

MINUTES OF MEETING, ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, JANUARY 17, 2017

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Burris presiding. The invocation was given by Reverend Mike Dannel of East Athens Baptist Church; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Coker, Perkinson, Raper, Pelley, Burris

The following decisions were made and ordered made a part of the records of the Athens City Council.

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MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of December 20, 2016 and the Called Meeting of December 28, 2016 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

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COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION WEEK

Mayor Burris read a proclamation recognizing the week of January 22-28, 2017 as "School Board Appreciation Week". Mike Bivens, Chairman of Athens City Schools Board of Education, was present to accept the proclamation on behalf of the School Board. Dr. Melanie Miller, Director of Athens City Schools, and Mike Simmons, Principal of Athens City Middle School, were also in attendance.

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MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Burris read a letter from Mr. Jeremy England, Director of North American Transportation for YETI Coolers to all local fire department representatives that participated in the Sevier County fire efforts. In appreciation of firefighters from all over the region that worked together to protect all of the people affected by the recent wild fire emergencies in the East Tennessee communities, YETI donated coolers to each fire department.

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PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

AUDIENCE

Mayor Burris opened the meeting for petitions and requests from the audience. Eric Morrow, 1400 Bell Street, stated that starting last summer he had begun live streaming of the City Council meetings so that his father-in-law could watch the meetings at home as he was unable to come to City Hall because of his health. In the short time since he has begun the live streaming on Facebook, there has been a lot of interest in viewing the City Council work sessions, called meetings and regular meetings by individuals unable to attend them due to health, work and family issues. Mr. Morrow asked the City Council to consider looking into providing guest Wi-Fi in City Hall. He has been having challenges with live streaming from his cell phone in some areas of City Hall and a guest Wi-Fi would enable him to stream from anywhere in the building. Vice Mayor Pelley asked Mr. Morrow to get with Austin Fesmire, Parks & Recreation Director, to prepare a proposal on the cost for guest Wi-Fi and bring it to their next work session. Stephen Dick, 610 Greenwood Drive, noted there were vacancies on the Council Advisory Committee and asked the City Council to consider diversity when making their appointments. Mike Simmons, 535 Brewer Street, extended an invitation to City Council members to come to Athens City Middle School for a tour of the facility.

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REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Michael Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of December 2016. The report was accepted as presented.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Interim Chief Rob Davis presented the Police Department Report for the month of December 2016. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Dyer presented the Fire Department Report for the month of December 2016. The report was accepted as presented.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY/ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Anthony Casteel, Community Development Director, presented the Building Permit Quarterly/Annual Report for the City of Athens. The report was accepted as presented.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Burris advised that the following items were discussed during the recent work session and are presented as a part of the Consent Agenda. The recording clerk read the items into the record:

- a.) Approve Athens Travelers Car Show Request for the 2017 Downtown Cruise-In;
- b.) Approve Resolution No. 2017-01 to declare the week of January 22-28, 2017, Athens Flood Awareness Week;
- c.) Approve Resolution No. 2017-02 authorizing the distribution of Athens Utilities Board's electrical in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2016/2017;
- d.) Approve Resolution No. 2017-03 authorizing the distribution of Athens Utilities Board's gas in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2016/2017.

**On motion by Council Member Raper, seconded by Council Member Coker, the Consent Agenda as stated above was approved by the following roll call vote:**

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

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ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 1058 – SECOND/FINAL READING – PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 7 ENTITLED “FIRE PROTECTION AND FIREWORKS” AND TITLE 12 ENTITLED ‘BUILDING, UTILITY, ETC. CODES’ TO ADOPT THE 2015 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL, BUILDING, PLUMBING, MECHANICAL, GAS AND FIRE CODES; 2014 EDITION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE; AND THE 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Burris opened the public hearing. There being no one present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. **A motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelley, seconded by Council Member Perkinson, to approve Ordinance No. 1058 on Second and Final Reading.** Ordinance No. 1058 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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NEW BUSINESS

ACCEPTANCE OF COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL AUDIT (City/AUB/ACS)

Interim City Manager Mike Tallent presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2016. Interested individuals will find the current financial report and reports from prior years on the city's web site. Copies of the report are also available for review in the Finance Department. **A motion was made by Council Member Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Raper, to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2016 as presented.** Upon roll call, the motion was accepted by the following vote:

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

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DISCUSSION ON PARTICIPATION IN THE COALITION FOR BETTER SCHOOLS

Mayor Burris stated discussion on participation in the Coalition for Better Schools had been deferred until the February Work Session.

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DISCUSSION ON U.S. BIKE ROUTE 21

Interim City Manager Mike Tallent stated that the City had been asked to support the designation of the proposed U.S. Bicycle Route 21 through Athens. The City Council had several questions about this program at their January Work Session. In response to those inquiries, Mr. Tallent stated there is no financial commitment for the city, signage may be provided by the state, there will be mostly individuals riding on the route, there are no liability issues and it is anticipated that the route should be finalized by April. Vice Mayor Pelley stated he would like this issue deferred to the February Work Session. Council Member Perkinson and Mayor Burris agreed with Vice Mayor Pelley noting that there were issues they still needed to address. Mr. Tallent encouraged the City Council to endorse this proposal.

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DISCUSSION ON SPRINGBROOK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelley, seconded by Council Member Coker, to withdraw membership from Springbrook Golf & Country Club.** Vice Mayor Pelley stated the City has used this membership very sparingly over the past few years and the \$2,500/year could be used for other things. Upon roll call, the motion was accepted by the following vote:

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

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MANAGER'S REPORT

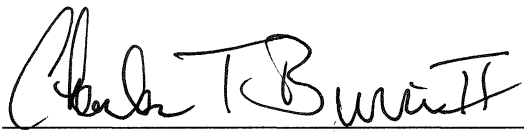
Interim City Manager Tallent presented the Manager's Report. He reviewed the progress of current city projects/meetings scheduled during the months of January/February. The report was accepted as presented.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

  
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C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager

  
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CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor