

**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021,
7:00 P.M.**

Athens City Council met in Regular Session at the above hour with the following members present: Crawl, Fahl, Grace, McCarey, Risner, Smedley, and Ziff.

Also present: President Knisely, Mayor Patterson, Law Director Eliason, Auditor Hecht, and Service-Safety Director Stone.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Fahl moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Session held September 20, 2021; Smedley seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Knisely is in receipt of the following:

- Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control of a new D3 liquor permit requested by Boozy Bubbles, LLC, 18 S. Court Street, to serve spirituous liquor for on premises consumption until 1:00 a.m. City Council responses must be postmarked no later than October 25, 2021.
- There has been an increase in graffiti around the City. She requested the public report immediate graffiti incidents to the Police Department at 740-592-3313, and to consider downloading the City's See, Click, Fix app to report such items.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- Coronavirus is still thriving. The City has (4) viral load testing sites to monitor sewage for the virus. These sites are: the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Richland Avenue roundabout, Depot Lift Station, and Home Street. The most recent sampling analysis showed a significant increase at the Depot Lift Station (the City's west side). The sample prior to that showed a significant increase at the Home Street site. These test sites are constantly monitored, and if there are excessive increases the neighborhoods will be alerted to take extra precautions.
- The EV charging station floor deck in the City Parking Garage has been painted green.
- The Service-Safety Director, City Planner, and himself have been engaging with Reimagine Appalachia and the Marshall Plan for Middle

America on environmental/alternative energy projects, namely safety of the Hocking River dam at White's Mill.

- Receipt of letter from Levi Raichik, Campus Rabbi at the Chabod Student Center at Ohio University, thanking the City for its assistance with the Sukkot on Court Street.
- Official 2020 Census: Secretary of State Frank LaRose proclaimed that the Municipality of Athens, Athens County, State of Ohio, according to said Federal Census has a population of 23,849. The City has grown by 17 people since 2010. This count can be challenged through the Census Bureau and the City is exploring that, as he believes the Coronavirus did throw a serious wrench in the process of getting the full count. He added, the City's estimated populated growth in 2019 was 24,840+.

ORDINANCE FOR THIRD READING:

0-100-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO HIRE A DIRECTOR OF ARTS, PARKS, AND RECREATION AT A PAY RATE OF 34% THROUGH THE ASSIGNED PAY GRADE. Crowl moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Discussion: Smedley asked if there is any additional information the Administration would like to share on the reasoning for this request.

Mayor Patterson indicated that he has provided information on the Candidate's counter of the salary the Mayor is authorized to offer, recognizing that this individual is immensely qualified for this position and is worthy of an additional increase of approximately \$2000 over his authority.

Smedley agrees the candidate appears to be a great fit, but she is concerned about the financial struggles of this department.

The Mayor added that this person will be coming in at a much reduced salary than the former Director.

Ziff, after reviewing the candidate's vitae, believes this person is a strong candidate, only lacking an arts background.

Adoption was approved by a 6/1 vote, with Smedley voting in opposition.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-101-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

0-102-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 80-20, ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 1.03, CODE FEES ESTABLISHED, SOLID WASTE, RECYCLING AND OPTIONAL COMPOSTING RATES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-103-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 88-21; AUTHORIZING THE 2021 STREET PAVING AND REPAIRS PROJECT (#337).

0-105-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 93-21 THE 2021 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE; AND AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE AN INTERFUND TRANSFER.

0-106-21

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY USE PERMIT TO NATHAN RATH, OWNER, 333 EAST STATE STREET, TO PLACE A SIGN ON AN EXISTING SIGN POLE.

0-107-21

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY USE PERMIT TO JAMES COADY, OWNER, 21 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, TO PLACE AN AWNING OVER A GARAGE DOOR.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-108-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF A MOWER IN THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

0-109-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A MASTER EQUITY LEASE AGREEMENT, AMENDMENT TO SAID AGREEMENT, A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, AND A GOVERNMENT CREDIT APPLICATION WITH ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT. Discussion: Ziff is pleased with this program; he believes it offers the City a cost savings and will provide an energy efficient green fleet program.

0-110-21

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE; AND AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO MAKE INTERFUND TRANSFERS.

0-111-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO, OR TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING THE SERVICES OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022. Discussion: Crowl reported a significant savings to the City, as the State of Ohio is covering 96% of this contract.

0-112-21

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$400,000 OF NOTES BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWING NOTES PREVIOUSLY ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING PART OF THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING A NEW FIRE TRUCK AND RELATED EQUIPMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

Fahl moved to confirm the Mayor's appointments of Kelly Sauber and Ben Lachman to the Board of Zoning Appeals, with Mr. Lachman serving as Alternate, taking the place of Rob Delach who will be moving from alternate to full member; Smedley seconded. Appointments were approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 7:45 p.m. Grace moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining, and invited the Mayor, Service-Safety Director, Auditor, and Law Director to attend; Fahl seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Smedley, aye; Risner, aye; Crowl, aye; Fahl, aye; Ziff, aye; Grace, aye; and McCarey, aye.

At approximately 8:30 p.m., Fahl moved to come out of Executive Session; Ziff seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

The Regular Session was reconvened and Smedley moved to adjourn the meeting; Grace seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council