

MINUTES JANUARY 23, 2017

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair
Chris Fahl, Vice-Chair
Kent Butler, Member

Other Council Members: Jennifer Cochran
Peter Kotses
Patrick McGee
Michele Papai

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Service-Safety Director Horan Moseley
Deputy Service-Safety Director Lucas
Auditor Hecht
Deputy Auditor Kreider

Items Discussed:

- Appropriations (decreasing)
 - Auditor – requested decreasing appropriations to be more in line with revenue – Law Enforcement Trust Fund, 293, receives revenue from forfeitures (last year received \$2900) – currently there is \$15,000 appropriated that needs to be reduced – Recreation Fund, 270, need to decrease by \$500,000 (for pool study last year, no longer needed) – General Fund needs decreased by about \$600,000 due to reduced carryover (it was \$2 million the year before, this year it is only \$1.4 million) – she and the Mayor will meet tomorrow to decide how to pare down the departmental funds
 - Mayor – one area has already been identified, Workers Comp
 - Auditor – will also need to decrease revenue
 - President – inquired about extra money in Workers Comp
 - Auditor – feels percentage charged to each department can be further decreased
 - Mayor – anticipate receiving a 2017 refund of \$135,764 for City's participation in the Group Retro program

-Auditor – will have the figures by the end of the week
-Mayor – suggested sending to the Finance Chair who can then forward along to the rest of Council

-Auditor – pointed out that it is pretty typical to make such changes in January, not knowing what the carryover will be

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Appropriations (decreasing)

MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2017
CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Kent Butler, Chair
Jennifer Cochran, Vice-Chair
Peter Kotses, Member

Other Council Members: Chris Fahl
Patrick McGee
Michele Papai
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or
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Mayor Patterson
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ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Athens Beautification Day (April 9th from 9-3 p.m.)
 - Selena Snyder, Director, explained that participants will meet on the College Green and then depart to their project sites – this event started in 2005 by the Ohio University Men’s Water Polo Team with approximately 150 participants and 15 projects – last year the number of participants increased to over 900, and hopes this year to break 1000, with 70 projects – this year project locations will be expanded to include Amesville and Nelsonville – requested the City continue as a sponsor
 - Butler – asked about the City’s monetary contribution
 - Snyder -- \$1000
 - President – this event is an excellent opportunity for students to feel a sense of community – commended Selena’s planning efforts – new projects this year include Community Food Initiatives (CFI) as well as the Athens History Connection (Athens Historical Society)
 - Deputy Service-Safety Director – parking will need to be removed on Court Street from Union to Mulberry, and on Union Street from Court to College to accommodate shuttles from site to site
 - Mayor – this is a perfect town/gown community building event

- Municipal Pool (presentation)
 - Butler – MSA Sport will be presenting on program elements, amenities, geotech reports, site planning, salt water vs chlorination, cost estimates, and design to include the *Essence of Athens*
 - Keith Hall, Principal Architect, and Katie Freeland, Project Manager and Architect, presented (see attached)
 - Fahl – would like to look at salt water as opposed to chlorine, and see a cost breakdown on that feature – amenities seem to be well thought out incorporating community input
 - Papai – agrees salt water is high on the list as an item community members requested
 - Andrew Chiki, Assistant Director of Arts, Parks & Recreation – continuing to openly review the salt water option, however, at this time leaning toward chlorination due to pitfalls related to the salt water system
 - Kotses – asked about preserving the heritage trees
 - Hall – will be preserving most, if not all of the trees
 - Kotses – asked about lap lanes vs open swim/diving areas
 - Chiki – operationally, do not anticipate having all 8 lanes as lap lanes all of the time – would bring out lanes as necessary – for the most part, leaving a good portion of that area available for open swim, expressed by many parents of teenagers
 - President – asked about decision to keep with the existing site
 - Hall – cost was primary driver – other site would mean importing more fill dirt and an engineered lift to get it out of the floodplain
 - President – asked if there is a loss in shade structures with the present design – shade was an important feature requested
 - Hall – instead of several smaller shade structures, this plan includes one larger shade structure – there are shade umbrellas, overhangs on the buildings, and trees – shade structures can be easily added back in if desired
 - Mayor – asked if there is a difference between salt and chlorination in the time needed to re-sanitize the pool after an incident
 - Hall – filtration turnover time would be similar
 - Mayor – asked if the shallower end of the lap lane could be deeper, possibly 5 ft. as opposed to 3.6 ft. – would be easier when using competitively – would like to study depth changes and usage
 - Hall – depth changes can be reviewed – keeping in mind that deeper water takes away a little of the recreation component – change will not impact cost – if the recreational pool is closed for any reason, the lap pool is the pool everyone will go to – that's when the depths really come to the

forefront – moving from 3.6 ft. to 5 ft., you lose ability for families with young children to use that pool

-Freeland – offered to share graphics of different age groups and their height and water depth

-Butler – important to address all age groups through these different elements

-Peter Hoffmann-Pinther, Columbia Avenue – agrees that 3.6 ft. is quite shallow for a lap lane turn, suggested another 6 inches to make it safer – asked if the lanes will be 25 yards, which is the standard for competition

-Hall – will check the length

-Martha Bishop, resident – concerned about having even as few as 4 lap lanes available during the day – questioned whether competitive and recreation swimming can co-exist in the same space – would like further review – she is also in favor of the idea of salt water, and the 5 ft. depth for the lap swimming

-Ed Newman, resident – asked about deadline for final design input

-Hall – design needs to be locked down by February 24th

-Cochran – important to know who folks can share their design input with

-S-S Director – will be the point person for contact with MSA Sport

-Kotses – residents can also speak with Council Members who can then forward the information along to the Administration

MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 2017

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance: Chris Fahl, Chair
Jeff Risner, Vice-Chair
Patrick McGee, Member

Other Council Members: Kent Butler
Jennifer Cochran
Peter Kotses
Michele Papai

Administrators and/or
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Items Discussed:

- Economic Development Council (EDC – contract)
 - Fahl – an increase in the contract amount has been requested
 - Mayor – serves as a board member on the EDC – since its inception, the City, County and University have been paying up to \$55,000 annually for EDC planning – Director Sara Marrs has asked that the amount be increased to \$60,000 annually – pointed out that for the first time ever the EDC is looking at having Private Partners paying \$75,000 annually to enhance its mission – noted that the EDC served as liaison on projects such as Athens Mold & Machine, Stimson roundabout, and McKinley extension – EDC is critical – over the next 5 years, their current strategic planning goals are progressive
 - Fahl – asked about the function of private partners, concerned they will receive preferential treatment for economic development funding
 - Mayor – pointed out that EDC is one of few that do not have public/private partnerships – seems prudent – everyone will have the same level of voice in terms of planning

-Fahl – asked about the role of a private partner
-Mayor – possible site planning for small spin-off businesses – thinks it could be helpful in a number of different ways
-Fahl – is concerned about public transparency – comingling of public/private money
-Mayor – it is all transparent for operations within the EDC
-Fahl – has had transparency issues with EDC – she wants to make sure that safeguards are in place

-Butler – Butler acknowledged that the EDC will be seeing an increase of \$15,000 annually, \$5,000 each from the City, County and the University – questioned whether this increase would be used for salaries

-President – asked about the cash balance of \$37,000 in the Revolving Loan Fund with EDC charging \$5,000 for administration of it – asked about the status of the RLF and the City's goals for activity on that
-Mayor – will follow up on that and provide information

-Papai – appears to be a healthy budget for four staff members with the requested increase of an additional \$20,000 this year from four entities – not clear what the new initiatives are

-Fahl – there appears to be a new line item, strategy execution, for \$30,000 and a project specialist for \$30,000 – questioned whether they are planning to expand their staff
-Mayor – that is part of it – their workload has increased, and it will increase exponentially if the City moves forward with things like downtown redevelopment districts – EDC will be heavily involved in bringing jobs to new and improved spaces – there are a lot of possibilities

-Fahl – asked if this is a permanent increase
-Mayor – yes – this is the first increase since 2009
-S-S Director – County and University have already committed to the additional \$5,000 annually – the City would like to have an equal voice

-Fahl – there is also an increase in salary for the Director in this budget, possibly from \$62,000 to \$78,000

-President – in looking at the income projections, there seems to be a math error – Year 7 adds up to \$247,000, not \$306,233 – there may just be a number missing – requested a corrected copy

-Kotses – asked about the structure of EDC
-Mayor – it is quasi-governmental, with a board member from each entity

-Papai – appear to be quite substantial salary increases – would like the Board to present a report

-Fahl – again, is concerned about transparency and equity between the EDC and the ACCVB (tourism is a huge economic driver) – would like a better understanding of the information provided by EDC

-Mayor – will provide additional information – EDC and ACCVB have very different missions

-Fahl – need to make sure that the City is getting the best bang for its buck in its use of the Transient Guest Tax

-President – need to resolve budget issues and 2017 salary increases – need to look at long-term policy issue of Transient Guest Tax and the City's priorities – possibly hold a Work Session for this later in the year

-Papai – at this time, with the numbers and facts before Council tonight, she does not support increasing the contract by \$5,000

MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

JANUARY 23, 2017

Members in Attendance: Michele Papai, Chair
Jennifer Cochran, Vice-Chair
Peter Kotses

Other Council Members: Kent Butler
Chris Fahl
Patrick McGee
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or
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Mayor Patterson
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ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- International Street Fair
 - Papai – will be held on Saturday, April 15, at same location as last year – noted that this is not the same weekend as # Fest
 - Deputy S-S Director – new location worked well last year
 - Kotses – asked what streets will be closed for this event
 - Deputy S-S Director – Court Street from Mulberry to Washington, Union Street from Congress to College, and President Street
- Athens Beautification Day
 - Papai – will be held on Sunday, April 9 – the date in April is earlier this year due to finals week in late April, in order to maximize the number of student workers – it will be a weeklong event
 - Selena Snyder – starting Monday, April 3, there will be community service events throughout the week in coordination with the City and the University in order to promote more community service from students on campus

- Parking Enforcement (contract renewal with Complus Innovations)
 - Deputy S-S Director – utilized Complus for a number of years, and recently integrated Park Mobile – staff was excellent in transitioning the needed data into the handhelds – provide good tech support

 - Papai – asked about cost involved for this service
 - S-S Director – it is approximately \$3,000-\$4,000 per month, will be greater than \$50,000 over the life of the 3-year contract

 - Kotses -- questioned who owns the hardware
 - S-S Director – it is the property of Complus – added, Parking Enforcement revenue has increased since adding Park Mobile last year – will provide Council with that data

- Cruise-In (street closures)
 - Papai – scheduled dates for the closure of Court Street between Washington and State are: Friday, June 2, August 11, and September 22 – closure is from 5:00-9:00 p.m., with event from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

 - Butler – noted that business owners have requested advance notice
 - Deputy S-S Director – will put out PSA's in advance of the closures

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. International Street Fair
2. Complus Innovations
3. Cruise-In