

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Athens City Building  
Wednesday September 4 2019 6:15 PM

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1. Call to order

Member Aimee Delach called the meeting to order at 6:15. Members in attendance include Aimee Delach, Austin Babrow, Sarah Conley-Ballew, Caitlin Garrity, Elaine Goetz, Ed Newman, Stefan Gleissberg, Paul Logue and Sam Crowl. Members absent include Cliff Hamilton. Quorum was established. Guests present were Sean Beasley (Athens Water Treatment Plant) Hunter Legueza (Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs).

2. Disposition of Minutes

The minutes from August were reviewed by the commission. Paul motions to approve to minutes as submitted to the commission. Stefan seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The minutes were approved.

3. Next Meeting Date—October 2, 2019 6 PM (permanent)

4. New Business

C. Water Treatment Plant presentation (Guest, Sean Beasley)

Sean Beasley gave presentation on the drinking water plant on West State St.

- Sean has been the manager for the past 6 years.
- The Water Treatment Plan is almost done with upgrade. There was a need to reinvest in infrastructure, replacing what was put in after WWII.
- Filter backwash changing got ball rolling on energy efficiency improvements.
- Leak detection – often times you don't know when or where there is a water leak. The City paid company to do the whole city for leak detection. The company worked by listening for the biggest leaks. In 3 days they found 15 water leaks. Consulting for leak detection paid for itself within 6 months -- will pay itself off with how much water is being saved and how much less will have to be used. Leak detection is not a new technology- had only been done in certain areas of the city in the past. After 2 months there was a noticeable difference. Around the same time OU was using a lot less water. The plan now processes half a million gallons less per day than 6 years ago.

- By 2017 \$120,000 was cut from electric bill annually.
- Numatics – bad for energy technology for manufacturing plants.
- Electric valve actuators – use minimal amount of electric current.
- 2018 bills dropped \$8-9,000/month – by turning old plant off – additional 90,000/year by taking old plant offline.
- Solar- November 2018 – turned solar on – been on for 9 months - \$40-50,000 per year.
- Salt savings – built softener beds- resin is manmade - \$40-50,000/ year saved on salt. Using less tonnage of salt because the process is more efficient.
- The money saved is invested in capital projects.

Stefan asks:

- Could the city trade Ozone for Chlorine?
- What testing do you do before water goes out? Raw water is tested and plant tap is tested and samples are tested.
- Sean responds: Water plan is tested for hardness, chlorides, chlorine and fluoride.

Guest, Hunter Legueza presents on project to understand Ohio University's water use, reports positively on Sean's work at the water treatment plant, his research is not yet conclusive.

B. 2030 decarbonization goals: Aimee reported in an email to the commission dated 9/4/2019—*From what I can tell, the main source of info and collaboration is ICLEI-USA.*

*ICLEI- USA, Local Governments for Sustainability, is “the largest network of local governments working to create more sustainable, resilient communities.” Athens is at this time not a member. (In Ohio, Cincinnati, Columbus, Kent, Oberlin and Oxford are members). Annual membership dues for the city, being fewer than 50k in population is \$600. To enroll the entire county (pop. 65K) would be \$1,200 per year (50-100k population rate). ICLEI also offers a “Higher Education Affiliate” category and offers support for collaborations on climate, sustainability and even biodiversity initiatives (CitiesWithNature). However only two universities are listed as members.*

*ICLEI offers several climate tools. ClearPath™ “is an all-in-one suite of online tools to complete greenhouse gas inventories, forecasts, and climate action plans at the community-wide or government operations scale. Local governments using ICLEI’s ClearPath are making meaningful progress on reducing emissions and strengthening future growth.” It is a cloud-based tool with modules for inventory, forecasting, planning and monitoring.*

<http://icleiusa.org/clearpath/>. *The “Contribution Analysis” tool goes a step further, helping to determine why emission are changing. ICLEI also has protocols (available to non-members) to help communities account for carbon pollution accurately, U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.*

*ICLEI also offers a number of other tools and programs that might be of interest, including climate preparedness, finance and equity programs.*

*I recommend that Commission members and city staff peruse the [icleiusa.org](http://icleiusa.org) website, with an eye toward whether these various tools might help us track and meet our various goals, and if so, make a recommendation to the city about whether the City of Athens should join the organization. see written update from Aimee - Elaine – The Sustainability plan has generated emissions information from all of the sections but never compiled it all and aim for GHG emission number. Only pieces have been assembled but not the total calculation. ICLEI USA is a free version of carbon tools. The commission doesn't currently need to pay for the tool. Elaine currently using EPA emission numbers.*

Paul stated that the city has been a member of ICLEI before and stopped because there was no one who had the capacity to fully utilize the tools ICLEI offers.

Group agrees for a working meeting on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> to finish 2018 sustainability plan numbers.

C. Monarch City USA membership (Paul) – The Mayor is interested in pursuing Monarch City USA membership. Members discuss various subscription platforms that may accomplish broader goals including Bee City, ODOT pollinator habitat, Monarch city USA. Paul will have intern look into Monarch City USA membership.

## 5. Old Business

- A. Commission Membership (Crowl)- *consider membership for Jasmine Facoun (she is an OU student but lives outside of the city)*
- B. Action items/data collection (All)—still needs work.

## 6. Announcements and Updates

There were no announcements and updates.

## 7. Adjournment

Paul motions to Adjourn at 7:30 – Caitlin seconds. All approve.

Respectfully submitted by Caitlin Garrity.