

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

March 20, 2018

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Burris presiding. At the request of Council Member Raper, the invocation was given by Pastor Gale Miller; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Coker, Perkinson, Raper, Burris

Mayor Burris noted the absence of Vice Mayor Pelley who was out of town.

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

- 1 -
MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of February 20, 2018 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -
COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD – MIKE AND MERNA JAQUISH

Council Member Perkinson presented the Very Important Volunteer Individuals (VIVID) Award for the month of March 2018 to Mike and Merna Jaquish for their volunteer work at E.G. Fisher Public Library. Mr. Jaquish thanked the City for giving them the award but he did not feel they were doing anything special because they love the library.

Mayor Burris read the following before opening up the Petitions and Request portion of the agenda. "I've heard several rumors going around about our city schools recently; I would like to address those rumors. Let me be very clear, nothing has changed. The City Council and our School Board have been open about our process. Over the past few years the School Board has hired consultants to evaluate the condition of our school buildings and to look at options to overcome identified deficiencies. The City Council fully understands the importance of all city services to our citizens and visitors – police, fire, parks, utilities, community development, public works, and our schools. The citizens have identified the services that they want our city to provide, and that they want to pay for – and that's exactly what we do. This Council has a duty to fully understand all the needs of our city and so, when it comes to our schools, we have hired one of the best educational consulting firms in the nation to help us and the citizens fully explore our current situation and to identify the best solutions for the future. This Council pays very close attention to the needs of our citizens, every single one of them. We are still months away from a final report being delivered from our consultants, which will include community engagement – which will be difficult to address if these rumors, lies, and embellishments continue. The source of these rumors isn't in this room, but we know where it's coming from, and we ask that it stops for the good of our City and our people."

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PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

AUDIENCE

Mayor Burris opened the meeting for petitions and requests from the audience. Bob Sevigny, 302 Athenian Street, asked the Council when they consider the issue of the splashpad on the agenda to consider funding the whole project. Linda Long, 302 Kilgore Street, stated the City needs to finish what it starts. At Cook Park the men were pulled off the job to work somewhere else. They need to properly finish the job at that park before they move to another park. She felt another coat of paint was needed on the walls and floors of the bathrooms and on the

pavilion. The lighting improvements also needed to be finished. The City needs to then focus on the other parks not just Athens Regional Park. Jill Swafford, Principal of Ingleside School, stated she had always heard good things about Athens City Schools which is why she chose to work for them. People drive miles in order for their children to attend its schools. The schools are the hub of the community and their commitment is to the kids and excellence. She thanked the City Council, Athens Police and Fire Departments for all they do for the schools. Tom Hansford, 403 Lynwood Drive, stated he was an advocate for the Athens City Schools System. His family chose to move to Athens because of Athens City Schools system and its reputation. He understands money is a big factor and felt there were a lot of people willing to pay more to keep the City schools, they just had to rally those people. He could not image what the City would be like without the Athens City School system.

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REPORTS

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS QUARTERLY REPORT

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

- 5 -

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Michael Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of February 2018. The report was accepted as presented.

- 6 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Couch presented the Police Department Report for the month of February 2018. The report was accepted as presented.

- 7 -

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Dyer presented the Fire Department Report for the month of February 2018. The report was accepted as presented.

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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 items into the record:

- a.) Appoint Katie Hiney to fill vacancy on Keep McMinn Beautiful, term expires March 6, 2020.
- b.) Reappoint Patti Greek to Council Advisory Committee, term expires March 21, 2021.
- c.) Approve Resolution No. 2018-07 to authorize extension of a contract with Huggins Lawn Care for maintenance of designated city cemeteries through March 31, 2019.
- d.) Approve Resolution No. 2018-08 to authorize extension of a contract with Huggins Lawn Care for park maintenance/mowing of city owned properties designated in bid specifications through March 31, 2019.
- e.) Accept bid as submitted by Stringfellow Inc. for salt spreader.
- f.) Accept bid as submitted by Progression Electric LLC for overhead signal equipment replacement for Congress Parkway at Congress Crossing.
- g.) Accept bid as submitted by East Tennessee Construction Services, Inc. for the Athens Multimodal Access Project.

- h.) Approve Athens City Schools FY18 Budget Amendment # 1 for General Purpose Fund.
- i.) Approve Audit Proposal as submitted by Neal, Scouten & McConnell for the City of Athens auditors for City of Athens, A.U.B., City School System for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020.
- j.) Approve Amendment # 1 to the Gresham, Smith and Partners Engineering Services Agreement to include CEI Services for the TDOT Multi-Modal Grant Sidewalk Project.
- k.) Approve Resolution No. 2018-09 designating Fair Housing Month in the City of Athens.
- l.) Approve Resolution No. 2018-10 to authorize submission of grant application through the Governor’s Highway Safety Program.

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, Burris
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Pelley

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ANIMAL SHELTER

A motion was made by Council Member Raper, seconded by Council Member Coker, to create a task force to study the Animal Shelter as outlined in memorandum from Ben Burchfield, Public Works Director, to C. Seth Sumner, City Manager, dated February 28, 2018. Upon roll call, the motion was approved by the following vote:

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

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CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION TO TDEC FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR ALL-WEATHER, YEAR-ROUND COLLECTION AND STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING FROM THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION (TDEC) HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION AND FACILITY OPERATIONS GRANT PROGRAM

The caption of Resolution No. 2018-11 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Council Member Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Coker, to approve Resolution No. 2018-11.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT WITH GREAT SOUTHERN RECREATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPLASHPAD AT ATHENS REGIONAL PARK

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-12

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GREAT SOUTHERN RECREATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPLASHPAD AT THE ATHENS REGIONAL PARK

The caption of Resolution No. 2018-12 was read by the recording clerk. Motion was made by Council Member Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Coker, to approve Resolution No. 2018-12. Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

MANAGER'S REPORT


City Manager Sumner reviewed his monthly report including the various Parks and Recreation and Public Works projects and activities going on throughout the city.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.



C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor