

Council Members in attendance via videoconference: Clodfelter, Crowl, Fahl, Grace, Kotses, Risner and Smedley.

Also present via videoconference: President Knisely and Mayor Patterson.

Attendance via videoconference by the Public: Emily Prince, Kyra Leckrone, Brandon Thompson, and David Forster.

President Knisely opened the public hearing to discuss the Campbell Street area rezoning; a recommendation by the Planning Commission. This change in zoning would be from B-3 to M-Industrial (see attached map).

Council Member Fahl commented that this change will help diversify our economy from service and education into expanded manufacturing opportunities.

Council Member Clodfelter believes this is a very wise move to help create more jobs locally.

Hearing no further questions or comments, the hearing was adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 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, Auditor Hecht, and Law Director Eliason.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Risner moved approval of the minutes from the Regular Session of Council held August 17, 2020; Kotses seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Member Fahl has been contacted by a few residents about light pollution. She noted that the City is a dark sky-friendly community and light pollution is regulated.

President Knisley indicated that in 2004 the City was presented a “Friend of the Stars Award” for recognizing excellence in outdoor lighting.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson reported that the Richland Avenue pedestrian passageway is open to pedestrian traffic only. The roadway is to be completed and opened by the end of this month or early October.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-94-20

AN ORDINANCE REZONING 42 ELLIOT STREET, 20, 21 AND 25 CAMPBELL STREET, AND THE ABANDONED RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM A B3 ZONE (BUSINESS) TO AN M-INDUSTRIAL ZONE.

0-95-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 29, HOUSING REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 29.02, DIVISION OF HOUSING INSPECTION.

0-96-20

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT TO ROBERT AND LOIS WHEALEY, OWNERS, 100-102 MILL STREET, TO ALLOW A FENCE.

0-97-20

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION FROM SPECTRUM MID-AMERICA, LLC, DBA SPECTRUM (ULTIMATE CONTROL BY CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS) FOR USE OF THE CITY'S RIGHT-OF-WAY. Fahl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet the 60-day application approval deadline; Clodfelter seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Fahl moved for Adoption; Grace seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-98-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A TEMPORARY EASEMENT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO POWER COMPANY (AEP) FOR INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-101-20

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE CITY OF ATHENS COVID-19 CITY UTILITY ASSISTANCE RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH HOCKING ATHENS PERRY COMMUNITY ACTION (HAPCAP) TO ADMINISTER SAID PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet CARES Act funding deadlines; Clodfelter seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Crowl moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-102-20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Crowl moved for Suspension of the Rules, again, in order to meet CARES Act funding deadlines; Fahl seconded. Crowl moved for Adoption; Smedley seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION FOR FIRST READING:

R-12-20

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. Discussion: Crowl indicated that an estimate of the tax rates to be levied, 2.60 for Athens Township and 2.40 for Canaan Township properties.

Risner explained that the monies being levied are essentially our reimbursement for maintenance of roadways, guardrails, bridges, etc. that are within our jurisdiction; reimbursement from the County for City expenses.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Risner reminded residents that garbage/recycling/compost pickup will be a day late this week due to the holiday.

Fahl reminded those who have not yet completed their census information to please do so before September 30th.

President Knisley indicated that response from off-campus student areas is low. It is extremely important to count each person, as approximately \$1200 per person is generated for City program funds and representation.

Clodfelter reminded all that the deadline for voter registration is October 5th. Also, the Athens County Board of Elections is looking for republicans to be poll workers. Polls cannot be open without a republican and democrat at each polling site.

Crowl moved the reappointments of Stefan Gleissberg and Austin Babrow to the Environment & Sustainability Commission; Clodfelter seconded. Reappointments were approved unanimously.

Fahl moved to Accept the Auditor's July, 2020, Credit Card Transactions; Crowl seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

At approximately 7:45 p.m. Fahl moved to Adjourn; Grace seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council