

**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019,
3:30 P.M.**

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

Also present: President Knisely and Mayor Patterson.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-73-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 1.03, CODE FEES ESTABLISHED, SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING RATES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Discussion: President Knisely indicated that the nearly year-long composting pilot is ending June 30. The City will continue its discussion with the Athens Hocking Recycling Center (AHRC) and Rural Action for a more long-range solution. In the interim the City would like to continue curbside composting on a fee for service basis and open it to all City residents.

Crowl has only heard from residents who would like the composting program to continue and to residents who have specifically said that they would be fine with paying a fee for this service.

Fahl asked if this fee based service will be an opt-in program.

Mayor Patterson responded that it will. He is hopeful that AHRC and Rural Action can explore other avenues in subsidizing this program to help bring down the cost. It is vitally important to our community and to the region and future generations to divert this material from the landfill and repurpose it.

Fahl is concerned that the monthly fee may be too high, and that the program will fail.

Mayor Patterson is confident that the cost will continue to decrease as more residents opt-in to this service.

Grace moved for Suspension of the Rules in order to continue the program beyond June 30; Crowl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Discussion: Grace has also only received comments from the community who really hope the composting program continues, and who are willing to pay a fee to participate. She would like to see it expand as a citywide service.

Fahl moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Discussion: Fahl pointed out that this fee will need to be revisited in a couple of months and decreased if the number of householders increases.

McGee has been an outspoken critic of the curbside composting program because backyard composting is quite simple, and he would really like to see some structured educational outreach to the community on the basics of backyard composting, emphasizing that he is not a supporter of transporting compost. He hopes the program works on a user fee basis, as he has also received correspondence from many residents interested in having this service continue. This is a good compromise, although he is concerned about increased user fees on our citizens.

Kotses is comfortable with continuing this service as an opt-in program with a user fee.

Bruce Underwood, Executive Director of AHRC, emphasized bringing down the cost significantly through increased program participation.

Andrea Reany, Rural Waste, agrees this is a good interim compromise in order to continue the program. Rural Action is already pursuing fundraising opportunities to lower the monthly cost for residents.

Butler thanked Reany for acknowledging Rural Action's fundraising efforts that are underway to assist in lowering the monthly cost for program participants.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-74-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE WITH THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ATHENS, INC., OF ATHENS, OHIO, FOR THE RENTAL OF INLOTS 15 & 17 IN THE CITY OF ATHENS. Risner moved for Suspension of the Rules in that the current lease expires on July 28; Crowl seconded. Suspension of the Rules was approved unanimously. Risner moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded.

Discussion: President Knisely noted that this lease agreement allows the City to park the police cruisers in the lot adjacent to the Law Administration Building to provide quick accessibility, along with a number of spaces the City can then lease to the public to recoup part of the cost.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Grace moved the reappointments of Zach Reizes and Noah Trembly to the Affordable Housing Commission; Fahl seconded. Reappointments were approved unanimously.

At approximately 4:00 p.m. Fahl moved to Adjourn the meeting; McGee seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council