

# MINUTES: JUNE 13, 2022

## FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance:

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

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials:

Acting Mayor Knisely  
Auditor Hecht  
Deputy Service-Safety Director Chiki

### ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- 2022 Technology Grant
  - Crowl – Municipal Court has received this grant award from the Ohio Supreme Court in the amount \$38,275
  - Tonya Dye, Clerk of Court – shared that this funding will be used for (3) major technology projects rolled into one to improve communications for court users:
    1. Probation System – will include texting ability for those people on probation to help reduce the failure to appear rate, and reduce the number of warrants being issued
    2. GPS Ankle Monitoring Alert – this will provide system notification via text
    3. Provide texting within the Case Management System
  - She requested the following funds be allocated:
    - \$15,000 to General Fund, Municipal Court, T.C. 300
    - \$17,550 to Judges Court Computer Fund, T.C. 300
    - \$ 5,725 to Clerk of Court Computer Fund, T.C. 300
  - Grace – the ankle monitoring text alert could be very beneficial and protective to our community
  - Dye – being used during the pre-trial phase it will keep the offender out of jail and able to retain employment
- Appropriation
  - Crowl – The Government Channel cooling system in the server room is no longer working or serviceable – this 2007 unit has outlived its useful life, operating 24 hours a day 7 days a week
  - Deputy Service-Safety Director Chiki – this mini-split unit is much more efficient in small spaces
  - Crowl – the requested appropriation is \$4000 to General Fund, City Council, T.C. 500

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

1. Appropriations

**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: SPECIAL SESSION, MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022,  
7:00 P.M.**

Athens City Council met in Special Session at the above hour with the following members present: Crawl, Grace, McCarey, Spjeldnes, Swank, and Ziff.

Also present: President Pro Tem Risner, Acting Mayor Knisely, and Deputy Service-Safety Director Chiki.

**ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:**

**0-80-22**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SMALL CITY PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE 2022 SOLICITATION CYCLE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Adoption; Grace seconded. Discussion: Deputy Service-Safety Director Chiki noted that funding received through this program would be used for much needed improvements to Columbus Road. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-83-22**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$9,000,000 OF BONDS BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW FIRE STATION, MAKING SITE IMPROVEMENTS, AND ACQUIRING FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT AND FURNISHINGS AND A SITE THEREFOR, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Crawl moved for Adoption; Ziff seconded. Discussion: Swank questioned whether the City is in a better position today as opposed to six weeks ago in terms of the cost of the bonds.

Auditor Hecht doesn't believe there is a big difference. The process takes time, and when the bonds are issued the interest and costs are bid on, so it won't be clear until that happens. Certainly the sooner the bond issue can be locked down, the better the interest rate will be.

Acting Mayor Knisely noted that the projected date the bond will go to the investors is between June 24-28, and the bond pricing and locking in an interest rate by June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-84-22**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING FINAL DESIGN ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR A NEW FIRE HEADQUARTERS, PROJECT #346. McCarey moved for Adoption; Ziff seconded. Discussion: While acknowledging the need for a new fire station, Swank is conflicted that the

location is still undecided. He is hearing concern by residents about what it may take to secure the preferred site. He questioned how you vote to design the new fire headquarters when you have no place to put it.

Spjeldnes is also concerned that at this late date the location has yet to be formally considered.

Comments from the public, received by McCarey, request additional time to engage on site decisions.

Crowl understands that the Stimson Avenue site is still unresolved, noting that the City Administration and Ohio University are trying to make it work.

Acting Mayor Knisely explained that, with regard to design, our City Fire Chief has toured other fire departments, looking at common elements and universal design features. Reconfiguring the design for a different location shouldn't be a major task. It is critical to have the legislation in place to get the design underway as quickly as a site is approved.

Deputy Service-Safety Director Chiki agrees that there are a number of general design items that are standard for fire stations. Whether it is to be designed for the Stimson site or some other location the same design services will be needed. Adoption of this ordinance will help get across the finish line when ready to proceed.

Auditor Hecht clarified that this ordinance is simply putting the funding in place. When the land issue is settled, the City will be ready to move on final design.

Deputy Service-Safety Director Chiki explained that while the Administration has been designing toward a certain location, since there is some question about acquiring the Stimson Avenue site, they have now paused some of the work moving forward. Today, he requested a pause on the work of the environmental design service team.

McCarey asked, if the Council approves this ordinance, whether there will be another opportunity to intervene in the event that the location became a serious consideration.

Acting Mayor Knisely believes that discussion could happen once the details of leasing the site location are final, and needs approval of City Council.

Swank firmly believes that the site chosen on Stimson Avenue is the best site for our fire station. His concern is that Ohio University will not grant the City a lease for the Stimson site unless the City grants them a lease for our

recreational land on Dairy Lane. The City would immediately be giving up a shelter house, restroom, putt putt course, and baseball field, and he is not sure he is ready to do that, nor are many City residents he has been hearing from. Southside Park, the best park in the City and the only accessible park, even though it would have to come back for City Council approval at a later date, could also be leased to Ohio University as part of The Ridges Redevelopment Plan.

He added, he appreciates hearing that the Administration is putting aspects of the design on hold.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

#### **ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:**

##### **0-87-22**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS AND ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR MUNICIPAL BRIDGE AND LOCAL MAJOR BRIDGE PROGRAM FUNDS.

##### **0-88-22**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) FOR ISSUE I FUNDS; AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

##### **0-89-22**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING WEST WASHINGTON SIDEWALK AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT (#335).

##### **0-90-22**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT SALT STORAGE ROOF SLAB AND BEAM REPLACEMENT PROJECT (#354).

##### **0-91-22**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A DEBT COLLECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAPITAL RECOVERY SYSTEMS, INC. AND ATHENS COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT.

##### **0-92-22**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2022 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

**ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:**

**0-93-22**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A 2022-2025 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS APPLICANT AND GRANTEE, IF FUNDED, FOR SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY (ODSA) FOR THE COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM (CHIP); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. McCarey moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to meet the application deadline of June 22, 2022; Ziff seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. McCarey moved for Adoption; Ziff seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

At approximately 8:00 p.m. Crawl moved to Adjourn the meeting; Ziff seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

---

President Pro Tem of Council

ATTEST:

---

Clerk of Council

**MINUTES**  
**CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**JUNE 13, 2022**

Members in Attendance:

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

Administrators and  
Other Elected Officials:

President Pro Tem Risner  
Acting Mayor Knisely  
Auditor Hecht  
Deputy Service-Safety Director Chiki

**ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

- 2022 Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP)
  - McCarey – an application is being requested to enter into a partnership agreement with the Athens County Commissioners – this agreement would be for the grant period from 2022 through 2025
  
  - Swank – asked about the range of grant dollars
  
  - Glen Crippen, Director of Housing and Community Development at Hocking Athens Perry Community Action (HAPCAP) – HAPCAP will be administering these Federal and State funded affordable housing and community development programs – this is a regional partnership that includes the City of Athens, City of Nelsonville, and the County of Athens who serves as the grantee, that will allow applying for \$1,050,000: \$400,000 to the County, \$350,000 to the City, and \$300,000 to Nelsonville – the CHIP program is for preservation of the housing stock, large scale owner rehabilitation and the smaller owner rental and repair – there is no contribution needed from the City – this funding is competitive – the household must be considered Low to Moderate Income (LMI), or 80% of the median income – for a household of (1) that maximum income would be \$41,950 to be eligible, going up incrementally, a family of (4) would be (\$55,900) – HAPCAP accepts the applications, specs the jobs, and contracts them out – grant notifications will be made in September/October and, if funded, the grant agreement will be dated December 1<sup>st</sup>
  
  - Swank – asked about funding success
  - Crippen – has been successfully funded for the last 6-8 years

-McCarey – asked how properties are selected  
-Crippen – eligible households can make application, noted there is a long waiting list

-Grace – reported the breakdown for the City of Athens: \$150,000 for owner rehab, \$118,500 for owner home repair, and \$39,500 for rental home repair

- APD Mutual Assistance Agreement (South Central Ohio Major Crimes Unit)  
-McCarey – this mutual assistance is providing shared resources when investigating major activities that might cross jurisdictions

-Swank – asked why the Athens County Sheriff's Office no longer participates  
-McCarey – will inquire and report back to the Council

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

1. CHIP Application
2. APD Mutual Assistance Agreement

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### JUNE 13, 2022

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair  
Sarah Grace, Member  
Alan Swank, Member  
Ben Ziff, Member

Administrators and/or

Other Elected Officials: Acting Mayor Knisely  
Deputy Service-Safety Director Chiki  
Auditor Hecht

- Re-designate Hocking Athens Perry Community Action (HAPCAP) to Administer Athens Public Transit
  - Risner – current agreement expires at the end of the year
  - Swank – asked whether the frequency of bus lines and, in some cases, those that have been eliminated are due to budgetary, mechanical, or staffing concerns
  - Acting Mayor Knisely – noted that some of the lines have been restored and times have been extended
  - Deputy Service-Safety Director Chiki – is aware that line 4 has been eliminated, primarily as a result of staffing shortages – to address the driver shortage HAPCAP is looking at purchasing smaller vehicles that do not require a CDL license to widen the eligibility pool
  - Swank – asked whether fees would remain consistent
  - Chiki – is not aware of any planned increase in fees

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

1. Re-designate HAPCAP