

MINUTES
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 24, 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:

- Beautification Month
 - students from the Office of Community Engagement spoke about their mission and focus on Athens Beautification throughout the month of April – this is an opportunity for collaboration between the community and the University to combat the climate crisis through the following actions: tree planting, removal of invasive plants, and planting pollination gardens – these efforts will go toward making Athens County more resilient and more sustainable – requested the City of Athens identify locations for tree planting as well as suggested best days for planting – Ohio University will coordinate volunteers – the City will support Athens beautification by supplying staff time toward this effort along with use of the Keep Southeast Ohio Beautiful trailer for the use of tools and equipment – they invite partnership with the Athens Shade Tree Commission and the Athens Arbor Day Committee to assist with tree planting instruction and requirements for care of the trees
 - Clodfelter – asked about community volunteers
 - Costanza – the more people involved the better
 - Fahl – pointed out that Beautification Month will include other events along with the Earth Day celebrations – hope is that the community can plant 300-350 trees during the month – there will be tree giveaways and instructions on their planting, feeding and care
 - Mayor – asked about the number of volunteers expected during the month
 - Costanza – there is usually a good student turnout, with at least 15 volunteers per event – community volunteers would provide even more

-Mayor – the City has the opportunity to bring back a riparian forest just south of the Community Center – the removal of invasive plants is one of the big tasks with this long-term project and he would like to engage help with this invasive removal – encouraged the students to attend a meeting at noon on March 12 at the ODNR Headquarters at 60 East State Street to talk with ODNR’s Ann Bonner about this 16-acre tract of land – removal of the invasive plants will give the trees a fighting chance – a level of involvement by student volunteers would be helpful

-President – expanding beautification to a month is an exciting opportunity – understands that the City will notify Off-Campus Living (Barb Harrison) of locations, and Ohio University will help recruit volunteers

-Fahl – noted that her student intern, Adam Boesinger, is involved and helping with the planned Greek event

-Grace – important to advertise these volunteer opportunities to the community and students

-Crowl – the Athens Environment & Sustainability Commission as well as the Office of Sustainability at Ohio University would like to be involved as much as possible – he commended the students and the Office of Community Engagement’s efforts – during the month of April, the Office of Sustainability is hosting countywide and regional efforts to promote April 22, 2020, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day – information will be posted at ohio.edu/sustainability

-Risner – asked who will be handling potential locations for tree planting

-Fahl – suggested forwarding requests to the Arbor Day Committee who has been identifying locations and mapping them out – she will provide an email address and see that all information is put on the City’s website – noted that the roundabouts are slated for pollinator gardens

-Risner – asked about milkweed planting

-President – a representative from Athens Soil and Water Conservation has offered some milkweed starts

-Clodfelter – asked if the pollinator gardens will include milkweed

-Costanza – have no specific plans at this time – will discuss with the Arbor Day Committee and the Shade Tree Commission – focus has been on tree planting

- Community Center (replacement of boiler heating system)

-Grace – the current boiler heating system is the original that was installed in 1999 – request authorization to expend up to \$112,000 for replacement – was bid unsuccessfully last year – hoping this year to go through Sourcwell for procurement – this will be a high efficiency model, 97%, the current system is 81%

- WTP (solar battery)
 - Mayor – AEP has a pilot program for micro-grids, a solar array and a battery system need to be in place – the WTP has in place a 230 kilowatt solar array DC, 178 kilowatt AC – this is a solar array feeding into a critical City asset – AEP has selected this site for a micro-grid – authorization is needed to provide AEP with a temporary construction easement to gain access to the site to deploy this battery system – the micro-grid will be piloted for a period of two years – AEP will check the site monthly, and to retrieve data – after the two-year period the City will continue to have full access and control of the micro-grid – this will provide resilience for the WTP – AEP will cover 95% of the micro-grid cost and the City will pick up 5%, approximately \$28,167 paid over three payments – this micro-grid system should see further cost savings at the WTP – is in line with Council's climate crises planning
 - Fahl – community resilience is essential moving forward; it cannot be underestimated
 - Clodfelter – this is a good investment toward protecting our drinking water supply
 - Grace – asked if the City will have access to the data from this micro-grid in terms of how well it is working and what changes or improvements need to be made going forward
 - Mayor – believes the City will have access to the data, but will clarify with AEP
 - Risner – asked about the timeline
 - Mayor – AEP would like the pilot up and running by January 31, 2021 through April 30, 2022
 - Crowl – asked about any safety concerns with the battery system, either environmentally or the amount of power that it would hold
 - Mayor – this would be a contained system placed behind the WTP between the solar array and the physical building – there will be extensive training for the WTP operator, and the Fire Department will be trained as well
 - Crowl – there are some environmental concerns with disposal after the useful life of a battery – asked about the life expectancy
 - Mayor – does not know the battery's life span, but he will provide that information as well as disposal protocol
- 2020 Jail Contract (Washington County)
 - Grace – this will be a one-year renewal – will allow the City to utilize space in the Washington County jail, if space is available, when our regional jail is at capacity – the cost is \$68 per incarceration per day

- Risner – recalls the need for female bed space
- Grace – the regional jail has very limited space for female inmates, so that is a consistent need

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Community Center Boiler
2. Jail Contract

MINUTES
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 24, 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
Auditor Hecht

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Appropriations/Transfers
 - Crowl – appropriations, decreases, and interfund transfers as follows:
 - \$175,000 to Capital Improvements Fund, Auditor, 580.102, (this is amending 0-27-20; authorizing the expenditure for a software upgrade through CMI)
 - \$3,252 to FEMA Fund, 588.580, T.C 600, for a grant transfer
 - Decrease Tourism Fund, 212.120, T.C. 300, by \$7,000, over-budgeting of the ACCVB, Transient Guest Tax
 - Decrease General Fund, Parking Enforcement, 101.718, T.C. 500, for parking meter lease payments (the City purchased outright)
 - Interfund Transfer from FEMA Fund, 588, to General Fund, 101, and appropriating same amount to General Fund, Fire, 101.208, T.C. 500, to purchase a set of turn-out gear
- Interim Service-Safety Director Plan
 - Crowl – this plan is needed to hire an Interim Service-Safety Director while Colonel Andrew Stone is deployed on military leave – in Stone’s absence, Police Chief Tom Pyle will be serving as both the Interim Service-Safety Director and the Chief of Police, with focus on the duties of the Service-Safety Director, but will still be performing the statutory duties of the Chief of Police – Captain Ralph Harvey will continue to perform his functions as Captain, and will remain in that position, but he will also serve as the Department Acting Head and will be performing those functions of the Chief of Police – both of these positions will be

given a 10% stipend, given the extra responsibilities – additionally the number of Police Lieutenants will be increased by 1 and the Patrol Officers will be decreased by 1, which is intended to be a permanent change – this plan will save the City money

-Smedley – questioned three positions being served by two people – asked if there are any concerns about that

-Mayor – no concerns

-Smedley – asked about the reasoning behind the changes to increase the Lieutenants and decrease the Patrol Officers

-Mayor – the Lieutenant will assist the Captain with his supervisory duties

-Smedley – expressed concerns with reducing the number of Patrol Officers out in our community

-Auditor – Lieutenants patrol as well, so that will not change

- Parking Meter (note renewal)

-Crowl – Administration recommends paying down \$70,000 on this \$467,000 note

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Appropriations/Transfers
2. Staffing Amend
3. Compensation
4. Note Renewal

MINUTES
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 24, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Chris Fahl, Chair
Jeff Risner, Vice-Chair
Sarah Grace, Member
Arian Smedley, Member

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

Items Discussed:

- Title 49 Registration
-Fahl – Under the City’s new Title 49, Management, Administration, and Control of the Use of the City’s Public Right-of-Way, existing uses now need to be reported, and companies must complete a Certificate of Registration and seek approval from the City – Horizon Telcom, Inc. is requesting use of the City’s right-of-way for approximately 13 miles of fiber-optic telecommunications cable that is installed in various locations throughout the City

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Horizon

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 24, 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:

- Richland Avenue Passageway
-Kotses – presented a map of the Richland Avenue detour starting March 3rd for 179 days (see attached) – the projected re-opening to vehicular traffic will be September 11th

- Community Arts & Music Festival
-Kotses – this will be a street closure on Saturday, August 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Union Street between Congress and Court – does not impact any intersections – will also need to suspend the noise ordinance and allow vending in the event area

- LPA Agreement
-Crowl – this will allow the City to administer the Stimson Avenue project – partially using Federal funds – proposed ODOT contribution will be \$2,126,815 – this is 95% of the eligible costs of the project secured through the Small Cities Fund

- Continuous Parking in the Same Location
-Kotses – Captain Ralph Harvey of the Police Department has suggested amending City Code Section 7.05.03 to add: Said vehicle must be moved every 24 hours. If spaces are delineated by pavement markings, the vehicle must be moved to a different space every 24 hours.

-Grace – asked if a “delineated space” is defined in our City Code – asked about enforcement of these delineated spaces – some residents may leave a space in the morning and return to the very same space in the evening – there would be no way to know that the vehicle had been moved within the 24-hour period, whether delineated or not

-Clodfelter – enforcement could be problematic in such cases – would like more details about plans for enforcement – this amendment needs careful consideration

-Fahl – this will make it harder for residents – it will be a hassle for near uptown residents, those we want to encourage not to drive – she is not a proponent of the 24-hour regulation – would like to move toward a 48 or 72-hour period

-Kotses – delineation markings would be done only on certain streets

-Fahl – there needs to be an interactive planning procedure – a logical, fair way of identifying streets that are to be delineated, to include by citizen complaints or through a petition

-Smedley – suggested having Captain Harvey attend an upcoming committee meeting to talk further about this

-Mayor – Captain Harvey will ask him to attend – acknowledges the need for additional information, including the license plate reader/geo-tagging

ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Uptown Art Event
2. LPA Agreement