

# **MINUTES CITY & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE APRIL 11, 2022**

Members in Attendance:

Micah McCarey, Chair  
Sarah Grace, Member  
Sam Crowl, Member  
Alan Swank, Member

Administrators and  
Other Elected Officials:

President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Service-Safety Director Stone

## **ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG, application for 2022 allocation)  
-McCarey – (see attached CDBG overview) – need to authorize the Mayor to make application for Program Year 2022  
  
-S-S Director – the City will be using Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Programs (HAPCAP) to administer this grant – two public hearings are required, the first to be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> and the second on May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
  
-McCarey – understands the City looks at what CDBG is most inclined to fund, and based on that criteria will then bring forward projects
  
- Fireworks (amend City Code to add a definition & reaffirm ban on discharge, HB 172)  
-McCarey – HB 172, 3743.45 (D), effective July 1, 2022, states: "...a municipal corporation may do either of the following: (1) Restrict the dates and times a person may discharge, ignite, or explode fireworks purchased pursuant to this section. (2) Ban the discharge, ignite or explode any fireworks a defined in R.C. 3743.01(F) -- Law Director has suggested adding a definition of fireworks to our City Code, and perhaps an ordinance stating the City is opting-out of HB 172 and reaffirming the City's current ban on discharge, igniting or exploding fireworks in the City of Athens  
  
-Swank – asked if there is a process for setting of fireworks for special events  
-Mayor – there is a permitting process through the Fire Chief  
-Swank – pleased that the State is allowing municipalities to exercise Home Rule

## **ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. CDBG
2. Fireworks

# MINUTES: APRIL 11, 2022

## FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members in Attendance:

Sam Crowl, Chair  
Jeff Risner, Member  
Solveig Spjeldnes, Member  
Ben Ziff, Member

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials:

President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Service-Safety Director Stone  
Auditor Hecht

### ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Income Tax Amnesty Program (resolution)
  - Crowl – beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> amnesty posters and flyers will be displayed around Athens announcing the program – this program is an opportunity for eligible taxpayers to file and pay back income taxes without penalties or interest – it includes taxes due on returns that have not yet been filed, and tax returns previously filed but not paid – the Auditor’s Office successfully ran this program in 2012 with 20 to 30 participants – collection of back taxes totaled \$47,778.22 – this year’s program will run from June 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> – anyone wishing to participate can bring their paperwork to an Athens City Amnesty Specialist to have their returns prepared free of charge – questions about this program can be addressed to the Athens City Income Tax Department, by phone at 740-592-3337, by email at [incometax@ci.athens.oh.us](mailto:incometax@ci.athens.oh.us) or in person at 8 East Washington Street
  
- Delinquent Income Tax Collection (CCA program)
  - Crowl – upon completion of the Income Tax Amnesty Program the Auditor’s Office will begin the process of working with the City of Cleveland Central Collection Agency (CCA) to collect delinquent taxes from anyone who did not participate in the amnesty program, or owes income taxes they may be unaware of – CCA uses federal income tax information to identify potential City of Athens taxpayers – all administrative and judicial remedies will be pursued to the fullest extent to collect all applicable penalties and interest imposed on those individuals and businesses determined to have a tax liability prior to and throughout the amnesty period – the Auditor’s Office contracted with CCA in 2012 and received \$301,549.44 in outstanding taxes – this is obviously a benefit
  
  - Auditor – a contract will be forthcoming – for their efforts, CCA keeps 25% of the collections received
  
- Appropriations
  - Crowl explained the following appropriations:
    - (\$1610.00) to Cemetery Fund, for insurance costs
    - (\$750) to Cemetery Fund, for utility costs
    - (\$100.00) to CDBG Formula Grant Fund, for insurance costs

- (\$4200.00) to Recreation Fund, for insurance costs
  - (\$2500.00) to Armory/Hudson Fund, for utility costs at Armory/Hudson buildings
    - Service-Safety Director – this will require a transfer
  - (45,000.00) to ARPA Fund, per 0-32-22, Sunday Creek Horizons
- Fire Headquarters (additional repairs)
    - S-S Director – an additional section has been identified that will require increasing the cost by \$17,500 to stabilize rebar and repair concrete in the front of the building
    - Swank – questioned whether even further repairs will be needed before such time as the Fire Department can be moved from this building
    - S-S Director – goal is for stabilization sufficient for a couple more years – this building is not suitable for the long term
  - Staffing (Fire Department)
    - Crowl – restructuring update from earlier meeting to change the number of Fire Captains from 3 to 1, and the number of Lieutenants from 3 to 6
    - S-S Director – this requires one additional Lieutenant position in staffing – MOU with the Union will be needed to modify Command Pay – Non-Union benefit modifications for the Captain position will need to be made to change the number of annual hours worked from 2496 to 2080

**ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. Tax Amnesty Program
2. CCA Program
3. Appropriations
4. Staffing
5. Union MOU
6. Non-Union Benefits

# MINUTES

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### APRIL 11, 2022

Members in Attendance:

Sam Crawl, Vice-Chair  
Micah McCarey, Member  
Solveig Spjeldnes, Member

Administrators and/or Other Elected Officials:

President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Service-Safety Director Stone

#### Items Discussed:

- Title 49 Application, Special Use Permit (67 Columbus Road)
  - President – Ohio Valley Museum (OVM) requests using the City right of way to allow 27 parking spaces – City staff recommends that Council approval stipulate that the owner will continue to allow access to 197 N. Lancaster through the parking area
  - Mayor – current parking lot is in the public right-of-way – OVM would like to improve the lot by paving and re-stripping the area
  - Crawl – clarified that there are currently (11) spaces on private property, with 27 spaces partially or completely in the public right of way
  - Swank – this could potentially be an economic driver for the City, not to mention a great educational opportunity for southeast Ohio
- Title 49, Certificate of Registration (Windstream Kentucky Data Link)
  - S-S Director – registration for using the City right of way for a total of 55-feet of underground conduit along West State Street near North Shafer Street

#### ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:

1. Title 49 – Ohio Valley Museum
2. Title 49 – Windstream Kentucky Data Link

# MINUTES

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### APRIL 11, 2022

Members in Attendance: Jeff Risner, Chair  
Alan Swank, Member  
Ben Ziff, Member

Administrators and/or  
Other Elected Officials: President Knisely  
Mayor Patterson  
Service-Safety Director Stone  
Auditor Hecht

- Special Event (The Athena Ride for Women, August 10-14)
  - Risner – the Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau has requested Union Street, between Court and College, be closed on August 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 p.m. for the following event: The Athena Ride for Women, a women's only motorcycle charity event that has been sanctioned by the American Motorcycle Association – partnering with My Sister's Place (MSP), with proceeds from the event donated to MSP – the team has partnered with many of the local businesses for the attendees to eat and shop uptown
  - Mayor – the Athens Arts & Music Festival will also be taking place on West Union, between Court and Congress, on August 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Swank – asked if this is in the DORA
  - Mayor – West Union is in the DORA footprint, but not all of East Union
  - Swank – will need to convey DORA parameters to those taking place in the motorcycle event
  - Crowl – believes the intersection of Union and College will be closed for repair of steam tunnels by the University
  - S-S Director – will still be space availability for event
  - McCarey – questioned whether this will be a one-time event
  - Mayor – moving forward, will discuss with the Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 72-Hour permit (fee)
  - Risner – application fee was removed by 0-113-21 and was never established in Title 1 – Code Enforcement Office currently receives the application and believes a \$35.00 application fee is adequate to process the permit – the Police Department suggests moving away from a handwritten application permit and would like to move it into the IPS permitting system – this would allow the citizen

to complete the application online and upload any required documentation – once approved, the permit would be accessible by parking enforcement officers through their handheld units – a virtual permit would be issued instead of a hangtag – an approximate \$6.00 transactional cost would need to be added to the \$35.00 application fee

-Spjeldnes – questioned the additional \$6.00 transactional cost – suggested this permit have higher visibility on the City’s website, and that the permit be more easily obtained – online would be helpful for some – understands this is complex, but not sure why renters don’t qualify – would like to revisit the process again before moving forward

-McCarey – believes the \$6.00 fee is for administrative and online processing – would like City to be consistent in applying such costs

-Crowl – questioned whether \$35.00 may still be an adequate fee – there may be a savings by going virtual, moving away from physical hangtags

-Swank – agrees with Spjeldnes on the renter issue, and would like clarification on who gets the permit if there is a duplex situation

-Spjeldnes – on the west side a number of people are very unhappy about parking, in general – emphasized the need to further discuss permit requirements

-Rob Delach, Morris Avenue – this is a big concern expressed often on social media – asked if this permit is still only allowed on certain streets

-Mayor – during the pilot program it was street specific, but is now citywide – need to remember this permit is limited to those having only one off-street parking space, or no off-street parking

-President – cautioned that the \$35.00 permit fee is not on the books – urged settling the fee first, and looking at policy later

-Mayor – Administration will provide details on the cost so the application fee can move forward

- 2022 Annual Paving

-Risner – Administration is requesting an appropriation and authorization to expend up to \$500,000 -- \$250,000 from the Street Fund and \$250,000 from the Street Rehabilitation Fund – the following streets are recommended for annual paving: Armitage Road (chip seal); Banbury; Cook Drive; Currier; Elliot; Highland (upper section); Kern; North Congress (Carpenter to State); Palmer; Smith (Byard to Union); Stewart (East Union south 465’); and 682 Path (pending RR and ODOT approval – Alternate Streets (if funding allows): Fern Alley (State to #13); Hickory (Mulligan to dead end); Stewart (loop by Gamertsfelder Hall); Wallace; and Watt (Morris to Stimson) – would like to know the number of miles being paved

-Swank – asked about process to identify streets that will be paved in a given year

-S-S Director – there is a system level analysis done annually to assess the condition of pavement on every City street, and ranked each spring – an upcoming need for replacement of infrastructure, or possible pedestrian issues are also added in for consideration

Swank – asked if they are grouped geographically

-S-S Director – no, as there is an interest in every ward in the City to have well maintained streets

-Spjeldnes – questioned why some streets get fully paved while others may be just a section

-S-S Director – if there are particular areas where there are significant differences between one section and another section of the street, such as Congress, a section may be rated separately and the entire street will not be fully paved, only a section – also, the City may patch a particular area of a street that has been identified as distressed

-Spjeldnes – she understands that is what happened on University Estates Blvd.

-S-S Director – correct, the front portion of University Estate Blvd. has had considerable stress, but not the entire street

-McCarey – asked about meeting our complete streets objectives

-S-S Director – clarified this is repaving not rebuilding, so none of these streets will be widened, however, if there are opportunities for restriping of bike lanes, that will happen – asked if he is interested in anything in particular on this list

-McCarey – asked about accessible curbs

-S-S Director – City will certainly do that

-McCarey – asked if the rating process for streets and sidewalks are similar

-S-S Director – no, they are different

-McCarey – asked about incorporating public input into the prioritization of streets being paved

-S-S Director – attempt is to evaluate streets in a rational manner

-Crowl – asked about the 682 Path

-S-S Director – this is the bike lane connection with the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway Spur

-Crowl – expressed concern about crossing 682

-S-S Director – it is of concern – the crossing location has been reviewed by the City's Public Works Director as well as ODOT District 10 – it will be near but not next to the railroad crossing

-Ziff – confused as to why this path is needed since there is already a section of the bike path that connects to Armitage Road

-S-S Director – the apartment complex under construction will include over 150 units – this high density facility should be connected, and it will be a more direct route from that of Armitage Road

-Delach – this connection will be very valuable – asked about sidewalk repairs as part of this paving project

-S-S Director – while there will be sidewalk improvements made, they are not part of this street paving project

## **ITEMS NEEDED ON AN UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA:**

1. Athena Ride for Women
2. 72- Hour Permit Fee
3. 2022 Annual Paving