

RECORD OF RESOLUTIONS

BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

Form 6301

Resolution No. R-02-20

Passed

February 3, 2020

Introduced by All Members of Council

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE.

WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders recognized the urgent need to combat climate change by signing the Paris Climate Agreement, agreeing to keep global warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”; and

WHEREAS, current warming trends demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, 1.5°C of global warming could expose 500 million people to water poverty, 36 million people to food insecurity because of lower crop yields, and 4.5 billion people to heat waves; and

WHEREAS, in October 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to even the dangerous 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy by 2030; and

WHEREAS, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, climate change and the global industrialized economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are driving the Sixth Mass Extinction of species, could devastate much of life on Earth for many millennia, and may pose as great a risk to humanity as climate change, and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires Climate Mobilization, an emergency mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II in order to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy; to rapidly and safely draw down and remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere at emergency speed until safe, pre-industrial climate conditions are restored; and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate breakdown; and

WHEREAS, such necessary measures to restore a safe climate include:

- a) a rapid, just, managed phase-out of fossil fuels;
- b) ending greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to establish a zero-emissions economy;

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- c) a widespread effort to safely drawdown excess carbon from the atmosphere;
- d) a full transition to a regenerative agriculture system; and
- e) an end to the Sixth Mass Extinction through widespread conservation and restoration of ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate and biosphere will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, Athens can act as a global leader through initiating an emergency Climate Mobilization to convert to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative local economy at emergency speed, as well as advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO:

SECTION I: Athens City Council declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world.

SECTION II: Athens hereby commits to a citywide mobilization effort to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from State and Federal authorities, ends citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030, and immediately initiates an effort to safely drawdown carbon from the atmosphere, ensuring a just transition for residents, and accelerating adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying local climate impacts.

SECTION III: Athens City Council requests that in 2020 the *All City Boards and Commissions* meeting focus on the formation of citywide climate protection strategies and priorities. The Council further suggests the City form an ad hoc committee to coordinate climate and environmental programs as well as plans to develop and review citywide climate mobilization efforts.

SECTION IV: Athens City Council requests that the Athens Environment & Sustainability Commission commit to engaging our residents in public deliberations on the climate emergency, which will aid in the creation of a citywide Climate Mobilization Action Plan.

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SECTION V: Athens City Council recognizes that the full participation, inclusion, support, and leadership of community organizations, faith communities, youth, labor organizations, academic institutions, indigenous groups, and racial, gender, family, immigrant and disability justice and organizations and other allies are integral to the climate emergency response and mobilization efforts.

SECTION VI: Athens City Council calls upon Governor DeWine and legislative leaders to join the United States Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of governors, committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Climate agreement.

SECTION VII: In furtherance of this resolution, the Clerk of Council shall submit a copy of this resolution to Governor DeWine, State Representative Edwards, U.S. Representative Stivers, State Senator Hoagland, and U.S. Senators Portman and Brown, the Athens County Commissioners, and the Ohio Municipal League.


SECTION VIII: This Resolution shall take effect at the earliest date permitted by law.


Christina B. Kinsely
President of Council

ATTEST:


Debra L. Walkey
Clerk of Council

APPROVED:


Mayor