

MINUTES OF MEETING, ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, JANUARY 16, 2017

The Athens City Council met in called session on January 16, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. with Mayor Burris presiding. The invocation was given by Mayor Burris; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Coker, Perkinson, Raper, Pelley, Burris

The following decision was made and ordered made a part of the records of the Athens City Council.

The purpose of the meeting, as issued in the "Notice of Called Meeting" dated January 13, 2017, was read and made a part of these minutes:

NOTICE OF CALLED MEETING

There will be a called meeting of the Athens City Council on Monday, January 16, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. in the Athens Municipal Building Training Room located at 815 North Jackson Street. The purpose of this meeting is to authorize the Mayor to execute an employment agreement for the position of City Manager between the City of Athens, Tennessee and C. Seth Sumner.

/s/ _____
Charles T. Burris, II, Mayor

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NEW BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF CITY MANAGER

City Attorney Trew recapped for the City Council the decisions they had made regarding the proposed offer to C. Seth Sumner for the position of City Manager. At the Called Meeting of January 4, 2017, he reviewed the contract for a proposed employment agreement with them. Several revisions to the agreement were requested at that time. The agreement was revised based on those changes and sent to Mr. Sumner. Mr. Sumner reviewed the contract and then engaged in a lengthy telephone conference to discuss each of the items with Mayor Burris, Interim City Manager Mike Tallent, and City Attorney Trew. Mr. Sumner then gave them what he wanted in a counteroffer and actually drafted a new agreement on his own. Mr. Sumner had requested more compensation, a different benefit package, and a different severance package. After the conversation with Mr. Sumner, they met to put together the agreement the Council had before them that they thought would be in the best interest of the city and Mr. Sumner. This agreement was reviewed by Mr. Sumner and although it was not exactly what he wanted, he recognized this was an opportunity for growth and approved it subject to Council approval. City Attorney Trew reviewed the changes made to the original agreement. A discussion followed regarding the changes to the agreement. City Attorney Trew noted that the City Council had offered an annual base salary of \$90,000. Mr. Sumner countered with a higher annual salary but had agreed with the \$92,000 base pay. Vice Mayor Pelley stated he was not okay with \$92,000 but would defer to the rest of the City Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-04

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF CITY MANAGER BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, AND C. SETH SUMNER.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the caption of Resolution No. 2017-04 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelley, seconded by Council Member Raper, to approve Resolution No. 2017-04.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Coker, Perkinson, Raper, Pelley, Burris
NAYS: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.



C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor