

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour. Due to concerns with COVID-19 the following members met via videoconference: Clodfelter, Crowl, Fahl, Kotses, Grace, Risner and Smedley.

Also present via videoconference: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, and Law Director Eliason.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Risner moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Session held March 16 and Special Session held March 23, 2020; Kotses seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Knisely conveyed that City Council Members are in receipt of the City Treasurer's 2019 Interest Income report. Interest income was slightly lower than the projected amount.

An email comment was received from former Councilman Butler, thanking the Council and Administration for leading our City during this difficult and challenging time.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- Service-Safety Director Andrew Stone has been called to active duty by the Ohio National Guard to serve at the State level during COVID-19. Police Chief Tom Pyle is serving as Interim Service-Safety Director.
- Provided an update on challenges citizens are experiencing during this COVID-19 period. He encouraged citizens to take a look at the Governor's COVID-19 guidance to Ohio travel. Essential business is still authorized however non-essential travel from outside states into Ohio does come with a 14-day self-quarantine to be safe. There are currently 4,450 cases in the State of Ohio, with Athens County having only three total cases with one fatality associated with COVID-19.
- APD issued warnings to residents of several house parties over the past two weekends. For public health reasons, the City Police Department has been asked to disperse any large outdoor gatherings, and issue citations for being in violation of the State health directive for gatherings of more than 10 people in one place.

- Additional City park facilities have been closed including basketball courts and the skate park.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-45-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WITH THE ATHENS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED NORTH OF LUHRIG ROAD (TOWNSHIP ROAD 242). Fahl moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-46-20

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION FROM LE-AX REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT FOR USE OF THE CITY'S RIGHT-OF-WAY. Fahl moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-47-20

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT TO NEW CARPENTER HALL, LLC, 19 EAST CARPENTER STREET. Fahl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-48-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ALLOCATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020. Grace moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Discussion: Fahl urged residents to complete their census. These are the types of grant awards that are predicated on our population.

0-49-20

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$390,000 OF NOTES BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWING NOTES PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO PAY PART OF THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING NEW PARKING METERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Crawl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-50-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Crawl move for Adoption; Risner seconded. Discussion: Risner asked if State funds currently being released to update court computerization is reflective of this ordinance, or whether it is completely separate.

Crowl responded that it is completely separate.

Grace explained that the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court was speaking about new funding, specifically to allow courts to do hearings via videoconference during COVID-19. This ordinance refers to a previous grant award.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-51-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT BIDS AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING OF THE RETAINING WALL AND REPAIR OF THE COLUMBIA AVENUE SEWER PROJECT (#325); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Grace moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet FEMA grant guidelines for project completion by June 30; Crowl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Grace moved for Adoption; Kotses seconded. Discussion: Grace explained that this is a failing sewer line that was impacted by flooding in February, 2018 when a state of emergency was declared. The City has just received approval from FEMA for reimbursement of 87.5% of the cost of this necessary repair.

Kotses thanked the Administration for due diligence on this project. This failing line impacts several residents, and he is pleased that the repair is moving forward.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-52-20

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).

0-53-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kotses moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet ODOT's April 24 application deadline; Crowl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Kotses moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-54-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS, WHERE NECESSARY, FOR CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING OF THE STIMSON AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (#315). Discussion: Crowl indicated that according to EPW Director Heady this is a very complicated project that will

hopefully bury the utilities and accommodate the need for property acquisitions, surveys, and easements. Drainage design was also necessary, as well as a design to eliminate right-of-way and driveway impacts along Stimson Avenue. This is a main artery into the City and is a very important project.

0-55-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A SUPPLEMENTAL ELECTRIC LINE EASEMENT WITH THE OHIO POWER COMPANY (AEP) TO BE LOCATED ON CITY PROPERTY CURRENTLY LEASED TO ATHENS STATION, LTD. ON DEPOT STREET; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Fahl moved for Suspension of the Rules so that AEP's work can be completed during April, causing less of an impact on businesses that are closed due to COVID-19 governmental restrictions. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Fahl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Risner moved to Accept AMAC's Art Outside of the Box recommendations (see attached); Clodfelter seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President Knisely announced the Transfer of a liquor permit **from** Neighborhood Hospitality, Inc. dba, Applebees, 547 East State Street **to** Legacy Apple III, LLC, dba, Applebees Grill and Bar at the same address. City Council responses need to be postmarked no later than April 20, 2020.

Fahl moved to Accept the February, 2020 Credit Card Transactions; Grace seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Crowl moved to Appoint Jasmine Facun as a non-resident member of the Environment & Sustainability Commission; Fahl seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

Kotses moved to Reappoint David Ingram to the Shade Tree Commission for a term that will expire on December 31, 2021; Risner seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Smedley shared that Ohio Today magazine has an article about Service-Safety Director Stone's current military role helping with COVID-19.

Clodfelter encouraged voters to make early requests for absentee ballots to the Athens County Board of Elections. Requests must be submitted by April 25th. She urged voters not to wait until the deadline.

Crowl asked where the Art Outside of the Box artwork will be placed. He is impressed with the work, and commended our local artists.

Mayor Patterson responded that these art wraps will continue to be placed on traffic control boxes.

At approximately 8:00 p.m. Crowl moved to Adjourn the meeting; Fahl seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council