

**MINUTES**  
**CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 10, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Members in Attendance:

Micah McCarey, Chair  
Sarah Grace, Member  
Sam Crowl, Member  
Alan Swank, Member

Administrators and  
Other Elected Officials:

President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Service-Safety Director Stone  
Auditor Hecht

**ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

- City/County Sewer Expansion, Project #317  
-McCarey – Administration is requesting authorization for design, construction, and construction engineering of the Dairy Lane/Stagecoach sewer, and to appropriate funds and authorize the expenditure

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

1. Project #317

**MINUTES**  
**APRIL 10, 2023**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Council Members in Attendance:

Sam Crowl  
Sarah Grace  
Micah McCarey  
Jeff Risner  
Solveig Spjeldnes  
Alan Swank  
Ben Ziff

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials:

President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Service-Safety Director Stone

**Items Discussed:**

- Ukraine (Sister/Mentor City)
  - President – Mayor Patterson provided documents from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) HOVERLA program for the proposed Sister City of Ostroh, Ukraine, located in the northwestern region
  
  - Mayor – was approached during the National League of Cities Conference about creating a partnership to assist the government of Ukraine – to progress and strengthen decentralization reform by supporting local governance institutions to become more self-reliant, accountable to citizens, and able to provide services effectively – USAID also assists the government of Ukraine to clarify defining levels of government, respective authorities, and their responsibilities – part of the program is to provide mentoring by engaging with the City Council of Ostroh, Ukraine – partnership agreement will come to Council as part of a one-reading resolution – also looking at Athens becoming a member of Sister Cities International with an annual membership fee of \$440 to further strengthen this relationship with Ukraine
  
  - Swank – asked about engaging in interactive work
  - Mayor – yes, can engage via Zoom, Teams, etc. – could even establish some in-person exchanges
  
  - Spjeldnes – asked about the informal Ostroh Sister City established with Beaufort, South Carolina – wonders if they still have a relationship and how that may affect our relationship

-Mayor – not aware, but will find out – Athens had a relationship with Kamake, Japan during the Abel administration – it wouldn't be uncommon for international and U.S. cities to have multiple relationships with other cities

- House Bill 33, FY23-24 Operating Budget

As an employee of Ohio University in the Division of Diversity and Inclusion, Council Member McCarey recused himself as having a conflict of interest on both HB33 and SB83

-Spjeldnes – is aware of proposed amendments to the Budget Bill to include sections on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) that would eliminate University programming and mandatory training

-President – further, it states that no institution of higher education would be able to solicit a diversity statement as part of an admissions process, or grant preferential consideration based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation

-Swank – spoke with an educational lobbyist in Columbus – shared that many institutions of higher education are laying low on this because of possible repercussions – also, he spoke with Representative Edwards' Office as it relates to HB 33, asking if this in any way shape or form applies to municipalities, and was informed that it does not; this is strictly state higher education – he would feel better about advancing a resolution in opposition to these measures if Council was in receipt of a request, in writing, from either the President of Ohio University and/or Board of Trustees

-Spjeldnes – agrees that guidance from Ohio University would be helpful before moving forward with objections to HB 33

- Senate Bill 83, Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act

Council Member Swank recused himself as having a conflict of interest due to his employment at Muskingum College

-President – this Bill speaks to both private and state colleges – among other items, it addresses bias in the classroom – prevents teachers from going on strike – DEI training will no longer be required – must provide syllabus transparency – 3 credit hours will be required of American Government/History

-Spjeldnes – added HB83 would ban mandatory DEI programs and training, ban affinity groups in affirmative action policies, ban public positions on controversial issues such as advantages and disadvantages based on race or sex, ban relationships with China such as receiving donations, gifts and study abroad programs – this Bill compromises quality education – controls how things are

taught, how professors are evaluated, faculty workload policies, and required punishment – if rules are violated could affect tenured professors who could lose their tenure or their job – this is an unconscionable intrusion into free education and free speech – in addition, “SB 83 is particularly harmful to social work education as specific course work related to anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion is a requirement for accreditation.” – if this is passed, social work education would lose its accreditation across the state – this would create a run on students and faculty leaving the state, and create a terrible whitewash of history – she is completely infuriated by this Bill

-Risner – feels this Bill is outrageous

-Grace – language seems preposterous – believes it goes against freedom of speech and thought – is fully in support of opposing this Bill

-Ziff – shamed those who support this Bill

-Crowl – supports a resolution of opposition

-Spjeldnes – this is happening nationwide – need to make a strong statement, and stop this effort

-Mayor – will seek information from the Inter-University Council of Ohio from 14 State Colleges and Universities as to their plan moving forward – believes this would be very helpful information to Council as this is being considered

-Lucille Popa, West Hills Drive – shared attending a workshop on racial equity – believes such group therapy workshops are necessary

# FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

## MINUTES: APRIL 10, 2023

Members in Attendance:

Sam Crowl, Chair  
Jeff Risner, Member  
Solveig Spjeldnes, Member  
Ben Ziff, Member

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials:

President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Service-Safety Director Stone  
Auditor Hecht

### ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Fire Department Hiring Grant
  - Crowl – AFD received a grant to fund 2.5 firefighters for 2 years – this grant will help the department maintain necessary staffing levels – currently the City has 15 firefighters and 6 lieutenants – the department is down 9 positions, (2) true vacancies, (5) new firefighters going through probation, and (2) on extended medical leave – administration is requesting Council to change the current staffing ordinance from 15 to 18 firefighters that would include a sunset clause that it would return to 15 through attrition – this temporary increase will assist in avoiding gaps that cause lots of overtime
  - Service-Safety Director Stone – this is an Ohio EMA ARPA First Responder grant award (approximately \$460,000) – explained that in 2023, 78% of overtime expenditures are to cover minimum staffing (over the six pay periods – of 2,663 hours of overtime, 2,079 were to meet minimum staffing) – over that 12 week period the cost was about \$100,000
  - Mayor – added other percentages for overtime are 9% for training, 11% for all calls, and 2% for other, overwhelmingly it is being used to maintain minimum staffing for safety
  - Spjeldnes – is in favor of this needed increase in staffing
  - Ziff – suggested not including a sunset clause – prefers having the additional staffing permanently
  - S-S Director – would want to look very carefully at growing the force
  - Swank – asked about an analysis of overtime since 2010
  - S-S Director – will provide that information – feels this is a unique period where many firefighters hired in the 90's are ending their careers and exiting – is cyclical

- Certification Prior to Entering Orders (Auditor's Office policy)
  - Crowl – Auditor certifies electronic submission of fund encumbrances before entering into contracts or purchases are made – standard purchasing procedures can be bypassed in an emergency situation as long as the Auditor certifies the purchase as a “then and now” (the funds are currently in the treasury or in the process of being collected, even though not approved prior to the purchase) – certifications over \$3000 must come to City Council for an additional authorization/endorsement – Council must then pass their satisfaction/approval, within 30 days of payment, by ordinance – Council will be required to move quickly to meet this time period
  
  - Auditor – this purchasing process has been added to the Auditor's financial handbook
  
- Amend 0-15-23
  - Crowl – reduce the interfund transfer from Water Fund to Water Debt Fund by \$4000
  
- Appropriations
  - \$10,000 to General Fund, Fire, capital, for SCBA equipment grant, from the Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal

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

1. AFD Staffing
2. 0-15-23 Amend
3. Appropriations

# MINUTES

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### APRIL 10, 2023

Members in Attendance:

Sarah Grace, Chair  
Sam Crowl, Vice-Chair  
Micah McCarey, Member  
Solveig Spjeldnes, Member

Administrators and/or Other Elected Officials:

President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Service-Safety Director Stone  
Auditor Hecht

#### Items Discussed:

- Zoning Code, B-1 Neighborhood Business and B-2 General Business (0-17-23)  
-Grace – suggested changes attached

-Spjeldnes – clarified that you can have restaurants, but not drive-ins or drive-throughs in a B-1 Neighborhood Business Zone, but in a B-2 General Business zone, you can have both

-Grace – that is correct, adding that eating and drinking establishments, now being defined as restaurants, were already allowed in the B-1 zone – keeping the distance at 200'

-Swank – questioned whether the changes being made are consistent with the Law Director's opinion suggested by the court with regard to the Mitheril case last June

-Grace – based on a conversation today with the Law Director, she feels this does address court's suggested language

- Amend ACC 7.05.31, Private Tow-Away Zones (to correct missing language)  
-Grace – our Law Director would like to include the missing language that was to be incorporated into Ordinance 138-22 as listed in bold print below:

7.05.31 Private tow-away zones.

**(A) The owner of a private property may establish a private tow-away zone, but may do so only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:**

**(1)**

**(c) If the private tow-away zone is not enforceable at all times, the times during which the parking restrictions are enforced:**

**(d) The telephone number and the address of the place from which a towed vehicle may be recovered at any time during the day or night;**

- Crowl – questioned whether these items are missing from signs
- S-S Director – current signs should be in line with the City Code language already in place
- Grace – clarified that if the private tow-away zone is not enforceable at all time, then the time needs to be listed
- Spjeldnes – according to the ORC, if additional information is needed it can be added by using a sticker, so not an onerous expense for the property owner
  
- Swank – pointed out that East Elementary is lacking the hours of enforcement – asked about plans for enforcement
- Grace – if there are no times listed, parking restrictions are enforced at all times

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

1. ACC 7.05.32



0-17-23  
AMEND.docx



