

**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019,
7:00 P.M.**

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

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

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Kotses moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Session held March 18, 2019; Crowl seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Council Member Butler announced that the International Street Fair is on Saturday, with the parade at 11:30 a.m. Also taking place is Ohio University's Moms' Weekend.

He acknowledged the work completed last week at the new Armory pocket/art park with murals, benches, and landscaping.

Council Member Kotses announced that the Athens City School Board will be meeting on Thursday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Council Member Crowl announced a meeting of the Environment & Sustainability Commission will on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the front conference room on the first floor of the City Building.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson announced that tomorrow is World Autism Awareness Day.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-19-19

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING AN ENHANCED ACCESS EASEMENT TO ALLOW UTILITIES TO PROPERTY CONTIGUOUS TO HOPE DRIVE. Grace moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-20-19

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

0-21-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2019 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Risner moved for Adoption; Kotses seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-22-19

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$460,000 OF NOTES BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING PART OF THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING NEW PARKING METERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Risner moved for Adoption; Kotses seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-23-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 102-18; AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE SMART PARKING METERS. Kotses moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-24-19

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING CERTAIN STREETS IN UPTOWN ATHENS ON FRIDAY, JUNE 21, AND SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2019, FOR THE BRICK CRITERIUM.

0-25-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 17, TAXES, CHAPTER 17.01, MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX, TO INCLUDE SECTIONS 718.80 THROUGH 718.95 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-26-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT TO PURCHASE BODY WORN CAMERAS AND TASERS FOR THE ATHENS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

0-27-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM, FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2019.

0-28-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 23-18; AUTHORIZING DESIGN ENGINEERING OF THE STIMSON AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (#315).

0-29-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-30-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN LPA/STATE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A BRIDGE DECK OVERLAY PROJECT WITHIN THE CORPORATION BOUNDARY ON U.S. STATE ROUTE 33 (PID 106819); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-31-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ODOT FOR A TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM GRANT FOR AN ATHENS UPTOWN AREA IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Kotses noted that the project area will be the perpendicular streets to Court Street, one block on either side, to include Union, Washington, and State. Improvements being considered would be to replace damaged sidewalks, widen sidewalks, where appropriate, upgrade lighting, and review signal lane configurations as needed.

Grace mentioned that at Council's recent meeting with Ohio University Student Senate, the Senate expressed an interest in audible signals at the crosswalks, and asked if there is a possibility that these could be included in this project.

The Mayor responded that audible signals can be included, adding that audible signalization of Court and Union is already being considered.

0-32-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING 2019 STREET PAVING AND REPAIRS.

0-33-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT(S) FOR INTERIOR ENHANCEMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL PARKING FACILITY, PROJECT #326. Discussion: Kotses shared that this project will include upgraded lighting, signage, and painting.

Grace is pleased that the new signage will clarify that the garage is available to the public.

McGee hopes that directional signage for the parking garage can be placed on Court Street.

Judith Roman, Northwood Drive, hopes that the odor in the garage will be addressed. Also, she understands that the parking garage is not monitored on a regular basis and that the security cameras are not always in working condition, which should also be addressed.

The Mayor responded that the security cameras on all floors will be reviewed during this renovation.

Butler added, that opening up the stairwells should take care of the odor, and upgrading the interior lighting is an important safety feature.

0-34-19

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING A PORTION OF COURT STREET ON FRIDAY, JUNE 7, AUGUST 9, AND SEPTEMBER 20, 2019, FOR A CRUISE-IN.

0-35-19

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING A PORTION OF UNION STREET BETWEEN COURT AND CONGRESS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2019, FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. FOR AN UPTOWN ART EVENT.

0-36-19

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ATHENS CITY CODE SECTION 13.04.10, UNNECESSARY NOISE, ON UNION STREET AND CONTIGUOUS PROPERTY TO UNION STREET, ON AUGUST 17, 2019, FOR AN UPTOWN ART EVENT.

0-37-19

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ATHENS CITY CODE CHAPTER 11.04, VENDING, PEDDLING AND SOLICITING, TO ALLOW VENDING IN A DESIGNATED AREA ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2019, DURING AN UPTOWN ART EVENT.

Risner moved to Amend the Agenda to add Ordinances 38-19 and 39-19; Crowl seconded. Amendment was approved unanimously.

0-38-19

A ORDINANCE DECLARING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7055 BLACKBURN ROAD NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SELL SAID PROPERTY TO ANOTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. Discussion: Grace reiterated that she would like, to the extent possible, proceeds from the sale to be made available to further affordable housing projects.

Mayor Patterson has been researching the idea of setting up a down payment assistance program.

Grace would also like consideration of funds to be made available to make improvements toward a revitalization effort.

0-39-19

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7065 BLACKBURN ROAD NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE; AND AUTHORIZING PERMISSION TO DONATE THE PROPERTY TO ANOTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. Discussion: Grace explained that the reason the City is selling one property and donating the other is because the Athens Metropolitan Housing Authority is prohibited from purchasing adjacent properties.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

President Knisely announced that the City's annual Infrastructure Tour will take place on Thursday, April 25, at 12:30 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend, and she asked that those interested to let the Council know. Those participating in the tour will be meeting in front of the City Building.

A Special Session will be scheduled prior to committees on Monday, April 22nd.

Kotses moved to reappoint Emilie Wood to the Shade Tree Commission for an additional two-year term from 1/1/19-12/31/20; Grace seconded. Reappointment was approved unanimously.

Grace moved to reappoint the current members serving on the Community Relations Commission: Laura Black; Marlene De La Cruz-Guzman; Loran Marsan; Laura Olbers; Lacey Rogers; John Schmieding; and Aaron Thomas, to an additional three-year term; McGee seconded. Reappointments were approved unanimously.

Mayor Patterson announced that he was recently in Ithaca, New York, attending the Regional International Town-Gown Association meeting and he reported that he spoke to a panel about the City's proposed ordinance for e-scooters, and that there was a lot of interest at the Conference about this issue.

The Mayor also mentioned that he attended the National Association of Social Workers last Saturday, and that he was selected to receive the State of Ohio public elected official of the year award by that agency.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO SPEAK ON LEGISLATIVE ITEMS AND CITY SERVICES NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA:

Damon Krane, Hudson Avenue, representing the Athens Mobile Vending Association, expressed concern that the City's vending spaces located on East Union Street are no longer being enforced. He has been informed that the City's vending signs are not compliant with the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and that corrective action is being taken. Until such time as the signs are replaced, the reserved vending spaces are not enforceable. He would like answers to the following questions:

1. Who told Parking Enforcement to stop enforcing the reserved vending spaces?
2. When did this happen?
3. Was the Center for Legal Services involved in this decision?
4. Why did the City Administration fail to notify vendors that reserved vending spaces were no longer being enforced until new signs were available?
5. Can the City establish better communication with the vendors?

Parker Smith, West State Street, representing the Ohio University Student Senate as Off-Campus Commissioner, expressed gratitude to City Council for meeting and discussing current issues with the Senators each semester.

Jack Stauffer, Elmwood Place, reiterated that on January 18th and again on March 14th he sent a written request to the City's Engineering & Public Works Director to inspect the backwater valve to his sewer lateral. Both of those written requests went unanswered, so he followed up with a phone call which, again, was not returned, and he followed up with a visit to City Council on March 18, 2019. He reported that on Friday, March 29, the valve was inspected, and it showed signs of deterioration. City employees replaced the valve that Mr. Stauffer provided at his expense, and he feels confident at this time that the repair is in good order. He pointed out, that per the manufacturer's recommendation (see attached), this valve should be cleaned and inspected every three months. In a letter dated June 25, 2015, from former Engineering and Public Works' Director Andy Stone, he indicated that the sanitary sewer inflow and infiltration problem has caused the City sewer to become overwhelmed, causing Mr. Stauffer's problem. Mr. Stauffer, again, requested an update on the steps the City has taken on this issue since 2015 during a Council Committee meeting.

Chris Monday, Garfield Avenue, suggested that the Armory space could be used as space for small businesses, similar to the North Market area in Columbus, providing small business areas through a low monthly lease, allowing businesses the opportunity to grow small business ideas, along with an indoor playground for young children. He feels it would be a great community attraction.

At approximately 8:05 p.m. McGee moved to Adjourn the meeting; Kotses seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council