

City of Athens, Ohio
Board of Housing Appeals Public Meeting
March 5, 2019

Beginning at 4:00 pm, prior to a formal call to order, oaths were administered to all board members and alternates of the Board of Housing Appeals (BHA) by City of Athens Law Director Lisa Eliason in the front conference room on the 1st Floor of Athens City Hall. Paper copies of those oaths were signed by those members and alternates at that time.

The BHA members present were:

Nicholas Bittner, Chairperson; Joe Krause, Vice-Chairperson; Wesley Ratko, Secretary; Brian Miller; Nicholas Polsinelli; Mary Abel (alternate), and Thaden Brient (alternate).

These seven (7) individuals were present for the duration of the meeting.

The City officials present were:

City Council President Chris Knisely, Mayor Steven Patterson, Law Director Lisa Eliason, and City Planner Paul Logue.

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm. by chairperson Nicholas Bittner. There was no formal agenda. Mr. Bittner asked whether anyone was aware of any pending appeals to the city, either filed or forthcoming. No one present was aware of any. Mr. Patterson said that it had been several years since any appeal was filed with the City.

The conversation pivoted to the issue of a formal set of rules and procedures for the Board to have. As of this writing, the Board has yet to formalize and approve any such rules. Ms. Eliason informed the Board they were free to draft their own rules and offered to work with them in completing that task. Mr. Patterson said the rules would be very similar to those of the Board of Zoning Appeals. An adopted set of rules and procedures was required to ensure consistency and transparency in the process of hearing and deciding on appeals.

It was suggested a second meeting be scheduled to discuss a draft document containing those proposed rules prior to their formal adoption by the Board. That meeting was scheduled for April 9, 2019 at 4:00 pm in the front conference room of City Hall.

Chairperson Bittner said he would email copies of old rules received from City of Athens' Director of Development, Enforcement, and Facilities Rick Sirois to every member of the Board and would solicit comments from Board members to bring with them to the April 9 meeting. Mr. Bittner then volunteered to take those comments and to work with Ms. Eliason to draft a new document for consideration and subsequent approval.

Mr. Krause asked whether the Board might benefit from a practice session for training purposes once the bylaws had been formally adopted. Mr. Logue suggested the Board examine transcripts of previous appeals to better understand the nature of the appeals being brought as appeal. No formal action was taken to schedule or plan for such a training session.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m. by a motion from Board alternate Thaden Brient.