

**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020, 7:00 P.M.**

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

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**President Knisely** is in receipt of the following:

- Verification from Police Chief Pyle regarding the 2019 LETF and Drug Fund Expenditures/Revenue (see attached).
- A letter from Sunset Development and Investment, LLC, apprising the Council of a proposed new construction affordable housing development for persons, age 55 and older, to be constructed on a 4.03-acre parcel of land located on University Estates Boulevard consisting of 50 residential units (30 one-bedroom and 20 two-bedroom), management office, supportive services office, community room, laundry facility and fitness center. The development and residential units will be designed incorporating elements of Universal Design and features allowing residents to age in place (see attached).
- A letter from Limestone Apartments, LLC, apprising the Council of plans for the construction of 46 units of affordable housing for families at 11538 Valley Drive, The Plains, Ohio. The units will be a mix of ranch style and 2-story walk-ups, and will consist of 2-bedroom, 1 bath with approximately 919 square feet of living space and 3-bedroom, 2 baths with approximately 1081 square feet of living space. All units will have utility rooms and washer/dryer hookups, central air conditioning, new kitchen appliances, including stove, refrigerator, microwave and dishwasher. The apartments will be designed to meet the needs of families and can be easily modified to accommodate individuals with physical limitations. Universal design features will be included. This is within the City's 3-mile planning jurisdiction (see attached).

**Council Member Crowl** announced a meeting of the Environment & Sustainability Commission from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, in the First Floor Conference, City Building.

**Council Member Kotses** announced that the next Athens City School Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

## **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**Law Director Eliason** announced her recent new hire, City Prosecutor Kaitlyn Spahr, replacing Jessica Branner who resigned last October.

**Mayor Patterson** announced the following:

- Receipt of a letter from the Athens Middle School. As part of the Black History Month celebration, Athens Middle School students will recognize Andrew Jackson Davison, Athens' first African-American attorney, during a ceremony at the Athens Middle School auditorium at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18.
- On Thursday, February 20, at 6:30 p.m., the City is co-sponsoring Accessible Ohio in the Walter Rotunda hosting keynote speaker, Haben Girma, the first deaf and blind person to graduate from Harvard Law School. Ms. Girma is an advocate for equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

## **ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:**

### **0-01-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN SOURCEWELL, A COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM.

### **0-02-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING UNNEEDED OR OBSOLETE MUNICIPAL PERSONAL PROPERTY TO BE SOLD BY INTERNET AUCTION.

### **0-08-20**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 131-19, 2020 STAFFING LEVELS.

### **0-09-20**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 52-19; GRANTING AN ENHANCED ACCESS EASEMENT TO ALLOW UTILITIES TO PROPERTY CONTIGUOUS TO HOPE DRIVE.

**0-10-20**

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT TO OHIO UNIVERSITY, OWNER, 338 WEST STATE STREET, TO ALLOW A GROUND MOUNTED SIGN.

**0-11-20**

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT TO OHIO UNIVERSITY TO ALLOW A HISTORICAL MARKER ON MULBERRY STREET NEAR BAKER CENTER AND JUNCTION WITH SOUTH COURT STREET.

**0-12-20**

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT TO HARRY LEVINE, OWNER, 40 HOOPER STREET, FOR LAWN PURPOSES, TO MEET LOT SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN EXISTING HISTORIC STRUCTURE.

**0-13-20**

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

**0-14-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN VEHICLES NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

**0-15-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A DUMP TRUCK CHASSIS FOR THE ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

**0-16-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A VACUUM TRUCK FOR THE ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

**0-17-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF WATER VALVE EXERCISING EQUIPMENT.

**0-18-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA FEDERAL LOCAL-LET PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS, GRANT STREET PROJECT (#331).

**0-19-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS, GRANT STREET PROJECT (#331).

**0-20-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/STATE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A BRIDGE PAINTING PROJECT WITHIN THE CORPORATION BOUNDARY ON STATE ROUTE 50 (PID 79207); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:**

**0-21-20**

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING CERTAIN STREETS IN THE UPTOWN AREA FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STREET FAIR, CRUISE-INS, BREW WEEK AND BOUNTY ON THE BRICKS.

**0-22-20**

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ATHENS CITY CODE CHAPTER 11.04, VENDING, PEDDLING AND SOLICITING, TO ALLOW VENDING IN A DESIGNATED AREA DURING THE OHIO BREW WEEK EVENTS AND THE BOUNTY ON THE BRICKS FUNDRAISER.

**0-23-20**

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ATHENS CITY CODE SECTION 13.04.10, UNNECESSARY NOISE, IN THE UPTOWN AREA, ON SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2020; AND SATURDAY JULY 18, 2020, FOR OHIO BREW WEEK.

**0-24-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/STATE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A RESURFACING PROJECT WITHIN THE CORPORATION BOUNDARY ON US 33 AND US 50 (PID 84579); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**0-25-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A CLOSED-CIRCUIT SEWER TELEVISION (CCTV) CAMERA SYSTEM FOR THE ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

**0-26-20**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

**0-27-20**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CREATIVE MICROSYSTEMS, INC. (CMI) TO UPGRADE SOFTWARE USED BY CITY DEPARTMENTS.

**ONE-READING RESOLUTION:**

**R-02-20**

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE. Fahl moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Discussion: Fahl is pleased to put this Resolution forward. The City of Athens has shown strong leadership in sustainability issues and commitment to energy conservation. This document will provide goals and mapping to move forward this year to address our climate emergency, measures that will make our community safer and more resilient. This may sound aggressive, but it needs to be; this is an emergency. She noted that this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. We need to drawdown carbon by planting trees.

Clodfelter agrees this is aggressive, but is absolutely necessary to make our City more sustainable as quickly as possible because we are indeed facing a climate crisis. She believes Athens may be the first City in the State of Ohio to propose such a climate initiative and that our leadership will provide a model for other cities who are interested in doing the same.

Crowl agrees, this is a place in which Athens can lead, and working in partnership with Ohio University we can push our agenda and progress forward together.

Kotses, as a representative to the Shade Tree Commission, reiterated that the best thing the City can do is plant trees.

Mayor Patterson reminded Council Members that the City also took a bold step by putting a carbon fee on the ballot, winning by a resounding majority. There are great things on the horizon for ways the City can reduce its carbon footprint through that carbon fee. He also announced delivery of the City's fifth electric vehicle (EV), moving the City's fleet away from fossil fuel. For a City our size, we probably have surpassed most in the State of Ohio with an EV fleet. In March the City is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony with our first fast charge DC-charging station (80% charge in 30 minutes) at the pool. This will be a great asset, not only for day-trippers, but for Athens Public Transit as they start migrating into the EV world. We can be a leader and good stewards for our populace and for the planet.

Nancy Walker, Avon Place, is grateful to City Council for addressing this very serious matter for our planet.

Sarah Conley Ballew, representing Rural Action, promotes climate resilience by engaging communities and bringing people together to restore a healthy and natural environment. Rural Action has been working to bring an asset-based approach to sustainable development in our region. Increasing concerns about the impact of climate change on agriculture, health, and on the economy are leading us to focus on how our work builds resilience in response to the climate emergency. In addition, the impact of climate change will contribute to significant migration around the world, both internationally and domestically, and we know that we live in a region that will likely see an influx of people. Rural Action's work focuses on mitigating climate impacts, carbon reduction, and building local and regional systems that have a greater ability to withstand changes in climate and markets. This Resolution is an exciting and bold step, and Rural Action looks forward to working together with the City of Athens.

Nancy Manring, Associate Professor, teaches Climate Change Politics at Ohio University, thanked Council for moving this Resolution forward. This is a wonderful example of doing whatever we can at the local level.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:**

Smedley moved to confirm the Mayor's recommendation to appoint J.W. Smith to the Commission on Disabilities, term to expire on 12/31/21; Crowl seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

Kotses moved to confirm the Mayor's recommendation to reappoint David Sincoff to the Shade Tree Commission, term to expire 12/31/21; Fahl seconded. Reappointment was approved unanimously.

At approximately 7:50 p.m. Fahl moved to Adjourn the meeting; Crowl seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

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President of Council

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Council