

MINUTES
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Sarah Grace, Chair
Chris Fahl, Vice-Chair
Beth Clodfelter, Member

Administrators and/o
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- WWTP Dewatering (design)
 - Grace – additional soil borings were needed to change from building a new structure to adding on to an existing building – request is to increase design costs that will ultimately result in a savings of over a million dollars in construction costs – would like an increased authorization to allow the Service-Safety Director to expend up to \$272,209, an increase of \$72,209 for design – request suspension of the rules at second reading

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Dewatering

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2020
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
7:00 P.M.

Council Members in Attendance: Beth Clodfelter
Sam Crowl
Chris Fahl
Sarah Grace
Peter Kotses
Jeff Risner
Arian Smedley

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson

Items Discussed:

- Community Relations Commission
 - Co-Chair John Schmieding addressed the Commission's mission as one that endeavors to bring about and maintain harmony within the Athens community and to avoid, or reduce intergroup tensions, to promote tolerance and goodwill, and to ensure equality of treatment and opportunity of all persons – he highlighted the Commission's 2019 activities: Food for Thought forums on specific issues of interest to the public, an opportunity for those attending to meet in small groups; manned a booth at the International Street Fair, a good opportunity to engage with people on these issues; co-sponsor and assist other groups, campaigns and events devoted to promote tolerance and better human relations: the Confederate flag campaign; the Rainbow Thanksgiving event, Martin Luther King activities and art contest; and Open Ohio; along with a series of workshops such as the upcoming racism and climate emergency, that have been very powerful and well attended – put together and distributed a survey of key issues and ideals in our community, and ways to address them – worked with the Athens Police Department on forceful arrests and how to build and rebuild trust, and are now focusing on developing programs for the Athens City Schools on equity issues – Athens is not always welcome and easy and the Commission works to discourage and prevent discrimination practices in our community
 - Fahl – the Commission's dialogues are important

- Poet Laureate
 - Carol Patterson, former Council Member and Chair of the Athens Municipal Arts Commission (AMAC) – AMAC is recommending Wendy McVicker as the City’s third poet laureate (a two-year assignment)

 - Bonnie Proudfoot – introduced Wendy McVicker (see attached, Curriculum Vitae, and poems)

 - Wendy McVicker – read her poem, *Looking into the Trees*, as part of her proposed Poetree Project for the City (see attached application)

- National League of Cities
 - President – Mayor is requesting Council consider a resolution in support of the National League of Cities’ Agenda for the 2020 U.S. Presidential Campaign – urging all candidates running for President to support the *Leading Together Cities Agenda* through respect, partnership, inclusion, and accountability with a shared commitment to building sustainable infrastructure, creating a skilled workforce, ending housing instability and homelessness, and reducing gun violence

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. NLC Resolution

MINUTES
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Sam Crowl, Chair
Jeff Risner, Vice-Chair
Peter Kotses, Member
Arian Smedley, Member

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Appropriations/Transfers
 - Crowl – the following appropriations/transfers have been requested:
 - \$23,000 Internal transfer in Arts, Parks & Recreation, discussed in an earlier meeting as part of the reorganization plan, for shared cost of a position between the Recreation Fund and the Community Center Fund
 - \$3,000 appropriation to CDBG Fund for property taxes
 - \$2,000 appropriation to Parking Garage Fund for property taxes
 - \$5,000 appropriation to Athens Enhancement Fund for Athens in Bloom
 - Smedley – asked how these funds will be used
 - Mayor – will cover the cost of flowers in the hanging baskets and repurposed garbage containers along Court Street, as well as to fund someone to assist with maintenance of them throughout the summer months – some of the uptown businesses have stepped up to help in this effort
 - \$230,000 interfund transfer from Water Fund to Water Debt Fund, no new appropriation, only transfer for payment

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Appropriations/Transfers

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Peter Kotses, Chair
Sam Crowl, Vice-Chair
Beth Clodfelter, Member

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Brick Criterium
 - Kotses – the date of this brick cycling event is the evening of Friday, June 19, and all day on Saturday, June 20 – street closures are indicated on the attached maps

 - Daniel Brown, event host – understands this is a very intensive closure, beginning at the Courthouse, left onto State, left onto Congress, left onto Union and left back onto Court to the Courthouse, .6 of a mile – intersecting streets would also be closed – there will be access to the Parking Garage from College Street – setup on Saturday will begin about 7:30 a.m., at 11:00 a.m. there will be a Kids' Fun Race, and then on to the Criterium

 - Kotses – noted that Richland will already be closed for the Pedestrian Passageway Project and asked about rerouting traffic
 - Mayor – traffic will be rerouted to High Street and Union

 - Clodfelter – asked about bleacher setup for viewing and whether more bleachers are planned this year
 - Brown – last year the bleachers were provided by the City – agrees, more seating options would be beneficial
 - Mayor – will work with Mr. Brown to deploy more bleachers in some of the strategic locations

 - Brown – plans are underway for additional off-street parking – will promote bicycling/walking uptown to alleviate some of the traffic congestion

- Parking Meter (support contract)
 - Kotses – the current 3-year support contract with ComPlus is coming to an end and will not be renewed – APD is moving to the IPS Group, Inc. to provide similar services, one that is compatible with our new Smart Meter technology – the cost is about \$5,000-\$6,000 per month (similar to ComPlus) – cost varies on the number of citations issued – it will be a 5-year agreement – after the first three years new hardware will be offered – monitoring will be faster allowing the City to expand patrol radius – there is an add-on camera, that can be placed on the Parking Enforcement vehicle, that is a license plate reader and can track and document in real time where a vehicle is parked – a right-hand drive vehicle will no longer be need by Parking Enforcement – April 25th is the end date of the ComPlus contract – APD would like to have the system in place, and training completed prior to that date, and requested suspension of the rules or an emergency clause
 - Risner – an emergency clause seems in order as there is a public safety component, officers need to be adequately trained
 - President – can check with the Law Director
 - Kotses – explained that the City currently has two apps for parking, those using Park Mobile will pay an additional \$.35 to utilize the app to pay for your parking, the Park Smarter app doesn't charge a fee – this app also reduces the rate for citations – encourage the public to start using Park Smarter
- Richland Avenue Passageway
 - Kotses – project begins on March 2 – need to amend 0-18-19 to re-appropriate \$150,000 that was appropriated in 2019, but not encumbered in the 2020 budget – an additional \$282,500 is being requested for contingency, typically 5%-10% of a project – this amount is about 7% -- again, the total cost of the project is \$3,184,794 and will be paid as follows: 46% from Small Cities Grant Fund – Ohio University has verbally committed to increase its share from \$400,000 to \$646,783), reducing the City's share to 37% -- City would like to keep the contingency at 5% -- there will be a full time structural engineer from Columbus that will be managing the project
 - Smedley – questioned the reason for the need to increase the contingency
 - Kotses – will speak with Director Heady and provide that information
 - Clodfelter – the contingency is a sizable increase
 - Mayor – part of that contingency amount is to fund the on-site professional engineer
 - Clodfelter – asked what the salary and benefits will cost the City
 - Mayor – will provide that information
 - Kotses – noted that not one of the City's three engineers is structural – it is a different skill set

-Grace – while it will be a huge inconvenience having Richland Avenue closed for approximately 6 months, the current crosswalk is dangerous for pedestrians – this will be a much needed safety improvement

- Stimson Avenue (design engineering)
 - Crowl – amend 0-28-19 for an additional appropriation of \$128,100 -- \$40,000 for right-of-way easement costs (payments to current property owners); \$31,100 for right-of-way acquisition and survey costs; \$17,000 for additional drainage design; \$25,000 for additional design to eliminate driveway impacts; and \$15,000 for additional design to move the overhead utilities underground – total cost will increase from \$630,000 to \$758,100 – is pleased that this project will increase accessibility, and provide safe bike routes

-Smedley – asked if burying the lines improves maintenance of the lines

-Mayor – will check and provide further information

-Smedley – asked about the specific cost for putting these lines underground

-Crowl – for design the cost is \$15,000

-Clodfelter – questioned if underground maintenance can be done remotely

-Mayor – again, will plan to provide additional information on the cost and maintenance differences between above-ground and underground utilities

-Crowl –Director Heady conveyed that the additional dollars spent on drainage design should save \$15,000-\$20,000 in construction costs by eliminating 3-4 storm sewer structures

ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Brick Criterium
2. Parking Meter Contract
3. Richland Avenue Passageway
4. Stimson Avenue