

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 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, Interim Service-Safety Director Pyle, Law Director Eliason, and Auditor Hecht.

REAPPOINT CLERK OF COUNCIL:

Clodfelter moved to reappoint Debra Walker as Clerk of Council after her July 31, 2020 retirement and return to work on August 1, 2020; Grace seconded. Reappointment was approved unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Grace moved approval of the minutes from the Regular Session of Council held on June 15, 2020 and the Special Sessions held on June 22 and July 13, 2020; Risner seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Member Smedley thanked all those who helped with the mask PSA project. Along with City public officials and staff, over 30 members in the community volunteered to participate.

Clodfelter asked where the mask PSA can be accessed.

Smedley responded that it is being shown on The Government Channel and shared on YouTube and Facebook, and is actually a series of several PSAs.

Council Member Kotses reminded the public that the annual street paving is underway beginning tomorrow with the Richland Avenue roundabout.

Council Member Crowl announced a meeting of the Environment & Sustainability Commission on Wednesday, August 5, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. These meetings will continue to be held monthly via Zoom in the immediate future on the first Wednesday of the month.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson announced the following:

- Columbus Circle, southern entrance, will be closed to traffic for street repair tomorrow through Friday, August 7th.
- A Columbia Gas payment assistance program is available to customers having difficulty meeting their monthly bill by calling 800-344-4077, or messaging Columbia Gas on Facebook or Twitter.

- Athens County will be hosting a free COVID-19 pop-up testing site through the Ohio Department of Health from 1-6 p.m., August 7, at Athens High School. Anyone can get this no cost test. No appointment is necessary nor health care provider referral.

Clodfelter asked if those wanting to be tested need to be showing symptoms.

Mayor Patterson noted that the information he has does not indicate that symptoms must be present to receive the test.

- Stressed to Governor DeWine the need for free pop-up testing sites within the City upon return of Ohio University students to campus on August 24th.
- Safety Day was canceled this year due to COVID-19, however, City staff have been asked to remember and honor former employee Mike Stanley who lost his life while on duty.
- Reminded everyone to complete their census.

Auditor Hecht reminded Council that the City is currently being audited by the State, and that it will continue through August 31st.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-86-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 78-20, AMENDING THE 2020 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Crawl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to allow Municipal Court to expend the grant funds received from the Ohio Supreme Court; Clodfelter seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crawl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-87-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE; AND AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE INTERFUND TRANSFERS. Crawl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to allow the Auditor to transfer the funds for current expenditures; Smedley seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crawl moved for Adoption; Kotses seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-88-20

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$283,300 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 IMPROVEMENTS TO THIS MUNICIPALITY'S SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-89-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A PRIOR YEAR EXPENSE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to pay this past due amount; Grace seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crowl moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-90-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 51-20 AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING OF THE RETAINING WALL AND REPAIR OF THE COLUMBIA AVENUE SEWER PROJECT (#325). Grace moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to prevent a work stoppage on this project; Clodfelter seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Grace moved for Adoption; Kotses seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-91-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ATHENS AND OHIO UNIVERSITY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Crowl moved to reappoint Aimee Delach to serve an additional term on the Environment & Sustainability Commission; Clodfelter seconded. Reappointment was approved unanimously.

Smedley moved to appoint Clair Gysegem to the Commission on Disabilities; Grace seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

Clodfelter moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Mark Snider to the Historic Preservation Commission; Fahl seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

Kotses moved the appointments of Dawn McCarthy and Micah McCarey to the Community Relations Commission; Grace seconded. Appointments were approved unanimously.

Risner moved to Accept the Auditor's June, 2020, Financial Reports; Smedley seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Grace moved to Accept the May and June, 2020, Credit Card Transactions; Kotses seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 8:45 p.m. Clodfelter moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining, and invited the Mayor, Interim Service-Safety Director, Auditor, and Law Director to attend; Grace seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Smedley, aye; Risner, aye; Crowl, aye; Fahl, aye; Kotses, aye; Grace, aye; and Clodfelter, aye.

At approximately 9:10 p.m., Crowl moved to come out of Executive Session; Grace seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. The Regular Session was reconvened and Fahl moved to adjourn the meeting; Grace seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council