

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 28, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Peter Kotses, Chair
Patrick McGee, Vice-Chair
Sam Crowl, Member

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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Richland Pedestrian Passageway (update)
 - Mayor – bid opening was held (second bid opening) – it, too, was an unsuccessful bid at \$3.8 million, far exceeding 10% of the engineer’s estimate – project will not be done in 2019 – exploring options with ODOT and Ohio University to move the project to 2020 – need to give contractors more time to consider this project and ample time for construction
 - McGee – due to the potential dangers at this intersection, questioned whether the Administration can offer any ideas for safety until this passageway can be built, possibly a traffic guard or police, or even Hocking College students training in police science to help with traffic control
 - Mayor – to place a City police officer to guard that one intersection would be a disservice to the entire Athens community – will broach idea with Dr. Nellis about using OUPD as traffic guards
 - McGee – again, using Hocking College students in police science, along with police officers would be beneficial to everybody – need to address the danger that currently exists until the passageway can be constructed

- Athens Brick Criterium (Daniel Brown)
 - Kotses – street closure request
 - Daniel Brown, Carroll Road – proposed dates are Friday, June 21 and Saturday, 22 of this year – provided a brief history: Athens first criterium was in 1986, with pinnacle in 1989, and was last held in 1996 – there was also a collegiate race on the same course in 2001 – these were successful events with high attendance – a criterium (commonly called a crit) is a mass start bicycle race consisting of several laps on a short closed circuit course – is exciting and

spectator friendly – this is a non-profit event – a successful race is one that sustains itself from year to year – the course Friday evening would be a sprint, elimination style, at possibly 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., for a couple of hours, would start on East Union at Stewart, up Jeff Hill to College Street intersection, 0.2 of a mile distance – Saturday would be a 0.6 of a mile course starting near the Courthouse, down Court Street, left on West State, left on Congress, left on Union back to Court (historic course)

-Kotses – asked about the time frame on Saturday

-Brown – street closure at 8:00 a.m. for an all-day event – 11:30 (kids race) – final race starting at 7:00 p.m. (a 70-minute race) – after party for riders on Union between Congress and Court

-Kotses – asked if any discussions have been held with uptown businesses

-Brown – yes, he met with them on February 13, and will be meeting with them again in April

-McGee – asked whether alternative routes have been considered – is leery about closing Court Street for an entire day – could consider a College Green route that would cause less disruption to uptown traffic – questioned financial benefit to Athens

-Brown – believes it will draw more people to the uptown area than on a normal day in the summer – would benefit the businesses

-Crowl – asked about any sense of participation from riders

-Brown – this date was chosen as there are two other events in Ohio during June – there is a criterium in Grandview Hts. (Columbus area) the weekend before, and the Hyde Park Blast, a pro-level criterium, is in Cincinnati on June 29, which is also the State championships, so the Athens date is ideal, is peak criterium season – this will be a family-friendly event weekend

-Crowl – interested in having criterium return – asked if the uphill sprint is typical

-Brown – yes, something that is hard and short

-Mayor – asked if the other two crits in Ohio are on city streets, through neighborhoods, and an estimate of the number of riders that can be expected

-Brown – Grandview Hts. is on main street and residential streets – Hyde Park race is in the City of Cincinnati – this race is similar to Athens in intensity with hills and bricks – would estimate 200-250 riders

-Councilman Butler – supports this event – believes it will generate summer tourism

- Smart Parking Meter (financing)

-Mayor – in reviewing the IPS contract with the Law Director and Auditor it appears that a better approach would be to purchase instead of lease the meters – could borrow money through a short-term loan – benefit with purchase would be that the cost would be significantly less than a lease purchase agreement – exploring other cost effective measures

-Kotses – understands that IPS charged a higher interest rate than we can get locally – clarified that updated meter times and fees will not happen until all meters are installed

-Mayor – the new meters are part of the equation, as is hiring a new parking enforcement officer – currently the meters are only being enforced until 6:00 p.m., not 8:00 p.m.

-McGee – asked about the number of meters

-Mayor – approximately 500 + meters – most will be double yoke, meaning fewer poles

-Crowl – asked about the short meter poles

-Mayor – poles were cut down to accept the new meter heads to bring up to regulation height

ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Smart Parking Meters

MINUTES
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 25, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Kent Butler, Chair
Chris Fahl, Vice-Chair
Sarah Grace, Member

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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- 2019 Jail Contract (Washington County)
 - Butler – renewal contract for overflow – cost is \$68 a day per person incarcerated
 - Grace – acknowledged a need for additional bed space, especially for women – asked if cost is same as last year
 - Mayor – there is usually an incremental increase – not sure what the cost was last year, but will find out

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Jail Contract

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 25, 2019
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
7:00 P.M.

Council Members in Attendance: Kent Butler
Samuel Crawl
Chris Fahl
Sarah Grace
Peter Kotses
Patrick McGee
Jeff Risner

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

Item Discussed:

- Athens City School District Building Project (Dr. Gibbs)
-Superintendent Gibbs provided an update – \$60.5 million bond issue was approved by voters November, 2018 – additionally, approximately \$30 million will be received from the State, but it will be 24-36 months before knowing the timeline on that portion of the project – master plan is (2) PK-3 buildings to be located at the current sites of East Elementary and Morrison-Gordon for complete renovation; The Plains Elementary will be a grades 4-6 building with \$3.5 to \$4 million renovations, primarily security, technology, light safety updates; the Middle School does not require much work; when State monies are available the high school (grades 9-12) will be rebuilt on the current site – an Expedited Local Partnership (ELP) Agreement will be signed with the State of Ohio, meaning the School District will spend its \$60 million local dollars upfront on the first part of the project and the State will give its share when the money is available and State funded – ELP project will consist of the (2) PK-3; 4-6; and grades 7-8 – there are (3) planning committees, one for grades PK-3; one for grades 4-6; and one for grades 7-8, with 100 community members representing all communities – (2) planning committees have been held to review State requirements, evaluating number of classrooms and size and configuration to accommodate the needs of the students – a schematic design phase should be happening by the end of March – hope is to have design completed by end of summer – within the next 30 days will be selecting a construction manager for the project, along with cost estimates, and core borings and geological testing will begin at the sites – will vacate East Elementary at the end of this school year – the building will likely be demolished sometime after September 1st, with pre-

site work to begin soon after – next year will be officially breaking ground on the new East Elementary and on the new Morrison-Gordon – there is enough property at the Morrison-Gordon site that students can continue to attend school while the new school is under construction – East Elementary (370) students will be relocated to West Elementary (several modular classrooms will be needed), and approximately 85 sixth graders will be moved to the Middle School for one year – currently hosting open community meetings at each of the elementary schools

-President Knisely – mentioned a list of questions Council Members posed to Dr. Gibbs in an email last week (see attached responses).

-Superintendent – noted that the Board of Education has approved the purchase of 5 Maplewood – will now own both 5 & 7 Maplewood, owning the whole block – will be a good opportunity for better traffic flow and greater safety for student transportation

-Crowl – followed up on his question in the attached responses regarding net zero energy – he is well acquainted with the Leed rating system – there are a number of prerequisites that a project has to meet in certain categories – it is the points accumulated from the different sectors that lead to the Leed silver, gold, or platinum – wonderful that Leed is being considered – curious as to where the consensus comes from – does this consensus come from the building committees, the School Board, or the Superintendent – where will that actual decision be made for some of these

-Superintendent – the consensus rests with multiple bodies – the committees do have a considerable voice – ultimately, they will make recommendations to him, and he will in turn make recommendations to the Board of Education so the Board can make a final decision – he pointed out that he has received a relatively small number of requests, in the grand scheme of things, advocating for net zero energy – though, he wished to make clear that if it can happen, great, why wouldn't it be done – assured highest efficiency buildings – must also listen to others who want more fresh air and natural light (this is just one example, not an excuse) – he has been told by engineers that in order to maximize the efficiency of a building, lower volume buildings are built – that basically means lower ceilings – certain types of architecture do not lend well with net zero energy – it is difficult to usurp other priorities for net zero energy – consensus through compromise is important – will do what they can to ensure high efficiency buildings

-Crowl – while looking at capital costs upfront being higher, looking long-term, net zero energy will save money – appreciates factoring in all discussions and input from the community – encouraged that community continues being a part of that consensus

-Fahl – attended meeting at East Elementary and walked away discouraged – heard more about what can't be done as opposed to what can be done – sustainability is important to our community – residents are concerned about green space and were told that all parking spaces will be on the site – challenged people to start thinking about the need for a lot of parking spaces on the site; it's better to have green space – we're moving forward with a sustainability process that questions the need for parking – there is parking on the street – need to look at project with a "can do" attitude – need to reach out to people earlier and more – welcome people into the process

-Superintendent – assured Fahl that there has been no discussion about parking other than what is required under the OFCC guidelines

-Fahl – beyond parking, need to think outside the box to promote sustainability – we are a walkable City with walkable neighborhoods – City has adopted a Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan, a Sustainability Action Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and Essence of Athens

-Superintendent – requested a copy of City plans

-McGee – is concerned about disruption in the east neighborhood during demolition and construction – emphasized keeping the neighborhood advised

-Mayor – City will meet and help coordinate during demolition and construction – will work closely with the school district and keep residents informed

-Judith Roman, Northwood resident – has experienced the heavy traffic at student pickup time and wonders how that will be handled in the future

-Superintendent – reviewing what can be done to alleviate that congestion immediately adjacent to the school – the following ideas have been discussed: possibility of walking groups of children to and from the school to a bus stop not adjacent to the school; encouraging parents to pick children up behind the school near East State Street, and park and ride scenarios – he is certainly well cognizant of this concern

-Allan McMillan – questioned replacing Morrison-Gordon that is just turning 40 and why building cannot be built to last 100-150 years – architect at the meeting indicated that 60 years is typical useful life – suggested buildings that can be enhanced over the years instead of demolishing – cautioned setting sights too low

-Superintendent – you need to invest in the buildings along the way, or you reach a point in the future where it is less expensive to replace it than to repair it – OFCC requires new buildings to have a maintenance and upkeep plan – believes any block building with a brick face can last 100 years if you take care of it

-Todd Swearingen – net zero energy is still an open debate – goal should be to start at the high mark and then step down – finding that by and large officials

have the authority and opportunity for input, and public comment is minimal – focus needs to be on Energy Use Intensity (EUI) – need to look at positives

- Protecting Historic Structures

- President – City Council has received a proposal on protecting two historic structures in the Athens community from a Consortium for Athens County Historic Preservation that consists of (7) members including an architect and several planners to preserve two structures, the Linscott House at Strouds Run State Park and the Hewitt House in the Waterloo Wildlife area – Consortium is in pursuit of discussions with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and would like a letter of support from Council

- Fahl – agrees a letter of support is a good idea

- President – hearing no dissent, a letter of support will be offered

MINUTES
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 25, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair
Kent Butler, Vice-Chair
Sam Crowl, Member
Peter Kotses, Member

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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Appropriations/Transfers
-Risner – the Code Enforcement Office has requested decreasing its supply line by \$1000 and increasing the refund line by same amount – explained rental permit fees were increased after the initial billing and some have double paid, requiring a refund

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Appropriations/Transfers