

# ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

August 20, 2019

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 20, 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 July 16, 2019 and the special called joint meeting of July 29, 2019 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -

## COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

### PRESENTATION OF SOAP BOX DERBY PROCLAMATIONS

Vice Mayor Perkinson presented a proclamation honoring Connor Daniels (Super Kids Champion), Council Member Lockmiller presented a proclamation honoring Ashlyn Liner (Local Super Stock Car Champion), and Council Member Coker presented a proclamation honoring Asher Crews (Local Stock Car Champion), for their participation in the 2019 All American World Championship Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio.

- 3 -

### CITY PARK SCHOOL UPDATES

Mayor Burris acknowledged receipt of an email from Principal Kristine Walden, City Park School, thanking the City for police presence.

- 4 -

### MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Burris acknowledged receipt of an email from Kathy Price, McMinn County Economic Development Authority, bragging on the Public Works' right-of-way mowing crew for their work along Mt. Verd Road to the end of the city limits and a very touching thank you letter from a four-year resident on the addition of the splash pad.

- 5 -

## 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.) Reappoint L. Michael Ingram and Sam Stephens, Jr. to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals, terms expire June 3, 2023.
- b.) Approve Resolution No. 2019-21 authorizing application to Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for funds to purchase a hostage negotiation device known as a "Throw Phone".
- c.) Approve Resolution No. 2019-22 authorizing the City of Athens to make a joint application with McMinn County to the State of Tennessee Recreation Trails Program (RTP) to complete the Eureka Trail.

- d.) Approve Resolution No. 2019-23 authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Tennessee Wesleyan University regarding betterment of closed portion of College Street.

**A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Vice Mayor Perkinson, to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- 6 -  
ORDINANCES

NONE

- 7 -  
OLD BUSINESS

NONE

- 8 -  
NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 9, CHAPTER 7 'BUILDING TRADESMEN'

ORDINANCE NO. 1080 - FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 9 ENTITLED 'BUSINESS, PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, ETC.', CHAPTER 7 'BUILDING TRADESMEN', TO CLARIFY DEFINITIONS, QUALIFICATIONS, AND REVOCATION OF LICENSE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. A **motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Council Member Pelley, to approve Ordinance No. 1080 on First Reading.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- 9 -

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 NEW ENGLEWOOD ROAD

ORDINANCE NO. 1081 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND 'THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE,' SO AS TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 NEW ENGLEWOOD ROAD FROM B-3 (INTENSIVE BUSINESS DISTRICT) TO R-2 (MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) SAID AREA BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. A **motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Vice Mayor Perkinson, to approve Ordinance No. 1081 on First Reading.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- 10 -

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO ADD "DWELLING, EFFICIENCY" APARTMENT DEFINITION TO THE ZONING CODE

ORDINANCE NO. 1082 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, PROVIDING THAT THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 14, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 2.02 DEFINITIONS BE AMENDED; TO ADD LANGUAGE THAT DESCRIBES AN EFFICIENCY DWELLING (APARTMENT); AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. A **motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Council Member Lockmiller, to approve Ordinance No. 1082 on First Reading.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- 11 -

REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

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

- 12 -

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 13 -

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 14 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 15 -

REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Glenn Whiting, 237 County Road 655, stated he had spoken to a retired police officer from Stuart, Florida, who does evaluations of investigations regarding the case of a stolen vehicle. This individual is willing to review the case free of charge and Mr. Whiting requested that he be allowed to review the case so that he can give the Council his evaluation of the investigation. Mr. Whiting then asked why the City continues to issue parking tickets downtown when there are so many spaces available. He presented pictures of the empty spaces downtown at the time tickets were being issued and wanted to know what value it was to issue parking violation tickets when there were so many empty spaces. Brenda Lowe, 14 E. Washington Avenue, stated she is a mortgage lender and when it comes to property, her primary concern is the safety and soundness of the property. The property starts at the Paradise on Washington Avenue and goes up to the

Big Belly Deli. The sidewalk is the least steep in front of what was the theatre and then it goes upwards. There are steps and a handrail at the area where it is the least steep. It gets steeper as you go towards the Big Belly Deli. If a child walking down the sidewalk fell and hit the sidewalk below, in her opinion, it could be fatal. When they were having their grand opening for Mortgage Investors Group, it became very apparent the need for more steps and handrails so that someone does not fall off and hit the other sidewalk. Vice Mayor Perkinson asked Ms. Lowe if she had spoken to Public Works or the City Manager about her concerns. Ms. Lowe replied that she had not, she had talked to several people and was not sure what the proper procedure was to state her concerns. City Manager Sumner advised Ms. Lowe that he would have staff get in touch with her.

- 16 -

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.

- 17 -

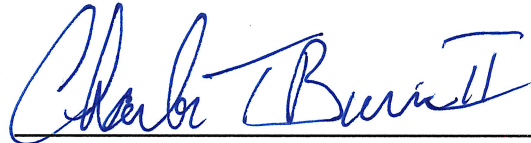
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



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C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



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CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor