

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

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

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

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Fahl moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of Council held February 5, 2018; Risner seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Knisely announced that the Municipal Arts Commission has selected the City's new Poet Laureate.

Bonnie Proudfoot introduced Kari Gunter-Seymour as Athens' second Poet Laureate.

Kari thanked the City of Athens for having the forethought to have a Poet Laureate; she is very proud and honored to serve her community in this role.

The President noted that City Council will be meeting with the Ohio University Undergraduate Student Senate on Friday, March 2, for lunch at 1:00 p.m. in Baker University Center, Room 239.

Council Member Kotses announced a special session of the Athens City School Board on Thursday, March 8, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the Athens High School to continue seeking public input of the proposed Facilities Master Plan.

Council Member Butler acknowledged he continues to hear citizen discontent over the condition of our streets, especially potholes on East State, Union, and Columbia.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- Athens Hocking Recycling Center and trash pickup will be on a one-day delay due to the observance of Presidents Day.
- West State Street will have a limited closure tomorrow between 395 and the City's Water Treatment Plant from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for electrical work. The Dog Park will be impacted by the closure.
- March 1st is the Disabilities Awareness March on Court Street. The march will begin at Baker University Center with line-up at 9:30 a.m. and a

10:00 a.m. start time. The march will end with an event at the Athens County Courthouse.

- Tomorrow from 3:30-6:00 p.m. the City invites the public to an Open House for the Richland Avenue Pedestrian Passageway in the Atrium of Grover Center, 53 Richland Avenue, to review the design plans.
- An asphalt plant will be opening early to provide hot mix to the City for repair of potholes. Cold mix, currently being used, is a temporary material that does not hold up well against extreme freezing and thawing. Some significant patch work could begin as early as Thursday, unless there is significant rain. Engineering & Public Works is diligently working to make our roadways as safe as possible in addressing potholes and infrastructure repairs.

ORDINANCE FOR THIRD READING:

0-08-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ATHENS CITY CODE TO ESTABLISH TITLE 49, INITIATIVE PETITIONS. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-02-18

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING EAST UNION STREET BETWEEN COURT AND UNIVERSITY TERRACE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018, FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STREET FAIR.

0-16-18

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO ADDRESS NON-POINT SOURCE STORMWATER POLLUTION GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND, IF AWARDED, ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO EPA; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-17-18

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SMALL CITY PROGRAM FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2018; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kotses moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet a March 1 grant application deadline; Risner seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Kotses moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-20-18

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/STATE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A BRIDGE DECK OVERLAY PROJECT ON US 33; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-21-18

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING A PORTION OF COURT STREET BETWEEN UNION AND WASHINGTON ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2018, FROM 8:00 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT FOR THE "BOUNTY ON THE BRICKS" FUNDRAISER.

0-22-18

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ATHENS CITY CODE CHAPTER 11.04, VENDING, PEDDLING AND SOLICITING, TO ALLOW VENDING IN A DESIGNATED AREA ON AUGUST 4, 2018, DURING THE "BOUNTY ON THE BRICKS" FUNDRAISER.

0-23-18

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DESIGN ENGINEERING OF THE STIMSON AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (#315). Discussion: McGee explained that this ordinance authorizes \$200,000 for design engineering of the project. McGee emphasized that these dollars are special project funds, and does not take away from monies used to fund the repair of potholes.

Mayor Patterson clarified that this project could range in cost from \$2.5 up to \$4.5 million depending upon the extent of renovation of the streetscape. The ODOT Small Cities Grant awarded to the City for this project is \$2.2 million, and other granting mechanisms will be explored to be used with this improvement area, adding that this is a 2020 project.

McGee suggested that if further closure of the Stimson Bridge is necessary during this improvement that it be limited to reduce any hardship it may cause our citizens.

0-24-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2018 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE; AMENDING ORDINANCE 153-17, AUTHORIZING ARTS/WEST RENOVATIONS PROJECT (#314); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-25-18

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2018 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

0-26-18

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO HIRE A NEW DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS AT A PAY RATE OF 35% THROUGH THE ASSIGNED PAY GRADE.

0-27-18

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING USE OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY; AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE AN ELECTRIC LINE EASEMENT WITH THE OHIO POWER COMPANY (AEP) TO BE LOCATED NEAR EAST PARK DRIVE AT THE MUNICIPAL POOL SITE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-28-18

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) IN ORDER TO ACCEPT NOPEC ENERGIZED COMMUNITY (NEC) GRANT(S); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-29-18

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ONE-READING RESOLUTION:

R-03-18

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CLOSING OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX'S HOCKING UNIT AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO WORK WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO LESSEN THE IMPACT OF THIS ACTION. Discussion: Risner noted that this closing will have an impact on our already economically depressed region. If adopted, he would like copies of this resolution forwarded to the Ohio Department of Corrections, the City of Nelsonville, our State Representatives, and the Governor.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 8:00 p.m. Crowl moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining and Compensation of a Public Employee, and invited the Mayor, Service-Safety Director, Law Director, and Auditor to attend. Fahl seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Butler, aye; Risner, aye; Crowl, aye; Fahl, aye; Kotses, aye; McGee, aye; and Grace, aye.

At approximately 8:45 p.m. Fahl moved to come out of Executive Session; Risner seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Risner then moved to adjourn the meeting; Fahl seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council