

**MINUTES**  
**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 25, 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 Pro-Tem Butler  
Acting Mayor Knisely  
Service-Safety Director Stone

**ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

- Uptown Art Event (street closing)
  - Kotses – introduced Scott Winland, Athens Municipal Arts Commission (AMAC) Member, to present on the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Uptown Art Event
  
  - Scott Winland – briefed Council on last year’s successful event and on the upcoming event – requested closing a portion of Union Street between Court and Congress on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, same location as last year, from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm
  
  - McGee – supports the event – asked if consideration has been given to the block between Court and College, or even expanding the event into that block
  - Winland – moving forward, it would be exciting to see this event grow into a second block – for now the current location is a good one; very picturesque
  
- 2019 Cruise-in Schedule Athens
  - Kotses – a request has been made to close Court Street between Washington and State, on Friday, June 7, August 9, and September 20<sup>th</sup> for the annual cruise-ins from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
  
- ODOT (LPA Agreement)
  - Kotses – ODOT is in the process of preparing plans for a bridge deck overlay project on Athens US 33 over East State Street, and is requesting an LPA agreement with the City since 0.02 miles of the total length of the work is within the City’s corporation boundary – 100% of cost covered by ODOT
  
- Transportation Alternatives Program Grant (application)

-Kotses – request to authorize the Mayor to submit an application and enter into an agreement for this grant

-S-S Director – historically this program has been used for bikeway improvements – it is not technically for “streetscape” improvements, but because this plan services both pedestrians and bicycles it is appropriate – the award year is 2023 – will be used for the cross streets in the uptown area – Washington, State, East Union, potentially President – the “Athens Uptown Area Improvements Project”, proposed is to replace damaged sidewalks, widen sidewalks, where appropriate, upgrade lighting and review signal and lane configuration – part of the City’s Active Transportation Study

-McGee – asked if bike racks would be included

-S-S Director – will include expansion of bike rack parking

-Butler – asked whether bump outs at crosswalks would be part of the project as for added safety and enhancement of the area

-S-S Director – yes, will include bump outs and improve accessibility

- Annual Paving

-S-S Director – list of streets will be available at the April Infrastructure Tour – request is for \$750,000, includes \$250,000 for Ohio University streets to be included in the bid – expenses will come from Street Rehabilitation Fund and Permissive Wheel Tax Fund

-Kotses – a good partnership between the City and the University – asked about different treatments on some streets that don’t necessarily necessitate a full repaving

-S-S Director – recently the City has been using crack sealing – considering doing more micro-surfacing, which is a full width sealant to preserve the asphalt – all streets are rated on condition

-Rob Delach, Morris Avenue – suggested as part of repaving, City should look at bike/pedestrian master plan to address complete streets – low cost opportunities

- Stimson Avenue Improvements Project #315

-S-S Director – need to amend 0-23-18 to increase appropriations and authorization from \$200,000 (preliminary design engineering) to \$630,000 – additional \$430,000 expenditure will include final design engineering and right-of-way acquisition, if necessary – need to appropriate the following: \$365,000 to Street Rehabilitation Fund, 572; \$40,000 to Water Fund, 740; and \$25,000 to Storm Sewer Fund, 755 – construction will begin next year – expect to have \$2.5 million in external funding, of which City’s share is 20%

-Crowl – design has been received for the expected alternative – shared use path is no longer part of this project, but there will be a wider sidewalk of 8', from East State to Cornwell, with a 4 ½ buffer from traffic lanes – should provide for safety and accessibility, and effectively serve the corridor

-S-S Director – noted that a 10' shared use path is not possible due to Stimson's very narrow right-of-way – improvements will be significant for users – added, conduit for fiber-optic cable will be part of project

-Rob Delach, Morris Avenue – concerned that the alternative may not be designed for faster moving bicycles – design mechanisms should be put in place

- Parking Garage (interior enhancements)

-S-S Director – these changes are not structural – is primarily lighting (upgrade to brighter LED), interior/external signage with a space counter, color-coded floors for way-finding, and opening of stairwells (remove doors and all non-loadbearing walls) – two contracts (signage/and all other enhancements) -- \$600,000 endeavor

-Kotses – asked about the timeline

-S-S Director – hopes to have work completed by Halloween

-Crowl – asked about the exterior signage

-S-S Director – driven by sensors at entrance/exit

-Crowl – asked whether the *Essence of Athens* will be incorporated?

-Kotses – each level near elevators will be specific to the *Essence of Athens*

-McGee – a much needed project – asked about addressing ramp walking – it is dangerous

-S-S Director – enhanced stairwells should help

- Road Salt (ODOT contract)

-Kotses – this is an annual contract for winter road salt

-S-S Director – authorizes participation in ODOT's statewide Cooperative Purchasing Program

## **ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. Uptown Art Event
2. 2019 Cruise-in Schedule
3. ODOT (LPA Agreement)
4. Transportation Alternatives Program Grant
5. Annual Paving
6. Stimson Avenue Improvements

7. Parking Garage
8. Road Salt

**MINUTES**  
**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 25, 2019**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Vice-Chair  
Patrick McGee, Member  
Sarah Grace, Member

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials: President Pro Tem Butler  
Acting Mayor Knisely  
Service-Safety Director Stone

**Items Discussed:**

- E-Scooters/E-Bicycles (regulations)
  - S-S Director – legislation will not be specific to the actual e-scooters and e-bicycles, but to the companies that use the public rights-of-way for docked/dockless small vehicle transportation – will require companies to register, pay fees, designate/regulate areas, and to provide a local point of contact
  
  - Risner – asked whether public rights-of-way means use of streets, sidewalks, parks
  - S-S Director – businesses positioning their stored scooters/bicycles on the sidewalk, but not obstructing the sidewalk
  - Risner – concerned that these stored vehicles may be blocking someone's car if placed between meters, precluding exiting parked vehicles
  - S-S Director – legislation will provide structure with which to regulate
  
  - McGee – asked whether there is a partnership plan between the City and University – University has more resources and land for storage spaces
  - S-S Director – City has shared legislation with O.U.'s Transportation and Parking Division for comment – electronic devices can be geo-fenced within particular zones
  
  - Acting Mayor – asked about their use on the bike path
  - S-S Director – State Law is silent on bikeways – locality could decide – this legislation speaks to any kind of docked or dockless transportation storage space
  
  - Risner – asked for a definition of docked/dockless
  - S-S Director – dockless, the company uses a GPS locator to pick up the shared vehicles, charges them, and returns them the following morning to

the r-o-w space – docked, uses a charging station overnight – don't anticipate seeing many docked stations, most will be dockless

-Grace – has visited a city and used docked bicycles – is looking forward to having this in Athens – great to have varied forms of transportation available – applauds the effort of approving policies and having them in place before such systems arrive in our community

-Kotses – regulations for proper usage of our public rights-of-way and associated fees need to be in place – noted that docked e-transportation is more expensive and less convenient – also sees the dockless shared vehicles being more popular

-Risner – questioned the legal basis by which businesses can simply come in and use the city's public rights-of-way as a for profit business

-Kotses – businesses are currently doing just that

-S-S Director – this is a business use in the public rights-of-way – need to focus attention on a registration fee in order to recoup management costs – maybe this is something the City doesn't want and would like to ban, however, from a practical transportation perspective there is value

-McGee – important to consider now the best locations for these shared vehicle storage areas

-S-S Director – agrees – City should identify areas in high-use locations

-Rob Delach, Morris Avenue – great idea to be proactive – many cities have been placed in the position of reacting to these shared transportation vehicles – in the agreement, the City needs to request de-personalized open data be provided for better management of services

-S-S Director – proposed legislation does request this data

- 7055/7065 N. Blackburn Road

-S-S Director – two lots were purchased around 1995 through a Community Development Block Grant and Community Housing Improvement Program to provide affordable housing to low-to moderate income families – the Athens Metropolitan Authority (AMHA) has managed these properties, while the City is responsible for maintenance and taxes – City is interested in accepting AMHA's proposal to purchase 7055 North Blackburn Road from the City for the appraised value of \$124,000, and in turn the City will donate 7065 North Blackburn Road to the AMHA, explaining that the AMHA is not permitted to buy two adjacent properties – this is a logical transfer

-McGee – will City receive the proceeds from the sale

-S-S Director – yes

-Grace – it makes sense that these properties should be under the ownership of the AMHA and to ensure they remain in the market for LMI housing – if there is flexibility in expending the funds from the sale she would like to see some of it be earmarked for the City’s future affordable housing endeavors

**ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. Blackburn Road
2. R-O-W Shared Transportation

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

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

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials: President Pro-Tem Butler  
Acting Mayor Knisely  
Service-Safety Director Stone

**Item Discussed:**

- Fair Housing (HAPCAP presentation)
  - Nathan Simons, Community Development Coordinator – HAPCAP now administers the City’s Fair Housing Programs along with its CDBG programs
  
  - Sean Brooks, Community Development Manager – spoke about Fair Housing and the prohibitions of discrimination against protected groups –prohibitions include not only denial of dwelling units, but also withholding or misrepresenting information, steering, setting higher standards of credit worthiness, quoting different prices, terms or conditions for financing, insurance or sale, or any kind of differential treatment based upon the home seekers’ protected group – racial discrimination and persons with disabilities make up 80% of total complaints across the nation – violation complaints can be reported locally by calling 740-767-4500 – there is an 800 number as well
  
  - McGee – asked if these fair housing regulations apply to all renters
  - Brooks – if there are fewer than four rental units, and the landlord has made the renter aware of that, the landlord can stipulate to certain regulations
  - McGee – questioned whether a landlord can specify renting only to those of the same sex
  - Brooks – that would be a legal issue



-Kotses – asked about the cost of this service to the City, and how this information is conveyed to our citizens

-Simons – administration of fair housing is earmarked as part of the CDBG program and is \$3,700 annually – fair housing materials will be distributed in various locations around the City in April

-McGee – asked what agency handled the City’s fair housing prior to HAPCAP

-President Pro Tem – Don Eager of Eager and Associates

-McGee – asked about the number of complaints reported

-S-S Director – feedback from Eager and Associates was that fair housing violations are rare, mostly landlord-tenant law violations

-Simons – agreed

- Municipal Refuse and Recycling (contract update)

-Crowl – Administration plans to move forward with a request for bids in early April that will include evaluation criteria on technical aspects of the program, sustainability aspects, as well educational and outreach

-S-S Director – three years ago the City did its first Request for Proposals (RFP) for a solid waste contract after the separation of Athens Hocking Recycling (AHRC) and the Athens Hocking Solid Waste District as a governmental agency – (AHRC), a non-profit agency, was the successful bidder and has been handling the City’s garbage, recycling and pilot composting for the last three years – this is a competitive contract and Council will need to authorize accepting a bid along with authorization of the expenditure – the current annual budget has appropriated the funds for the first year of the contract – expectation is that prices will increase due to losses in the recycling market worldwide – later this year the Administration will ask Council to review a cost/rate analysis – he will provide Council with a copy of the RFP evaluation criteria

-McGee – asked about the number of bids received three years ago

-S-S Director – two bids were received, AHRC and a private hauler

-McGee – asked whether single-stream recycling continues to be a better option than source-separation

-Stone – Ohio EPA has issued a directive that we need to recycle and divert more waste from the landfill – gold standard is single-stream – due to global changes, part of that single-stream recycling ends up in the landfill

-President – questioned what materials are being removed from single-stream

-Bruce Underwood, Exec. Dir. of AHRC – single-stream has seen a higher diversion rate due to number of participants, easier for residents – 24.97% diversion (State goal is 25%), up significantly from 2008-2009 when the diversion rate was less than 9%

-McGee – understands contamination is a problem with single-stream  
-Underwood – there is a higher contamination rate with single-stream  
-McGee – asked for a definition of diversion  
-Underwood – diversion is all of the recycling that is collected and not sent to the landfill, as opposed to the recovery rate which is of all of the recycling that comes into the facility, what is the percentage that gets recycled – about 91 ½% is recovered (we are small scale and non-profit)

-Crowl – understands that film plastic is no longer a collectible because there is no market nearby for that material – asked about compostable plastics and whether they are considered a contaminant to recyclables

-Underwood – plant based plastics are a contamination – there is a lot of confusion with so many different types of plastics in use

-Crowl – so, slogan being used by AHRC is: if in doubt, leave it out – pointed out that there is a lot of good information online from AHRC

-Risner – asked if there is still a profit in recyclables, if it is breaking even, or is there a loss

-Underwood – it is still more expensive to throw material away – recycling is not profitable – adjusting rates to remain sustainable

-S-S Director – residential rates would be higher if everything was sent to the landfill

-McGee – recycling nationally, percentage has dropped to 20% globally and questioned AHRC's rate of 90% plus

Underwood – again, there is a diversion rate, a recovery rate, and a participation rate – AHRC's recovery rate is much higher because we are on a much smaller scale than others in the state and across the nation – AHRC processed about 6000 tons last year, while other facilities are processing hundreds of thousands of tons – because our scale is much smaller and AHRC is a non-profit it is AHRC's mission to divert as much as possible, and can operate a bit differently to ensure that higher recovery rate

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

Members in Attendance: Kent Butler, Chair  
Sarah Grace, Member

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials: Acting Mayor Knisely  
Service-Safety Director Stone  
Chief of Police Pyle

**ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

- Body Worn Cameras Update (APD)
  - S-S Director – Administration has reviewed the pluses and minuses of officers using body worn cameras – earlier, a major concern was with generation of public records and managing data – as service has matured, a workable process is now in place – requested authorization to enter into a 5-year contract, funds have been appropriated this year and will be budgeted annually – this equipment is specialized technology with programming services that are proprietary, limited to a single source provider, and does not require competitive bidding
  - Chief – has received a quote from AXON Technologies, formerly Taser International, an industry leader – City is a Taser agency, so looking for equipment that would be interactive with the Taser system – system uses Cloud technology – peer agencies are using this company and have reported they are highly satisfied – AXON has agreed to a trade-in value upgrade for older Tasers to the Taser 7 (top of the line) that integrates with the camera system and can be added on to both vehicles and service weapons – the contract will be for 20 cameras and 20 Tasers to outfit all patrol officers – if multiple officers are at the scene and a Taser is deployed, all cameras are activated in the area, without officer action, can even capture a buffer that can be set to record up to 9 minutes prior to the camera being activated – if lights and sirens are turned on or a service weapon is drawn, all cameras in the area will be automatically activated – 5-year contract costs is \$214,179 with discounts and credits
  - Grace – impressive system, especially the activation of all cameras in the vicinity

-Chief – added, the software package provides unlimited storage that interfaces with APD’s current records management system and allows the uploading of all AVI files not collected through AXOM, and even provides login access to local prosecutors –this package also includes training materials and recertification for 20 officers – true cost to City will be somewhat less than \$44,000 per year

- Critical Infrastructure (CDBG grant application)  
-S-S Director – Council authorization is needed to make application – the City is applying for the same project as last year, the WWTP Dewatering Equipment – this equipment will provide more flexibility in managing bio-solids – this is a \$500,000 grant project – was denied twice in 2018, but the City has been encouraged to apply for the same project this year, emphasizing the critical nature of the project for safety, both locally and regionally

**ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. Body Worn Cameras
2. Critical Infrastructure