bold steps to make it faster, easier and cheaper to move to residential solar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

President Knisely announced the following appointments made by the Mayor: former Council Member Arian Smedley has accepted an appointment to serve on the Regional Planning Commission. Former Council Member Nancy Bain has been reappointed to serve another 6-year term on the Planning

Commission, and Bill Walker has accepted the appointment to assume the unexpired term of Joann Prisley, until April 30, 2019, on the Athens Metropolitan Housing Authority Board.

Butler moved to appoint Ann Judy to the Athens Municipal Arts Commission; Crowl seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

Risner moved to reappoint Lisa Carson, appoint John Gutekanst as a full member, and Jessica Kopelwitz as an alternate to 3-year terms on the Board of Zoning Appeals; Butler seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

McGee moved to appoint Christy Hysell to serve a 3-year term on the Disabilities Commission; Risner seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

At approximately 7:40 p.m., McGee moved to adjourn the meeting; Kotses seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council