

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

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Burris presiding. At the request of Council Member Raper, the invocation was given by Ms. Maxine Gernert; 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.

- 1 -
MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of April 18, 2017 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

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COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL DAY AND POLICE WEEK – MAY 14-20, 2017

City Manager Sumner presented a proclamation proclaiming the week of May 14-20, 2017 as Police Week and May 15, 2017 as Peace Officer Memorial Day. Interim Police Chief Davis and several members of the Athens Police Department were present. City Manager Sumner and the City Council thanked the officers for all they do day in and day out to protect the citizens of Athens.

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PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – PUBLIC WORKS WEEK – MAY 21-27, 2017

City Manager Sumner presented a proclamation proclaiming the week of May 21-27, 2017 as Public Works Week. April Johnston, Interim Public Works Director, was present to accept the proclamation on behalf of all the employees of the Public Works Department.

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PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD – AMERICAN BEDDING MANUFACTURERS, INC.

The Athens City Council honored American Bedding Manufacturers, Inc. and its co-founding brothers, Dale and Boyd Reynolds, as the May VIVID award recipients. The Reynolds' have graciously allowed the Athens Fire Department to use the company's parking lot for pump training, operator practicals and driver training. After a tornado destroyed four of the five buildings on the campus of Fairview Baptist Church and Fairview Christian Academy, the Reynolds' made available to the Fairview congregation the old American Bedding building on Dennis Street. This building also served as a "one-stop-shop" for tornado victims, donors, and volunteers. They also assisted the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum when they needed a facility by allowing them to use their building for their Annual Trash & Treasure Sale, a major fundraising event for the Museum. Boyd accepted the award on behalf of his brother, Dale, and all of the employees of American Bedding stating it has been a great privilege to give back to the community.

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MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

The University of Tennessee Master of Public Policy & Administration (MPPA) recently created a new honor to recognize and publicize the contributions of professionals in practice to the advanced education and training of UT MPPA Students. The UT MPPA Fellow in Professional Practice is conferred by vote of the MPPA faculty and signifies their appreciation for the enduring value of the contributions made by a distinguished professional to the educational mission of the University of Tennessee MPPA program. Mayor Burris announced that at the MPPA Hooding & Awards ceremony held on May 12, 2017, City Manager C. Seth

Sumner was one of five individuals inaugurated with this award. The UT MPPA faculty appreciated Mr. Sumner as a highly skilled communicator and accomplished professional whose career exhibits the highest standards of performance excellence and ethical conduct. They are grateful for all that he has done and continues to do to help train and develop the next generation of public servants. He is an outstanding professional role model for their students and they are proud that he also is an alumnus of their program. It was noted that an additional recipient of this award was Brad Harris, former finance director for the City. Also, the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) recognized C. Seth Sumner, City Manager of Athens, Tennessee, on May 12, 2017 as the 2017 "Public Administrator of the Year" in recognition of Mr. Sumner's distinguished professional contributions to and ethical practice of public administration that have improved community livability and inspired others to pursue careers in public service.

Mayor Burris acknowledged receipt of several thank you notes given to Fire, Police, Parks and Recreation, and City Manager.

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PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

AUDIENCE

Mayor Burris opened the meeting for petitions and requests from the audience. Harrison Brown, 711 Howard Street, stated he had retired from the City of Athens in 1997. His wife passed away three months ago and he had questions regarding his pension. Mr. Harrison was asked to meet with the Human Resource Director Nina Edmonds to discuss this issue. Skyler Dean, 102 North White Street, on behalf of the Downtown Business Association, stated they wanted to place flags again this year in the downtown area in remembrance of our veterans. The flags would be installed around Memorial Day and remain in place through Labor Day. The Downtown Business Association plans to purchase 150 flags at a cost of \$3,000. Individuals would then purchase the flags at a cost of \$20 to \$30 and they would be installed around the courthouse square and at Market Park in honor of a veteran. The Downtown Business Association was requesting assistance from the City to pay half the cost of the flags. Larry Eaton, 279 Sweetfield Valley Road, spoke about his concerns with the McMinn County Emergency Communications District (E-911) and the ambulance service in McMinn County. Council Member Perkinson asked City Manager Sumner to provide the City Council with a report on the ambulance service at their June study session. Vice Mayor Pelley stated he did not just want to discuss, he wanted answers. Council Member Coker stated he felt the issue with the ambulance service was fearmongering. He believed the issue was being overstated and felt they should find out the full details before commenting on the issue. Tracy Lee, Principal at Westside Elementary School, thanked the City Council and Patrol Officer Hunter Cardin for all they do for the faculty, staff and students of Athens City Schools. Joe Holmes, 300 West Washington Avenue, stated he had read an article in the May 12, 2017 edition of the Daily Post-Athenian on a white officer who won't face charges for shooting and killing an armed black man after a traffic stop. Mr. Holmes was extremely bothered by this article and hoped the City was looking at its own training program to make sure this does not happen in McMinn County because all lives matter.

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REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Michael Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of April 2017. 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 April 2017. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Captain Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for the month of April 2017. 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.) Proposed Athens Utilities Board budget for Fiscal Year 2017/18.
- b.) Athens City Schools Proposed Budget Amendment #2 (General Purpose Fund) for FY 2016/2017.
- c.) Athens City Schools Proposed Budget Amendment #1 (Federal Projects) for FY 2016/2017.
- d.) Reappoint Larry Rhodes to the Council Advisory Committee, term expires March 21, 2020.
- e.) Appoint Skyler Dean to fill vacancy on Council Advisory Committee, term expires March 21, 2019.
- f.) Appoint Laura Sullivan to fill vacancy on Council Advisory Committee, term expires March 21, 2020.
- g.) Authorize extension of contracts with both Rogers Group, Inc. and Talley Construction Co., Inc. for asphalt picked up at the plant.
- h.) Accept bid as submitted by Rossman Enterprises, Inc. dba, Clean Air Concepts, for exhaust removal systems in the fire bays for Station 1 and 2 as detailed in memorandum from Mike Keith dated May 2, 2017 (Bid No. 1647 dated April 5, 2017).

On motion by Council Member Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Coker, the Consent Agenda as presented was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE (SECTION 3.04.14)

ORDINANCE NO. 1061 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, PROVIDING THAT THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 14 CHAPTER 2, SECTION 3.04.14 HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT AND CONSERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT BE AMENDED; TO SIMPLIFY THE ESTABLISHED DISTRICT AND THE PRESERVATION PROCESS; AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The caption of Ordinance No. 1061 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelley, seconded by Council Member Perkinson, to approve Ordinance No. 1061 on first reading.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO ADD COMMERCIAL, MEDICAL, AND INDUSTRIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS TO SECTION 4.09 OF THE ZONING CODE

ORDINANCE NO. 1062 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, PROVIDING THAT THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 14 CHAPTER 2, BE AMENDED; TO ESTABLISH COMMERCIAL, MEDICAL AND INDUSTRIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The caption of Ordinance No. 1062 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelley, seconded by Council Member Coker, to approve Ordinance No. 1062 on first reading.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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PROPOSED BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-18

ORDINANCE NO. 1063 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A BUDGET AND SET THE TAX RATE ON TAXABLE PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018.

The caption of Ordinance No. 1063 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Council Member Perkinson, to approve Ordinance No. 1063 on first reading.** City Manager Sumner stated there was no tax increase in the proposed budget. **A motion was made by Council Member Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Coker, to amend the budget to include a 1.5% across the board pay increase.** Vice Mayor Pelley stated that the City was making a major step with the employee insurance and felt the Council should defer giving a 1.5% pay increase at this time. Council Member Coker stated that in the proposed budget the City would pay 100% of the employees' health insurance. This was going to cost the City approximately \$200,000. A discussion followed on giving employees a pay increase along with paying 100% of the employees' health insurance. Vice Mayor Pelley remarked that he would not be voting against the employees when he voted against the pay increase. Upon conclusion of the discussion, the motion to amend the budget was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

The motion to approve Ordinance No. 1063 as amended on first reading was approved by the following roll call vote:

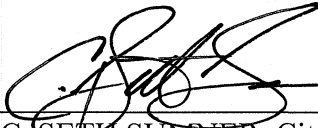
AYES: Coker, Perkinson, Raper, Burris
NAYS: Pelley

MANAGER'S REPORT

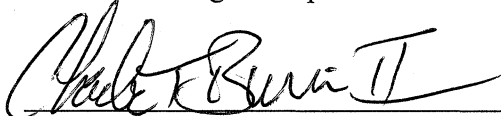
City Manager Sumner reported that on the previous Friday, AUB rain gauges recorded 2" of rainfall in a very short period of time while other rain gauges reported a 2-1/2" to 3" rainfall. Both April Johnston and City Manager Sumner had been out visiting some of the areas and several citizens had visited the City Manager in his office. They are studying the flooding issues to see if there is something the City can do or recommend actions the citizens can take to mitigate the problems. The railroad crossing across from Cook Park is nearing completion. This was a TDOT project. The Police Chief and Public Works Director searches will be restarted in the next week and resumes will be collected in June. Interviews are expected to be conducted in July and August. Hopefully in August or September he will name the Police Chief and Public Works Director for the City of Athens. The City will be sending four of the Historic Preservation Commission members to a Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) in Jonesboro. This is a one day program full of educational opportunities for a preservation commission. City Manager Sumner applauded those volunteers serving on that Commission who will be making the drive to Jonesboro to take classes that will be of benefit to them and the city. The City will be dedicating the new water wheel at Market Park on June 3rd at noon and they look forward to the community joining them. The City received \$10,000 from the Health Department for new stone on Eureka Trail. An executed contract had been received from the State which now allows us to move forward with the splash pad at Regional Park. City Manager Sumner then reviewed the various Public Works' projects and Parks and Recreation activities going on throughout the city as presented in his monthly report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



C. SEPH SUMNER, City Manager



CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor