

**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour. Due to concerns with COVID-19 the following members met via videoconference: Clodfelter, Crowl, Fahl, Kotses, Grace, Risner and Smedley.

Also present via videoconference: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, Law Director Eliason, and Auditor Hecht.

**DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:**

Kotses moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Session of City Council held March 1, 2021; Fahl seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**Mayor Patterson** reported the following:

- Update on EPA Notice of Violation and corrective action taken.
- Clarified that the Blackburn, The Ridges, and University Estates water storage tanks are scheduled for inspection this year.
- Annual 2020 Complete Streets summary report: total miles of bike lanes and trails built or striped, .34 miles; new pedestrian improvements, 1,648 linear feet; number of ADA improvements, including curb ramps installed, 8; number of transit accessibility improvements built, 1; number of bicycle, pedestrian or multi-modal facilities constructed, 4; number of crosswalks or intersection improvements, 2; percentage of transit stop accessibility, via sidewalks and curb ramps, 85%; 2020 number of crashes, injuries, fatalities as provided by ODOT for specific intersections, 50 occurring at intersections within the City limits of which 14 were injury and 2 fatalities; number of bicycle parking improvements, 0; and number of projects exempted by this policy, 0.
- Athens County Recycling Day will be held Saturday, May 15, from 9-1 at the County Fairgrounds.
- Thursday, April 1, virtual "Take Back the Night" uniting and fighting for victims of sexual and domestic violence.

**ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:**

**0-19-21**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 63-20; CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING OF THE STIMSON AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (#315). Crowl moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved by a 6/0/1 vote, with Kotses abstaining.

**0-20-21**

AN ORDINANCE TO ADVANCE FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE PARKING GARAGE FUND; AND AMENDING THE 2021 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Crowl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Discussion: Risner is optimistic that as we begin to put the COVID-19 crisis behind us, parking revenues will begin to increase again soon and that will allow us to begin paying of this loan much quicker. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-23-21**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 120-20; AUTHORIZING THE ARTS/WEST FIBER BROADBAND PROJECT (#334). Grace moved for Adoption; Clodfelter seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**0-24-21**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF A GENERATOR TO SERVE BOTH THE CITY BUILDING AND THE LAW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, PROJECT (#336). Grace moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Discussion: Risner asked about the proposed location for the generator.

Mayor Patterson will request the Deputy Service-Safety Director provide that information.

**0-25-21**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Grace moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

**ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:**

**0-26-21**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$290,000 OF NOTES BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWING NOTES PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO PAY PART OF THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING NEW PARKING METERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**0-27-21**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 29-20 TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE FOR THE RICHLAND AVENUE PEDESTRIAN PASSAGEWAY PROJECT (#311).

**0-28-21**

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE UNION STREET DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (DRD) IN THE CITY OF ATHENS; DECLARING THE IMPROVEMENT TO CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE AND EXEMPT FROM TAXATION; REQUIRING THE OWNER OF THE PARCELS TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES; SPECIFYING THE PLAN FOR USING SERVICE PAYMENTS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN; AND ESTABLISHING A FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH SERVICE PAYMENTS.

**0-29-21**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE ATHENS CITY CODE TO PROVIDE LANGUAGE CONSISTENCY.

**0-30-21**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLE 3, ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, SECTIONS 3.07.41, 3.07.42, AND 3.07.43 OF THE ATHENS RECREATION PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

**0-31-21**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLE 3, ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, SECTION 3.07.50, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION.

**0-32-21**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLE 33, SHADE TREE COMMISSION, SECTION 33.01.01, COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP.

**ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:**

**0-33-21**

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 73-20 TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE FOR THE KIMES RESERVOIR PROJECT (#324). Discussion: Risner asked about the capacity of the reservoir once the project is completed.

Grace understands there will be increased service capacity, allowing it to serve a greater number of customers.

The Mayor agreed, it is the capacity to deliver, not the capacity to hold.

**0-34-21**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

### **0-35-21**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION OF GREATER THAN 25% THROUGH THE ASSIGNED PAY GRADE FOR THE NEWLY HIRED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EPW; AND THAT SAID COMPENSATION BE PAID RETROACTIVELY TO THE EMPLOYEE'S HIRE DATE.

### **0-36-21**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, AND OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC ENTITIES POOL (PEP) OF OHIO FOR PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Discussion: Auditor Hecht acknowledged all the work Deputy Service-Safety Director Chiki put into reviewing our liability coverage and bringing forward this plan for better coverage at a lower cost to the City.

Mayor Patterson indicated a savings of approximately \$17,000 will be realized if City Council approves this contract. The Mayor reached out to several Ohio cities contracting with PEP, and consistently heard their appreciation of PEP's responsiveness to their claims.

Kotses asked if this change to PEP will allow the City to retain our relationships with current legal counsel, or if that will change.

Law Director Eliason responded that PEP said they would look into seeing if we could maintain the legal counsel who has represented the City in past civil suits.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:**

- President Knisely noted that there will be a Special Session next Monday just prior to the Committee meetings.
- Fahl reminded the public to check out the website for Ohio's COVID-19 vaccination dashboard to determine vaccine eligibility, find providers, and receive updates and reminders at [gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov).
- Clodfelter understands that to many of our residents who are struggling, the American Rescue dollars will make a difference, however, she encouraged those residents who can choose how to spend their dollars, to consider supporting our area businesses to revitalize and improve our local economy.
- Fahl moved to Accept the January and February, 2021 Credit Card Transactions; Kotses seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

- Smedley moved to approve the Mayor's appointments of Aaron Thomas and Brandon Thompson as community members to the Tax Incentive Review Council; Clodfelter seconded. Discussion: Smedley explained that this Council reviews existing tax abatement programs in both the City and the County, and based on certain criteria, to either recommend continuation or discontinuation of the programs, and reports to the Ohio Development Services Agency. Appointments were approved unanimously.

At approximately 7:50 p.m. Crawl moved to adjourn the meeting; Fahl seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

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President of Council

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Council