

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019, 7:00 P.M.

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour with the following members present: Butler, Crowl, Fahl, Grace, Kotses, McGee, and Risner.

Also present: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, and Law Director Eliason.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

Fahl moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Session held February 4, 2019; Crowl seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATION:

President Knisely and Council are in receipt of the following:

- A notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control of a name transfer for a C1 permit at 10 S. Court Street **FROM** Big Mammias Burritos, LLC, **TO** Athens Burritos, LLC.
- City Council Members and City Administration and Staff will be attending a meeting tomorrow evening, 5:30 p.m., at the Athens Community Center for all of the City's Boards and Commissions.
- February 26th City Council will be having its annual luncheon, noon, at ARTS/West with Ohio University President Nellis and his Administrative Staff.
- Receipt of a letter from local historians and architects working for the Consortium of Athens County Historic Preservation, is requesting a letter of support from City Council for a grant application they are submitting to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Further discussion will take place at next Monday's Committee of the Whole.

Council Member Kotses announced the Athens City School Board will be meeting on Thursday, February 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. He also received notification today, as a parent, that the East Elementary PTO will be meeting Wednesday, 5:00 p.m. at East Elementary, and will have some of the architects present that are working on the new building plan.

Council Member McGee has been contacted by some citizens who have expressed concern about the Chimney Swift habitat that may be lost at East Elementary, with hopes that it can be resolved.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- Notice from EPW regarding a collapsed sewer line and closure of a portion of College Street until the project is completed.
- Receipt of a letter from the Mount Zion Baptist Church Preservation Society requesting a letter of support as they apply for funding through the Department of Interior.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-04-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SOFTENING SALT FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT. Butler moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-05-19

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING EAST UNION STREET BETWEEN COURT AND UNIVERSITY TERRACE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019, FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STREET FAIR. Kotses moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-06-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/STATE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR BRIDGE PAINTING WITHIN THE CORPORATION BOUNDARY ON U.S. STATE ROUTE 33 (PID 106810); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kotses moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-07-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/STATE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR BRIDGE PAINTING WITHIN THE CORPORATION BOUNDARY ON U.S. STATE ROUTE 33 (PID 25343); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kotses moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-11-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 15, TAXES, CHAPTER 15.01, INCOME TAX, SECTION 15.01.13, BOARD OF APPEAL. Fahl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-12-19

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A PERPETUAL EASEMENT TO OHIO UNIVERSITY TO PERMIT INSTALLATION OF CERTAIN UTILITY CONDUITS ON STATION STREET PROPERTY. Fahl moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-13-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2019 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in order that financial transfers are in place by the end of the month; McGee seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-14-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 142-18, STAFFING LEVELS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-15-19

AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE PILOT RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE COMPOST PROJECT THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019. Discussion: McGee would like feedback from the provider with proposals to include apartment complexes.

0-16-19

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING A PORTION OF COURT STREET BETWEEN UNION AND WASHINGTON ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2019, FROM 8:00 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT FOR THE "BOUNTY ON THE BRICKS" FUNDRAISER.

0-17-19

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ATHENS CITY CODE CHAPTER 11.04, VENDING, PEDDLING AND SOLICITING, TO ALLOW VENDING IN A DESIGNATED AREA ON AUGUST 3, 2019, DURING THE "BOUNTY ON THE BRICKS" FUNDRAISER.

0-18-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 84-18 TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE FOR CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RICHLAND AVENUE PEDESTRIAN PASSAGEWAY PROJECT (#311); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Discussion: Kotses noted that the Administration is requesting an additional \$429,864 from the Street Rehabilitation Fund. The total project will be completed within 147 days. Increasing the number of days from 90 to 147 will

still allow the City to meet ODOT's grant funding deadline, and construction will begin following the Ohio University's May commencement.

Mayor Patterson reported that Ohio University has increased its contribution to this project by an additional \$150,000. His office will also be applying for a Transportation Improvement District Economic Development Grant through ODOT, District 18. This is a 25% grant, or up to \$250,000 of the City's share of the project.

Kotses asked how the increased funding from the Street Rehabilitation Fund might affect the City's 2019 paving.

Mayor Patterson responded that the City has made significant gains in street paving since he took office; it shouldn't be a problem.

Butler is pleased that this project is moving forward as thousands of pedestrians cross this intersection on a daily basis. This is a continued collaboration between the City and the University.

McGee is not a proponent of this project, although he understands its purpose. He finds it disturbing that the City's contribution has increased from a million dollars to approximately \$1.4 million, with the additional cost coming from the Street Rehabilitation Fund. He understands the reasoning for the increase, but it is disappointing. And, it isn't just this project that has started out at a lower funding level, only to be increased at a later date. The City may not have approved the project if the actual dollar amount had been clear upfront. He applauds the Mayor for seeking other funding sources, and hopes that funding comes through so our annual street paving will not need to be reduced.

Grace shares Member McGee's concerns with launching into projects with a low cost estimate and finding the completion cost is ultimately higher than anticipated. Although she is aware that daily there is a very high risk of accident and injury at this Richland intersection, and it is a large investment, she understands that the project is critical to the safety of our residents and should serve the City very well for hopefully a very long time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Butler moved the reappointment of Kari Gunter-Seymour to continue as the City's Poet Laureate as recommended by the Athens Municipal Arts Commission; Fahl seconded. Reappointment was approved unanimously.

McGee commented that he approves this reappointment wholeheartedly. Her poetry is amazing, and he hopes she can return to Council to read another one of her poems.

Risner moved to accept the Auditor's January, 2019 Financial Reports; Fahl seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Grace moved to appoint Zach Reizes to the Affordable Housing Commission to serve the remaining term held by Jacob Mitchell, representing renters, that expires June 30, 2019; Fahl seconded. Appointment was approved unanimously.

At approximately 7:40 p.m. Fahl moved to Adjourn the meeting; Kotses seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council