

**MINUTES**  
**CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 13, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Members in Attendance via Videoconference: Sarah Grace, Chair  
Chris Fahl, Vice-Chair  
Beth Clodfelter, Member

Administrators and/o  
Other Elected Officials via Videoconference: President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson

**ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

- Kimes Right-of-Entry (agreement)
  - Grace – this is part of the Kimes Reservoir Project (#324) – Public Works Director Heady believes if the booster station can be put at a lower elevation it could improve pump pressure and allow the City to service more area to the south and west – soil borings will be required to test this new location and a right-of-entry agreement is needed as the land is owned by the Kimes Convalescent Center
  
  - Mayor – by lowering the booster station the City will have greater access to water – conversations have taken place with property owners in the area for a possible housing development

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

1. Kimes

**MINUTES**  
**APRIL 13, 2020**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Council Members in Attendance via Videoconference: Beth Clodfelter  
Sam Crowl  
Peter Kotses  
Sarah Grace  
Jeff Risner  
Arian Smedley

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials via Videoconference: President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Code Director Riggs

**Items Discussed:**

- Ohio University (off-campus student move-out)  
-Mayor Patterson – most leases end in early May and many students will be returning to the Athens area at the same time – a large number of students will return when the City is near, at, or slightly beyond the peak of COVID-19 – he has communicated this concern with the Governor, Ohio Health Director, Ohio University President Nellis and leaders of other University towns – he encouraged citizens to stay at home as much as they can during this time period from the last week in April through mid-May in order to keep the pandemic curve flat, to avoid peaks accompanying the influx of people into the City, particularly move-out weekends
  
- Solid Waste and Recycling (contract and rates)  
  
-Crowl – in the Fall of 2019, the City administration convened a refuse and recycling task force in order to adequately prepare for the bidding process; he served as a member – the bid process was successful and the City is ready to move forward with awarding the contract – explored adding composting to this service – the addition of the composting program will adhere to the City’s Sustainability Plan – Code Director Riggs will provide the details being recommended by the City administration for the new contract  
  
-Riggs – reported that two bids were received, one from the Athens Hocking Recycling Center (AHRC) and the other from Rumpke, with the lowest and best bidder being AHRC – their bid amount from 2019 services to 2020 increased

significantly, with an additional increase in July, 2019 – current City service fees can no longer support these revised costs – in order that this Solid Waste Fund line, 760, can remain self-supporting the solid waste fees will need to be increased (see attached PowerPoint presentation)

-Crowl – pointed out that the task force talked a lot about the composting pilot and the cost of adding composting services citywide – approximately 100 residents who participated in the composting pilot program, then elected to pay, in order to keep this service, at the rate of approximately \$20 per month – wants the community to understand that if composting is added to our city services, the increases are not solely due to the composting, but because the solid waste costs have increased across the board with the bottoming out of the recycling industry – residential rates have not increased since 2010 – reminded all, the City of Athens was the first in the State to have curbside recycling and can continue to be a leader in Ohio by offering composting services – noted that some of the discounts being considered can be absorbed if the City moves forward with Option #2, 5% above break even proposed rates – goal is to have less solid waste going to the landfill through increased recycling and composting efforts – added, it is the organic materials in the landfills that, in the absence of oxygen, encourages methane producing bacteria to thrive and that is where a lot of greenhouse gases are produced – food waste still has value

-Smedley – asked what the surplus dollars in Options #2 and #3 would be spent on, and if the City would be open to subsidizing any individual on a fixed-income, not just senior citizens, but those with disabilities

-Crowl – the surplus funds could possibly be used to purchase standardized containers with lids

-Riggs – easy to end up in the red if opting for a zero balance causing the City to supplement with funds from the General Fund – nice to have a buffer – at 5% over breakeven the City would average about \$100,000 in the black

-Clodfelter – increases sound reasonable – agrees with Crowl that Citywide curbside composting is a great service to add for our environment – however, while the increase seems reasonable, these are tough times for many people – mandating standardized garbage bins along with the fee increase seems to add insult to injury – suggested that new bins be optional and not forced

-Riggs – the numbers without the containers would save a little bit of money – he will provide those change in numbers

-Crowl – absolutely agrees with this being a difficult time for increases – unfortunately, our refuse still needs to be picked up come July 1<sup>st</sup> and the City needs to have a contract in places – this is an important public health service and the City's costs have gone up – understands the new bins could be eliminated

-President Knisely – believes standard trash can size would be more equitable – this is a one-time fee of approximately \$25,000 of a \$3.6 million dollar contract

-Riggs – added, there is also an ongoing AHRC maintenance fee involved

-Grace – asked if the fee increase would go into effect July 1, or is there any wiggle room that the increased fees could be implemented later -- believes standardized containers of good quality with attached lids would be beneficial in the long-term

-Mayor – will review balance in the current fund line with the possibility of deferring the rate increase – need to think about moving forward with a small annual increase

-Fahl – is pleased that the new rate structure is favorable to customers using fewer containers – believes standardized containers with lids would be helpful to contain garbage

-Smedley – would also like a review to see if the rate increase can be postponed – this is a very unique time, and it would be nice if there is a way to help out our residents

-Risner – questioned how AHRC can justify the increase in their contract – it seems a major part of their cost would be in tipping fees that are based on cubic yards going into the landfill – if residents are reducing the amount of trash, it seems the cost should be going down

-Riggs – the two bids received were fairly close, within 10% of each other – that tells us that the price is fairly reasonable – further, historically the recycling has helped to offset the cost of the solid waste – over the last year or two the value of the recycling material has been drastically reduced – the cost benefit of the recyclables is no longer there

-Risner – asked if the tipping fees are increasing

-Riggs – they are, but not as much as the contract has increased – again, we believe the contract has increased due to the decreased value of the recyclables

-Risner – asked if the set amount of the tipping fee is a part of the contract

-Riggs – explained that the contractor is a not for profit company, just trying to break even while paying their employees a reasonable wage

-Clodfelter – was also curious about the increase – earlier today she spoke with the Executive Director of AHRC and he indicated that the bottoming out of the recycling prices is a big part of the increase in the contract – he cited two specifics driving up the cost of the contract as: 1) the bonding costs have increased, and 2) the contract language mandates that they run a single-axle truck in the uptown area which calls for an additional truck and crew to take care of the uptown -- this carries a number of associated costs on a daily basis which is a significant cost in order to comply with that part of the contract

-Riggs – that single-axle truck has been a part of the contract for several years – not sure whether that has been enforced – in 2019 there was almost a 38% increase from the previous contract

-Crowl – in evaluating the bids in terms of sustainability impact and the benefits they bring, they also looked at the social impact of employees' wages

-Riggs – City wanted those bidding on this contract to pay reasonable wages – prevailing rates were reviewed, differences between union and non-union rates, and there was a conversation with both bidders on their thoughts of what reasonable and fair rates look like – City requested a minimum of \$15.00 per hour be paid to the solid waste collectors, which is a part of this contract and is new this year

-Kotses – asked if the cost is the same for each year of the contract

-Riggs – that is correct

-Kotses – asked about the current balance of the Garbage Fund

-Mayor – will provide that information

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

1. Solid Waste (contract, rates)

**MINUTES**  
**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 13, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Members in Attendance via Videoconference: Peter Kotses, Chair  
Sam Crowl, Vice-Chair  
Beth Clodfelter, Member

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

**ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

- Mobility Manager (local match)  
-Kotses – this is the annual ask of \$7500 to assist in the funding of a Mobility Manager
  
- -Jessie Schmitzer, Mobility Coordinator – updated recent successes with Athens Public Transit (APT) – Line 7 has been a huge success – last year APT combined with Athens On-Demand Transit under the same and more stable funding source – this also allows opening up Athens On-Demand to the general public, and adding Saturday hours – there are currently 35 Mobility Managers in the State of Ohio, representing different counties – advocating is an important part of this position – these managers are currently working closely with the Ohio Public Transit Association, advocating the inclusion of Public Transportation in the Cares Act, at a time when local revenues are down due to COVID-19 and the Governor’s Stay at Home Order along with social distancing – while under a state of emergency transportation vehicles can be used for things they typically would not be allowed – she is currently collaborating on behalf of APT with United Seniors and the Athens Village to transport groceries directly to residents’ homes, completely free of charge – working on ways to really help the community at this time – APT is operating on a limited basis and only allowing a certain number of riders on the vehicles for both passenger and driver safety – all fares are free
  
- Mayor – asked how the buses are set up to manage physical distancing
- Schmitzer – seats have been caution-taped off – there is no option for riders to sit closer than 6’

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

1. Mobility Manager