

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

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

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

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Risner moved approval of the City Council minutes for the Regular Sessions of City Council held on January 21, and February 3, 2020; Fahl seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Knisely is in receipt of the following:

- Letters from Woda Cooper Development, Inc., announcing plans for residential rental developments to be located within a one-half mile radius of our political jurisdiction, on South Plains Road and Luhrig Road, and will be utilizing multifamily funding programs of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, OHFA (see attached).

Council Member Clodfelter recognized the Hocking County Men's Basketball Team for helping with the Healthy Hoops event at our Community Center today to encourage children to get more exercise by playing basketball. They did an excellent job, and she thanked them for making this a much better event.

Council Member Smedley announced notification of an open house to provide information on the West Union Street improvements on Tuesday, February 25, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Room 103 at the Innovation Center. This is an opportunity to get an update on the plans and to provide any feedback.

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:

Mayor Patterson announced the following:

- The Engineering & Public Works Department will begin work on Thursday repairing potholes on Shafer, Campbell, Shannon, Albany Road and North and South Blackburn.
- Received an email from an individual living in Huntington, West Virginia, owner of a Chevy Bolt EV, thanking Athens for its DC fast-charge charging station proposed at the Community Center pool area. He often travels through Athens on his way to Bowling Green and will take advantage of it.
- Tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. the Athens Middle School will be presenting the life of Andrew Jackson Davison, the first African American attorney in Athens; his portrait will be hung on Wednesday in a ceremony at the Athens County Courthouse.
- On Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Margaret Walter Rotunda, Accessible Ohio will present keynote speaker Haben Girma, the first deaf and blind person to graduate from Harvard Law School.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-01-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN SOURCEWELL, A COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM. Crawl moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-02-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING UNNEEDED OR OBSOLETE MUNICIPAL PERSONAL PROPERTY TO BE SOLD BY INTERNET AUCTION. Crawl moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-09-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 52-19; GRANTING AN ENHANCED ACCESS EASEMENT TO ALLOW UTILITIES TO PROPERTY CONTIGUOUS TO HOPE DRIVE. Fahl moved for Adoption; Crawl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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. Fahl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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.

Fahl moved for Adoption; Smedley seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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. Fahl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-13-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SOFTENING SALT FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT. Grace moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded.

Discussion: Fahl requested that all of our salt purchases come with certification of purity. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-14-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN VEHICLES NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE. Grace moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-15-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A DUMP TRUCK CHASSIS FOR THE ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. Grace moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-16-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A VACUUM TRUCK FOR THE ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. Grace moved for Adoption; Kotses seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-17-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF WATER VALVE EXERCISING EQUIPMENT. Grace moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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). Kotses moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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). Kotses moved for Adoption; Smedley seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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. Kotses moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-08-20

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

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. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to provide the Auditor with a secure server; Fahl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crowl moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

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. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to upgrade and improve the City's financial system; Fahl seconded. Crowl moved for Adoption; Smedley seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-28-20

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING CERTAIN STREETS IN UPTOWN ATHENS ON FRIDAY, JUNE 19, AND SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2020, FOR THE BRICK CYCLING EVENT. Discussion: Smedley asked if the alternate route for Richland has been resolved.

Mayor Patterson responded that the detours for the Richland Avenue Passageway will already be in place coming into the uptown area, and this event will be directed from Union to High Street.

0-29-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 18-19 TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE FOR CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RICHLAND AVENUE PEDESTRIAN PASSAGEWAY PROJECT (#311). Discussion: Kotses clarified that Ohio University has approved increasing its funding level from \$400,000 to \$646,783.

0-30-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH IPS GROUP, INC. (IPS) TO PROVIDE PARKING TECHNOLOGY AND RELATED SERVICES FOR THE DIVISION OF PARKING SERVICES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Discussion: Kotses has been assured that the meter revenues will more than offset the fees for this agreement.

0-31-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 104-18; AUTHORIZING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DEWATERING PROJECT (#320).

0-32-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 28-19; AUTHORIZING DESIGN ENGINEERING OF THE STIMSON AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (#315). Discussion: Crawl reported that this amendment to increase the design costs are needed to purchase right-of-way easements, additional survey costs, drainage design and eliminate driveway impacts, as well as bury utility lines.

The Mayor mentioned the Transportation Improvement District grant for economic development through ODOT. This is a very competitive grant up to \$250,000. The City is applying for this grant to be used either for the 2020 Richland Avenue Passageway or the Stimson 2021 project. This grant is based on the number of businesses in a commercial corridor, of which both qualify.

0-33-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Crawl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet the property tax due date and Recreation and Community Center Funds that should be in place by month-end; Fahl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crawl moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ONE-READING RESOLUTION:

R-03-20

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES' LEADING TOGETHER CITIES AGENDA FOR THE 2020 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. Discussion: President Knisely noted that this Resolution is promoting shared values which includes respect, partnership, inclusion and accountability, and also supporting a shared commitment of building sustainable infrastructure, creating a skilled workforce, ending housing instability and homelessness, and reducing gun violence.

Fahl moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Discussion: Fahl pointed out that cities are the life-blood of our nation.

Kotses understands that Ohio ranks 42nd of our 50 states in addressing homelessness and mental health issues. We can clearly do better.

Crowl highlighted that this Resolution urges all candidates running for president to support the 2020 Cities' Agenda by bringing a spirit of partnership to American politics and governance, and by making a commitment to respect the authority of local governments.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Kotses moved to confirm the Mayor's Reappointment of Lee Gregg to the Shade Tree Commission for a term that will expire on 12/31/21; Fahl seconded. Reappointment was approved unanimously.

Crowl moved to approve Wendy McVicker, as recommended by the Athens Municipal Arts Commission, as the City's Poet Laureate for a two-year term; Fahl seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Smedley, as the west side representative, will be hosting quarterly "West Side Chats" with the first one to be held Wednesday, February 26, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the lobby of ARTS-West, 132 West State Street.

Mayor reminded all that it is Census 2020 time; everyone needs to be counted, and this complete count includes our Ohio University student body.

President Knisely noted that this census count determines many crucial services important to our community.

Grace emphasized that Ohio University students are counted where they are residing in April; it is a place in time count.

At approximately 8:00 p.m. Fahl moved to Adjourn the meeting; Kotses seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council