

MINUTES OF MEETING, ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Davis presiding. The invocation was given by Vice Mayor Perkinson; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Burris, Pelley, Raper, Perkinson, Davis

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 August 18, 2015 was submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -
COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – “SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH”

Council Member Raper presented a proclamation recognizing the month of September 2015 as “Suicide Prevention Awareness Month”.

- 3 -

PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD – MEREDITH WILLSON

Mayor Davis presented the Very Important Volunteer Individual Award for September 2015 to Meredith Willson. Ms. Willson thanked everyone for the award.

- 4 -

PRESENTATION OF 2014 LIFE SAFETY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO THE CITY OF ATHENS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Davis presented Fire Chief Dyer with the 2014 Life Safety Achievement Award from the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Fire Research and Education Foundation in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. The Life Safety Achievement Award recognizes fire departments for their fire prevention programs that have been proven to save lives year after year. The Athens Fire Department is one of 96 fire departments across the United States to receive the award this year for recording zero fire deaths in 2014 or reducing fire deaths by at least 10 percent during the year.

- 5 -
PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

AUDIENCE

Mayor Davis opened the meeting for petitions and requests from the audience. Ray Priest, 919 Stephanie Lane, gave each member of the City Council a copy of his response to the editorial that appeared in the September 10, 2015 edition of the Daily Post-Athenian. Mr. Priest felt this editorial was a cheap political shot at him and the City Council.

- 6 -
REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Michael Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of August 2015. Mr. Keith noted the property tax notices had been received and his staff was working on processing them. The notices should be mailed to the property owners by the end of the month. Council Member Pelley inquired about Mr. Keith’s statement on his monthly

report that revenues were down in Sanitation due to the decrease in commercial accounts. He asked Mr. Keith if he could provide him with the numbers that decrease represented. Mr. Keith responded that he would need to pull the report in order to get the exact number of accounts and would report back to them. The report was accepted as presented.

- 7 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mayor Davis thanked Chief Ziegler for the extraordinary day they had at the “No Crime in My Neighborhood” event on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at Market Park. She recognized the Athens Fire Department for assisting the Police Department that day. Chief Ziegler stated they estimated approximately 1,000 people attended the event. It was well attended by people from the regional area and everyone seemed to enjoy all the activities. Council Member Raper asked Chief Ziegler if he planned to make this an annual event. Chief Ziegler stated he hoped to hold this event again next year. If word gets out about this community event and how successful it was, they may be able to get corporate sponsors and have a bigger and better event next year. The City Council congratulated Chief Ziegler and the employees of the Athens Police and Fire Departments for the proactive way they were engaging the community.

Chief Chuck Ziegler presented the Police Department Report for the month of August 2015. The report was accepted as presented.

- 8 -

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Dyer presented the Fire Department Report for the month of August 2015. The report was accepted as presented.

- 9 -

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Davis 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 City of Athens Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2015-2016;
- b.) Approve staff’s recommendation to declare assorted items as surplus property and authorize sale as detailed in memorandum from Matthew Marshall, Director of Purchasing dated August 31, 2015;
- c.) Accept bid (Bid No. 1621 dated August 17, 2015) as submitted by Rogers Group for asphalt paving and materials “per ton picked up” price;
- d.) Accept bid (Bid No. 1622 dated August 17, 2015) as submitted by Mobile Container Services for dumpster repair;
- e.) Approve Resolution No. 2015-20 to participate in the TML Risk Management Pool’s James L. Richardson “Driver Safety” Grant Program;
- f.) Authorize City staff to work with TDOT to amend Wayfaring Sign Policy;
- g.) Reappoint Ralph Fenton to Athens Regional Planning Commission, term expires September 21, 2018;
- h.) Reappoint Jennifer Hardison to Health & Education Facilities Board, term expires September 21, 2021;
- i.) Appoint Yvonne Raper to Keep McMinn Beautiful to fill vacancy, term expires March 5, 2018.

On motion by Vice Mayor Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Burris, the Consent Agenda as stated above was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- 10 -
NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO CHANGE NAME OF “VO TECH DRIVE” TO “TECHNOLOGY WAY”

ORDINANCE NO. 1040 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MAP ENTITLED ‘STREET MAP, ATHENS, TENNESSEE’ TO REFLECT STREET NAME CHANGE FROM ‘VO TECH DRIVE’ TO ‘TECHNOLOGY WAY’

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. A **motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Raper, to approve Ordinance No. 1040 on First Reading.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- 11 -

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING CODE – SECTION 4.03.12 REMOTE PARKING SPACE

ORDINANCE NO. 1041 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, SO AS TO AMEND TITLE 14, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 4.03.12 REMOTE PARKING SPACE TO CLARIFY APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS; 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 Pelley, seconded by Vice Mayor Perkinson, to approve Ordinance No. 1041 on First Reading.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- 12 -

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO ADDRESS THE NUMBER OF PARKED OR STORED VEHICLES ON CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTY

ORDINANCE NO. 1042 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD A CHAPTER 6 TO TITLE 13 OF THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE PARKING OR STORING OF AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF VEHICLES ON CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Mayor Davis advised Council that a recommendation from City Attorney Trew was in their folders. He proposed adding “provided the vehicle is being used on a regular basis for farming purposes” to the sentence “Any vehicle customarily used for farming purposes, such as a tractor” in Section 13-604(d) of the proposed ordinance. The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. **A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Raper, to approve Ordinance No. 1042 on First Reading with the proposed change in wording.** Council Member Burris commented that he had been contacted by several residents regarding property on Cesar Street next to Veterans Park that was in deplorable shape. When Council Member Burris checked, the individual was in compliance with the City ordinances. The individual had all the permits he was required to have and there

was nothing the City could do about the situation. This individual eventually left and the mess is still there including an old stove. Now the taxpayers' money will have to be used to clean the place up. He felt they needed this ordinance to enable them to enforce the laws with regard to situations like this one. Vice Mayor Perkinson stated they had looked at this issue for more than a year and he felt this ordinance was needed to protect the community and housing values. It will be handled only on a complaint basis. Staff will not be driving around and looking for those houses in violation because there is not enough manpower and time to do so. Exemptions were put in place for agricultural areas and for "toys". Upon conclusion of the discussion, the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- 13 -

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Moore advised Council that there were two TML Policy Committee Proposed Legislative Initiative Forms in their folders for consideration. The requests were prepared by Mike Keith, Finance Director, and the City Manager after reviewing the two issues. One of the forms dealt with a request to increase state-wide the beer application fee from \$250 to \$500 because it was taking a lot of time and effort by staff. The second request was on the Attorney General's Opinion and dealt with the local governments being able to look at SITUS reports to make sure that the taxes that were being paid were reported correctly and being returned back to the correct community. This was based on a new opinion issued by the Attorney General that would basically eliminate the City's ability to recover taxes incorrectly paid to other cities. These requests will be given to TML and will be looked at by their Policy Committee. The requests may become proposed legislation or they may not make it. If the Council agreed with the City Manager and Finance Director on the issues, they were asked to sign the forms where indicated and the signed forms would be sent to TML.

City Manager Moore then presented the Manager's Report. He reviewed the progress of current city projects/meetings scheduled during the months of September/October. The report was accepted as presented.

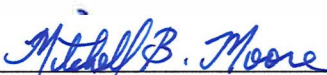
- 14 -

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



ANN S. DAVIS, Mayor



MITCHELL B. MOORE, City Manager