

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL: REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019, 7:00 P.M.

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

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

Fahl moved to Amend the Agenda to add R-09-19; Risner seconded. Amendment was approved unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

Fahl moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Session of City Council held September 16, 2019; Kotses seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Knisely is in receipt of a follow-up letter from Kevin Gillespie, Executive Director, Integrated Services for Behavioral Health, informing Council that Integrated Services has been chosen to submit a final application for Carpenter Hall to receive tax credits to rehabilitate the property. Integrated Services is currently securing financing, completing surveys, working with architects to include green and sustainable materials, ordering appraisals, and going through an environmental review. Property renovations are expected to start in the Spring of 2020. He welcomes any input regarding any issues Council believes are pertinent to the redevelopment of this property.

Council Member Butler appreciates the enhancements underway in the Parking Garage and encouraged signage acknowledging the electric charging stations. He has noticed non-electric vehicles parking in those spaces and would like the City to be proactive in addressing exclusive use for re-charging vehicles.

Mayor Patterson responded that during the improvements to the Parking Garage the parking space decking will be painted green with a stenciled logo identifying them as electric vehicle charging stations.

McGee asked if there is a penalty for parking in those spaces.

Mayor Patterson is unclear but will check and report back to Council.

Butler noted concerns from Jack Stauffer regarding Resolution 08-19, the short-term rental proposal in R-1 neighborhoods.

Council Member Kotses reminded everyone that the next Athens City School Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Patterson reported the following:

- The Parking Garage elevators continue to be inoperable. While Otis maintains the elevators, the parts are from a different company which is causing a delay. He apologized to those with special needs.
- Receipt of a letter from the Ohio Department of Transportation notifying the City of its successful grant applications for the Transportation Alternative Program Grant of up to \$505,000, or up to 95% of the eligible costs, as well as the Safety Program Grant of up to \$500,000, or up to 95% of the eligible costs, for improvements on State Street between College and Congress, and East Union from Court to College. The City will be requesting a change from East Union to West Washington between Court and Congress (similar to the recent improvements on West Union). This would be a 2023 project.
- A ribbon cutting for the Water Treatment Plant improvements will be held on October 16th at 3:00 p.m. at the Plant. The improvements include a new solar array.
- Receipt of a letter from AEP Ohio recognizing the Water Treatment Plant for its commitment to energy efficiency and the environment. The Mayor is hopeful that with the Carbon Fee Program starting in 2020, the City will continue to have more solar projects on municipal buildings for future electric savings.
- Received the City's 2019 Evaluation Report from America in Bloom. The City received 448 points (73.44%) out of a possible 610.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

0-88-19

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE CITY OF ATHENS AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN TO SUPPORT ACCESSIBILITY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Grace moved for Adoption; Fahl seconded. Discussion: Butler appreciates the collaboration between the City and the University in this effort.

McGee looks forward to moving this plan forward.

Judy Roman, Northwood Drive, has heard that the price range for affordable housing is \$125,000-\$250,000, and asked if that is correct.

Grace responded that is correct, adding that affordable housing is separate from low income housing.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-89-19

AN ORDINANCE CLOSING A PORTION OF COURT, WASHINGTON, AND STATE STREETS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019, FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. FOR TRICK-OR-TREAT HOSTED BY THE ATHENS UPTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kotses moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-90-19

AN ORDINANCE BANNING PARKING AND CLOSING THAT PORTION OF COURT STREET FROM MULBERRY TO CARPENTER ON OCTOBER 26, and 27, 2019, IN ANTICIPATION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CONVERGING ON DOWNTOWN ATHENS (HALLOWEEN WEEKEND); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kotses moved for Adoption; Butler seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-91-19

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ATHENS CITY CODE SECTION 13.04.10, UNNECESSARY NOISE, FOR SCHEDULED BANDSTAND PERFORMANCES, HOSTED BY THE CLEAN AND SAFE HALLOWEEN COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 26 AND 27, 2019 (HALLOWEEN WEEKEND); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kotses moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Discussion: McGee has heard that there are plans to significantly reduce the hours of the bandstand.

The Mayor believes the bandstand is scheduled until at least 11:30 p.m., but will check and report back to Council.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-92-19

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ATHENS CITY CODE CHAPTER 11.04, VENDING, PEDDLING AND SOLICITING, TO ALLOW VENDING IN A DESIGNATED AREA ON OCTOBER 26 AND 27, 2019 (HALLOWEEN WEEKEND); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kotses moved for Adoption; Crowl seconded. Discussion: McGee asked how the vending spaces are assigned.

The Mayor will also report back on that question.

Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-93-19

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ATHENS CITY CODE SECTION 7.05.26(C), REGULATION OF CITY PARKING GARAGE RATES, ON OCTOBER 25, 26 AND 27, 2019 (HALLOWEEN WEEKEND); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Kotses moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-94-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 99-17; THE REVISED AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO EXTEND SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SERVICES TO UNINCORPORATED PORTIONS OF THE COUNTY. Fahl moved for Adoption; Risner seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

0-95-19

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE ZONE FOR THE ANNEXATION AREA ON HILLCREST DRIVE. Fahl moved for Adoption; Kotses seconded. Adoption was approved unanimously.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

0-96-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RE-DESIGNATE HOCKING.ATHENS.PERRY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (HAPCAP) TO ADMINISTER ATHENS PUBLIC TRANSIT.

0-97-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RE-DESIGNATE HOCKING.ATHENS.PERRY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS (HAPCAP) AS CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE OHIO RURAL INTERCITY BUS PROGRAM (GoBUS); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-98-19

AN ORDINANCE SUSPENDING ATHENS CITY CODE SECTION 7.05.03, CONTINUOUS PARKING IN THE SAME LOCATION, FROM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019, THROUGH MIDNIGHT ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019.

0-99-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO SUSPEND, TEMPORARILY, THE FEE FOR PARKING AT METERED SPACES IN THE MUNICIPAL PARKING GARAGE.

0-100-19

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ATHENS COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF ATHENS.

0-101-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHENS CITY CODE TITLE 3, ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 3.07, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS; BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, SECTIONS 3.07.70 and 3.07.71, ATHENS CITY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

0-104-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS, WHERE NECESSARY, FOR DESIGN OF THE COLUMBIA AVENUE SANITARY SEWER.

0-105-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2019 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE. Discussion: President Knisely commented that statewide \$1.5 billion in rebates was made to both public and private employers. These refunds were due to declining claims, investment returns, and cost savings.

0-106-19

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, 2020.

0-107-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 142-18, STAFFING LEVELS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-108-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 71-16; AUTHORIZING NON-UNION PAY GRADES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

0-109-19

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO PAY THE HEAD LANDSCAPER AND APR LABOR SUPERVISOR A RATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE 143-18, THE NON-UNION PERSONNEL FRINGE BENEFITS PACKAGE, SECTION 20, PROMOTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION FOR FIRST READING:

R-09-19

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PETITIONS AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE ATHENS UPTOWN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (SID), DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO IMPROVE CERTAIN AREAS OF UPTOWN ATHENS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Fahl explained that this would be a self-imposed tax on property owners to enhance and improve safety in the uptown area. This is the first step of a three-step process.

Mayor Patterson defined the area as follows: from Carpenter to President Street, and bounded by College and Congress, but not inclusive of these two streets. He explained that SID's have to be renewed every five years by the property owners. The SID Board and General Assembly oversees and decides the type of improvements for the use of these funds.

Grace believes this SID is a wonderful idea for the uptown area.

Risner asked in addition to beautification and maintenance, if the money could be used for uptown free Wi-Fi.

Mayor Patterson responded that it could.

Fahl added, it can be used for any uptown improvements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS:

President Knisely announced a Special Session of City Council next Monday, October 14th, along with committee meetings.

Mayor Patterson announced that he has been asked to sit on a panel in Dublin, Ohio at the Ohio Economic Development Association Summit. He will be speaking on Opportunity Zones.

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

Chris Monday, Garfield Avenue, has talked with residents who believe the affordable housing parameters are out of reach for many folks in Athens who need housing. He expressed concern that the plan appears to provide housing for young professionals moving into Athens and not to embrace those already residing in Athens. He understands there is a lot he doesn't know about the plan, but added that he is aware of some really good aspects in it, such as neighborhood revitalization.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At approximately 8:15 p.m. Fahl moved to go into Executive Session to discuss (2) matters of Pending Litigation and (2) matters regarding the Firefighters Collective Bargaining Contract, and invited the Mayor, Auditor, and Law Director to attend; Crowl seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Butler, aye; Risner, aye; Crowl, aye; Fahl, aye; Kotses, aye; McGee, aye; and Grace, aye.

At approximately 8:50 p.m., Butler moved to come out of Executive Session; Fahl seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. Fahl then moved to adjourn the meeting; Risner seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President of Council

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council