

**MINUTES
MAY 29, 2018
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
Auditor Hecht

Items Discussed:

- Refuse/Recycling (increased support costs and one-year contract extension)
 - Fahl – increased costs are due, in part, to the increased costs with processing recyclables
 - McGee --- questioned whether curbside composting is part of the increased cost of the contract, and wonders why there is a difference in accounts based on 8500 accounts vs 4500 accounts
 - President – agrees, there is quite a variation in the number of potential units – would also like clarity on the number of accounts
 - Bruce Underwood, Executive Director of Athens-Hocking Recycling Centers, Inc. (AHRC) – explained that the City used the number 8500 in its bid packet and RFP, when in reality the residential account number is closer to 4500
 - Fahl – asked for a definition of a unit
 - Underwood – a single-family home would be a single Utilities Billing account – multi-units really complicate matters; units are based on the number of water accounts – the unit number continually changes
 - President – asked if the City is moving to 32 gallon containers
 - Underwood – 30 gallon containers are not typically available on the market
 - Fahl – need to revisit and update City Code
 - McGee – asked if Mr. Underwood could break down the cost of the increase in the contract

-Underwood – explained that the curbside composting will be under a separate contract -- increased cost is mostly due to a decrease in the value of recycling commodities, revenue from recyclables has decreased by about 50% in the last 8 months – glass was a revenue, but now there is a \$25.00 cost per ton for transport – there are a lot of individual factors that lead into the contract increases – aside from the commodities market with recycling, the uptown area is a big concern for AHRC with the amount of material, specifically refuse, so AHRC is trying to align the true costs of providing the service with this cost increase

-McGee – questioned whether bars and restaurants are recycling in the uptown area, and asked what effect the new Big Belly containers have had in possibly decreasing the City's costs

-Underwood – many uptown businesses do participate in recycling – cannot give an exact count since many share centralized sites – Big Belly has been a great addition in the uptown area because the containers do encourage recycling and have diverted materials from the landfill

-Kotses – asked about risk of losing plastic recycling

-Underwood – AHRC will continue to recycle rigid plastic, however film plastics have no outlet – while the contract obligates AHRC to collect this type of plastic, it is going to the landfill and, again, is an increased contract cost – may lose other plastics – the global markets dictate the pricing – recycling dynamics are changing

-Fahl – emphasized that environmental good is not always without a cost – recycling is important

-Risner – if there is no market, it would seem the logical step would be that we do everything we can not to have film plastics going into the waste stream

-Underwood – wholeheartedly agrees, however, they still have to be dealt with – AHRC plans to put out a full force educational campaign and outreach about reducing the use of film plastics

-Ed Newman – added, film plastics compact well, so over the course of a year it would be approximately 40 tons a year, or two semi-truckloads – glass recycling is still at a lower cost than sending it to the landfill

-McGee – asked about the cost of the special events (\$14,900 student move-out), and whether this fee covers the community groups that collect and distribute to non-profit groups

-Underwood – the move-out cost specifically provides funds to AHRC to cover extra shifts and manpower, almost around the clock over a 10-day period before, during and after move-out

-McGee – acknowledges this is an immense job and passed along his appreciation for all of the work during this time

-Mayor – questioned there being no market for film plastic

-Underwood – there is a limited market, but not for contaminated film plastic due to single-stream recycling – it has to be very clean – the best method for the film plastic bags used by consumers is to return them to the store, i.e. Kroger, Walmart collect and recycle their plastic bags

-Mayor – asked about the recycling forecast over the next few years

-Underwood – appears grim, however, there are always ebbs and flows with the commodities market, but will be a slow improvement – one of the United States largest exports is waste and other countries are changing their import of waste products – U.S. has a lack of infrastructure to deal with these materials

-Fahl – that the U.S. is exporting its waste should be a take home message

-Underwood -- absolutely

-Kotses – asked about clean recycling

-Underwood – materials should be rinsed – remove as much residue as possible – the cleaner the better – placed in containers loosely, not bagged and not compressed

- City-County Sewer Project (design services)

-President – explained that the County Sewer System will be connected to the City's System – S-S Director Stone requests a transfer of \$200,000 from the Sewer Debt Fund to the Sewer Fund, to then be appropriated to the Sewer Fund, with an authorized expenditure of \$300,000 from the Sewer Maintenance Fund – the City will be reimbursed for these costs

-Auditor – while the \$300,000 will be reimbursed by the County – City does not currently have the cash flow in the Sewer and Sewer Debt Funds to upfront this cost, noting that the annual WWTP debt service is \$1.3 million (\$613,000 due July 1)

-President – will this expenditure jeopardize future loan payments?

-Auditor – it could, the City has a short-term note (\$250,000) due on December 7, and debt service is due again on January 1, and is automatically deducted from our City account and must be available in the account in December

-Risner – asked about the timeline for the reimbursed expenses – this expenditure is predicated on the assumption that the project will proceed, and it most likely will, but there is always the possibility that it may not – County has no way to reimburse the City – the tap fees will happen gradually as the project proceeds and the actual construction commences

-Auditor – has no idea what the County's schedule for repayment will be, which could also be an issue

-Mayor – agrees, this is a dilemma – his understanding is that when grant funding is released is when the City will be reimbursed for the design costs – he is not comfortable moving forward with the expenditure at this time and will discuss it with the County Commissioners

-Auditor – the cash flow in the Sewer Fund also needs to be considered (\$84,000 per month) current fund balance is only \$76,000

-Fahl – understands that Service-Safety Director Stone has indicated that reimbursement won't happen until construction starts (a year or more)

-Risner – given these fund restrictions, what is our course of action?

-Hecht – could take out a short-term loan, probably one-year

-Fahl – asked about the interest rate

-Hecht – about 1% -- she will provide that information

-Risner – that would be helpful

-Mayor – will keep Council apprised of the City's options

-Kotses – can the County pay the interest since this is not a City project?

-understands the failing septic systems in the County are not healthy and this affects our community – believes reimbursement of the interest should be part of agreement with County

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Refuse/Recycling Contract

MINUTES
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MAY 29, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Kent Butler, Chair
Peter Kotses, Vice-Chair
Chris Fahl, Member

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

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Spencer Minnich, COMCorps Member (report of services provided at the Community Center)
-Minnich – is finishing up her position within the COMCorps Program at the Athens Community Center (ACC) in partnership with Hopewell – prior to Minnich’s position, Hopewell provided clients with membership at the ACC to promote physical activity and overall wellness, however, there was a disconnect in that Hopewell could not track use, attendance, or whether their clients were getting the support that they needed with no person at the ACC to assist them – Minnich’s position was created to be that support system for the Hopewell clients – Minnich would be that friendly face at the ACC to help new members obtain their membership and meet with her on a regular basis; she provided an orientation that included a tour of the facility and exercise machines for their physical health; goals were set; interactions were tracked and reported to Hopewell; also, programs were created, supportive of social interaction, by implementing initiatives that would promote inclusion with other community members, and reported back to Hopewell – prior to Minnich’s arrival, between November, 2016 and April, 2017, Hopewell memberships totaled 41, with member logins at 486 – after Minnich’s arrival, November, 2017 through April, 2018, Hopewell memberships and logins doubled, increasing to 87, with 809 logins – Minnich was not there only for Hopewell clients, she supported all community residents in healthy lifestyle changes – focused on healthy eating, color coding the gym equipment to identify cardio, arms, legs, back chest and abdominals, and offered six weeks of free programming “New Year, Even Better You” for all ACC memberships – moving forward a new COMCorps Member will continue from August, 2018 through June, 2019

- Fahl – inclusiveness of ACC services is really important – expanding services beyond Hopewell clients is useful – is a very worthwhile program

-Kotses – does this happen in for profit gyms?

-Minnich – COMCorps only works for non-profits and it is unique that these services are provided free – she is an advocate for healthy living – for-profit gyms focus on personal trainers or dieticians for an additional fee

-President – has noticed changes at the Community Center, i.e. color coding, are very helpful to all ACC members

-Butler – will there be a bridge between Minnich's departure and the next COMCorps provider?

-Minnich – she is working on a continuation plan since there will be a month-long gap between when her contract ends and the other begins

- Wastewater Treatment Plant (dewatering project)

-Butler – preliminary engineering of the WWTP Dewatering Equipment Project (#320) will need an appropriation to the Sewer Maintenance Fund of \$30,000 with an accompanying authorized expenditure

-President – City reviewing most efficient method for dewatering – clarified that City will continue to spread sludge on City-owned land

-Fahl – questioned spreading the higher concentrated, dewatered sludge on the City's acreage – understands its nutrient levels are already too high

-Mayor – nutrient levels are a fine balance and City land is reaching the edge, noting that the dewatered sludge can still be applied to land for growing crops – City is looking into belt press, screw press and centrifuge dewatering equipment – noted that dewatering the sludge decreases the tonnage that is sent to the landfill, which is an operation permissible by the EPA, but is not optimal – would prefer to apply it to the land

-Fahl – not efficient to send sludge to landfill

-Kotses – if City had another farmland parcel, would that help

-Mayor – sludge is currently spread on about 80 acres, will review with staff to see if additional land would be helpful

- National Endowment of the Arts

-Mayor – has been informed of another round to make application for grants – applications are due mid-August – looking at a collaborative grant with Ohio University's College of Fine Arts, and the possibility of crafting a grant for larger art projects – something that could include the 5 schools in the Athens School District, or even County-wide engaging with those in the College of Fine Arts, possibly Ohio University's School of Music and the Columbus Symphony

-Fahl – this is an exciting opportunity, and she is very supportive – would provide a broader educational experience

-President – questioned whether legislation would be needed in order to submit a grant application

-Mayor – yes, legislation would be necessary

-Kotses – asked about a match

-Mayor – equal match up to \$200,000 – equal in all aspects, including Ohio University's partnership

-Butler – is Ohio Arts Council part of this endeavor?

-Mayor – yes

-Butler – everyone benefits through enrichment of the arts

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. WWTP Dewatering
2. Art Grant

MINUTES
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
MAY 29, 2018
7:00 p.m.

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

Administrators and/or

Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Auditor Hecht

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Delinquent Debt Collection Agreement (Municipal Court)
 - Risner – Judge Grace would like to enter into a Delinquent Debt Collection Agreement with the Ohio Attorney General

 - Tonya Dye, Municipal Court Clerk – these collections would be for past due court costs and fines – dunning notifications are being mailed prior to any action being taken

 - Risner – asked about the last time the Court entered into a collection procedure
 - Dye – she is not aware of any other time that a collection agency has been utilized – has been handled in-house through dunning letters – using a collection agency will take the burden off law enforcement by trying to track down these offenders through a warrant
 - Risner – asked about the collection fee charged by the Attorney General
 - Dye – is a percentage of what is collected, she believes it is 7% – Law Director is reviewing the agreement – certain debts cannot be collected, i.e. those who are currently incarcerated, Code Enforcement violations, nothing under \$100

 - Crowl – asked about the approximate amount owed to the Court
 - Dye – approximately \$250,000

- Appropriations
 - Risner – the following appropriations have been requested:
 - \$20,000 to Diversion Fund, 232, T.C. 100 – changes in personnel duties have shifted costs
 - \$50,000 to Sewer Maintenance Fund, 750.635, T.C. 100 – additional payroll expenses through the end of the year

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Delinquent Debt Collection
2. Appropriations

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MAY 29, 2018
7:00 p.m.

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

Administrators and/or

Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Auditor Hecht

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Athens County Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACCVB) (summer special event)
 - Kotses – ACCVB is requesting to close Union Street between Congress and Court on Monday, July 9, from 5pm to 9pm to host 220 motorcycles associated with the Vulcan Riders National Gathering
 - Paige Alost – event will be July 10-12th, participants will be riding the Ohio's Windy 9 routes during their time here from 8-13th – anticipate about 500 people – will equate to about \$900,000 spent in the community – also will need to ban parking in the event area
 - President – asked about the group
 - Alost – Kawasaki Vulcan cruising motorcycle
 - Mayor – requested a coordinated route to the Union Street portion of the event

- NW Bikeway Spur (LPA agreement, and project authorization)
 - Kotses – authorization is requested to enter into an LPA Federal Project Agreement with ODOT for construction of the NW Bikeway Spur, Phase III – will connect University Estates over the Hocking River – will also need to appropriate \$311,659.20 to the Small Cities ODOT Fund and \$98,115 to the Street Fund, and authorize a total expenditure of \$452,769.20: \$311,659.20 from the Small Cities ODOT Fund, and \$141,110.00 from the Street Fund, that includes \$43,995 to cover some engineering costs

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. ACCB
2. NW Bikeway Spur LPA
3. NW Bikeway Project Authorization