

**MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2019
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
7:00 P.M.**

Council Members in Attendance: Samuel Crowl
Chris Fahl
Sarah Grace
Peter Kotses
Patrick McGee
Jeff Risner

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson

Item Discussed:

- Home Rule (resolution)
 - Fahl – with a new administration moving into the Statehouse this is a good opportunity to relay the importance of Home Rule to the State – Home Rule is set in the State Constitution, authorizing communities and cities to exercise powers of self-governance to adopt and enforce within their city limits local regulations – lately, Home Rule is constantly being eroded, i.e., regulating plastics and preempting local authority through centralized business income tax – this is a worrying trend

 - Risner – is concerned with maintaining local control – his constituents are unhappy with their local cable provider and internet service and wondering what the City is doing about the poor service – negotiations with local cable/internet companies is no longer available to local authorities, as the State took that power – City has no leverage – now we are being faced with small cell providers being allowed to move into our public rights-of-way without permission and with no compensation – State preemptions are becoming the norm – need to draw the line now

 - Grace – is troubled by the single-use container issue – believes this decision should be made locally by our residents – whether it is gun laws or plastic containers, it is distressing that the State takes away those decisions from our community

 - Fahl – other preempted local laws are regulations of payday lending companies, restricting local hiring laws, small cell placement, fracking and injection wells, etc. – need to hold legislators accountable for erosion of local government

-Mayor – need to push envelope to include preemption at the federal level – to lose control of use of our own public right-of-way is huge – the City has 192 miles of street that we need to be able to control – preemption of differential rates to provide water beyond the City limits and associated costs would be impactful – ability for municipalities to govern themselves is being eroded – it is wrong

-Fahl – it is a worrying trend

- Government Shutdown (resolution)

-Fahl – the government at this time is open – will table this issue until a vote is taken on February 15th

-Mayor – suggested that it may be worthwhile to push forward with this resolution to encourage legislators to continue to work hard to keep the government open – 800,000 people in this nation were hurt by the government shutdown – cannot hold citizens of the nation hostage

-Fahl – will move on the Mayor's suggestion

-Grace – it is more that even those employees who were furloughed – small businesses served fewer customers lacking an income – as funding and food supplies diminish there are always concerns with domestic disputes and increased child hunger – the shutdown was devastating and had incredible hurtful consequences – Council should strongly oppose a second shutdown within a few weeks' time

ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Home Rule
2. Government Shutdown

MINUTES
FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 28, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair
Sam Crowl, Member
Peter Kotses, Member

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Appropriations/Transfers
-Auditor would like the following decreases/increases:

Split the Internal Service Administrative allocation 50/50 between Recreation Fund, 270, and Community Center Fund, 271 – is currently all in the Recreation Fund line

decrease Recreation Fund, 270, T.C. 300, by \$21,570
increase Community Center Fund, 271, T.C. 300, by \$21,570

explained that the Internal Service Administrative fee, funded through each department, is used to support computer services and mechanics that are services used by the entire City

Judge Grace has agreed to the following to cover part of his Internal Service Administrative allocation:

decrease Clerk of Court Computer Fund, 231, T.C. 300, by \$19,269
increase Judge's Court Computer Fund, 230, T.C. 300, by \$9,500 for a total appropriation of \$35,000 to support the City's Internal Services Administrative costs

concerned that carryover in the 2019 General Fund was \$1.3 million, down from \$2 million dollars in 2018 – making these changes in the Court will definitely help

noted, the Judge has also implemented slight increases in some of his fees that will aid the budgets of both the Court and General Funds

- Staffing (amend)
 - Mayor – requested adjusting the EPW staffing to cover the Assistant Director’s position due to extended military training leave of absence – this would be temporary for approximately four months – will need to place a temporary employee in that position and hold it for the return of the current Assistant Director – would like to amend to have (2) Assistant Director positions – since it is military leave the Assistant Director will continue on the City’s payroll for 30 days – clarified that he will not be paid after that time; only for the person moving into the temporary position – will also need to temporarily promote a Sewer Labor Supervisor at the WWTP

 - Risner – asked if compensation will change or if it will remain the same
 - Mayor – salary will temporarily change

 - Crowl – asked if the second Assistant Director would be hired after the 30-day period, or if there will be a 30-day period where both will be paid
 - Mayor – will be paying two for one month, however, there is no need to increase the budget

ITEMS NEEDED ON THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Appropriations/Transfers
2. Staffing

MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 28, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Peter Kotses, Chair
Patrick McGee, Vice-Chair
Sam Crowl, Member

Administrators and/or
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely
Mayor Patterson
Auditor Hecht

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Complete Streets (resolution)
 - Kotses – the concept of a complete street is “a street designed and operated to enable safe access for all users for all modes of transportation – a movement referred to as Vision Zero is using best practice traffic safety policy that targets zero fatalities and serious injuries – this is a long term goal – autonomous vehicles will redesign our streets – provided drafts of complete street resolutions from West Hartford and Vincennes for City Council review
 - Crowl – supports this initiative – need to show commitment to multi-purpose pathways – resolution is first step
 - McGee – some trepidation that City is inching into a bureaucratic nightmare – concerned that lanes are narrowed to slow traffic while adding the width to provide bike lanes that are rarely used – also, bicyclists need to follow the law – laws don’t seem to be enforced – welcomes the opportunity to hear more about complete streets – hopes it will be more than a meaningless directive – would like to see sidewalks expanded for pedestrian safety
 - Kotses – complete street does not mean putting bike lanes everywhere, but looking at what is encouraged by the City in certain areas – looking at better ways – provides guidance looking forward
 - Crowl – complete streets include pedestrians and sidewalks – it offers the ability to get from one place to another in the safest possible way – narrower lanes do slow traffic and allows additional space for other modes of traffic

-President – the complete street concept is a good vision for City – is optimistic about it

-Mayor – supports this resolution – acknowledges McGee’s comments on better access to sidewalks, which is part of this equation – making sure streets/sidewalks are complete for everyone – this is a good starting point – important to share roadways

-Megan Buskirk, Health Educator, Athens City-County Health Department – has been working on this topic for about four years – this is a State supported effort, guiding framework that promotes safety and inclusiveness on our roadways – added benefit is eco-tourism – complete streets are being purposeful about your planning and can offer a clear picture of progress – an adopted policy also opens the City to more transportation grants

-Judy Roman, Northwood – would like thought given to pedestrians on Madison, and Columbia between Northwood and Madison

ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Complete Streets