

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

March 19, 2019

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Burris presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Coker; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Coker, Lockmiller, Pelley, Perkinson, Burris

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

- 1 -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of February 19, 2019 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

INGLESIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATES

Mayor Burris acknowledged receipt of an information packet from Ingleside Elementary School, detailing various activities in which the students and faculty are involved.

- 3 -

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Burris acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Arbor Day Foundation congratulating Athens for earning recognition as a 2018 Tree City USA.

- 4 -

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) Appoint Radley Lockmiller and Jay Hacker, Sr. (Council member Lockmiller's representatives) and reappoint Whitney Coe and Bill Wilson (Council member Coker's representatives) to Council Advisory Committee, terms expire March 21, 2022.
- b.) Approve proposal from Management Learning Laboratories in the amount of \$26,000 for a Recreation Needs Assessment for the City of Athens and McMinn County. **JAMES GALLUP**
- c.) Approve rejection of all bids submitted for Bid #1688 - Mowing/Maintenance for City facilities, park properties and city cemeteries and rebid the project. **JAMES GALLUP**
- d.) Approve rejection of bid submitted for Bid #1689 – Mechanical Room Renovation and Cover Installation for Ingleside Pool and rebid the project. **JAMES GALLUP**
- e.) Approve Athens City Schools FY19 Budget Amendment No. 1. **DR MELANIE MILLER**
- f.) Approve Resolution No. 2019-09 Designating Fair Housing Month in the City of Athens. **ANTHONY CASTEEL**
- g.) Approve Resolution No. 2019-10 to Adopt Revised Tax Increment Financing Policies and Procedures. **C. SETH SUMNER**
- h.) Approve Resolution No. 2019-11 to authorize submission of grant application through the Governor's Highway Safety Program. **CLIFF COUCH**

Council Member Lockmiller, seconded by Vice Mayor Member Perkinson, made the motion to approve all items, except Item c, in the Consent Agenda as stated above. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Further discussion was made concerning item c. in the consent agenda. A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Vice Mayor Perkinson, to accept the portion of the bid related to City facilities and park properties as submitted by Huggins Lawn Care and to reject the portion submitted for mowing/maintenance of city cemeteries. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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ORDINANCES

NONE

- 6 -

OLD BUSINESS

CITY MANAGER COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT FOR FAVORABLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW

A motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Vice Mayor Perkinson, to approve an adjustment to the City Manager's current salary. After further discussion, the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Coker, Perkinson, Burris
NAYS: Lockmiller, Pelley

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Coker, to approve a 3.5% merit increase effective April 1, 2019 to the City Manager's current salary. After further discussion, the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Coker, Lockmiller, Perkinson, Burris
NAYS: Pelley

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NEW BUSINESS

PROPOSAL TO ALLOW SALES TAX REFERENDUM

ORDINANCE NO. 1074 – FIRST READING

ORDINANCE TO RAISE THE SALES AND USE TAX IN THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, FROM 2% TO 2.75% AND TO REQUEST A REFERENDUM OF THE PEOPLE TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE.

The caption of Ordinance No. 1074 was read by the recording clerk. A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Vice Mayor Perkinson, to approve Ordinance No. 1074 on First Reading. The motion to approve Ordinance No. 1074 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution to approve and accept the recommendation of the Athens Utilities Board awarding a contract for sewer improvements at the I-75 Industrial Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-12

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ATHENS UTILITIES BOARD AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ATHENS I-75 INDUSTRIAL PARK SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FUNDED BY THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION THROUGH THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

The caption of Resolution No. 2019-08 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Council Member Lockmiller, to approve Resolution No. 2019-12.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

REPORTS

MCMINN COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT QUARTERLY REPORT

The McMinn County Emergency Communications District quarterly report was presented by Director Marvin Kelly. Director Kelly discussed the number of dispatchers per shift, training provided, number of calls related to city departments and a grant being applied for to provide GPS locating equipment in ambulances. He further commented that this is the eighth year of consolidated dispatch services provided by the agency.

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS QUARTERLY REPORT

Dr. Melanie Miller, Superintendent of the Athens City Schools, presented the City Council with her quarterly update.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Michael Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of February 2019. The report was accepted as presented.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Cliff Couch presented the Police Department Report for the month of February 2019. The report was accepted as presented.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for the month of February 2019. The report was accepted as presented.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Shawn Amato, 505 Oak Street, requested that the City look into flooding problems on his property. He stated the flooding is caused by a tile installed over 30 years ago by the City and the tile ends in his back yard. It was requested that this item be referred to Study Session for further discussion.

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REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Sumner reviewed his monthly report including the various Parks and Recreation and Public Works projects and activities going on throughout the city. He noted that the City of Athens was recently named the 41st most active micropolitan area in the United States and the top ranked in the State of Tennessee.

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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 7:29 p.m.



C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor