

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

November 19, 2019

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

Coker, Lockmiller, Perkinson, Burris

Council Member Pelley was unable to attend the meeting as he was attending the National League of Cities City Summit in San Antonio, TX.

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 October 15, 2019 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – 2019 SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

City Manager Sumner read a proclamation proclaiming November 30, 2019 as Small Business Saturday in Athens and urged the residents of our community, and communities across the country, to support small businesses and merchants on Small Business Saturday and throughout the year.

- 3 -

PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

Vice Mayor Perkinson along with Mayor Burris presented the Very Important Volunteer Individuals (VIVID) Award for the month of November 2019 to Linda Long in recognition of her efforts with regard advocating park improvements at Cook Park as well as her passion for her community in making it a clean and beautiful place to live.

- 4 -

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Burris acknowledged receipt of a letter from Principal Jill Swafford, Ingleside Elementary School, thanking the Athens City Council for allowing the Athens Fire Department to visit her school and talk to the students about fire prevention, for providing the service that provides for Officer Cardin to spend time at their school, and for all it does to support Athens City Schools. He also acknowledged an email from the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's office to Chief Ainsworth commending him for recognizing the value that continued education and professional credentialing has in the Fire Service.

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 Emily Forrest to Health & Educational Facilities Board, term expires September 7, 2025.
- b.) Rescind bid award (RFB #1691) to Progression Electric for failure to complete Overhead Signal Equipment Replacement at Congress Parkway and Layman Road within six (6) months.
- c.) Approve Resolution No. 2019-27 to authorize submission of a grant application through the Tennessee Department of Transportation Traffic Signal Modernization Program.
- d.) Approve City of Athens Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.
- e.) Approve staff's recommendation to declare assorted items as surplus property and authorize sale on GovDeals or removed as scrap, if unusable.

A motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded Vice Mayor Perkinson, to approve all items, except Item b., on the Consent Agenda. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Coker, to rescind the bid award to Progression Electric (Bid # 1691) by Friday, November 22, 2019 if the city verifies that Progression Electric has not, in fact, performed any work. City Manager Sumner stated that if Progression Electric has completed the work as they stated by Wednesday, November 20th, then rescinding the bid award will not be an issue. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

ORDINANCES

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

PROPOSED ORDINANCE UPDATING TITLES 13, 15, AND 16 OF THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE

ORDINANCE NO. 1085 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO UPDATE THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE TO REFLECT CURRENT CITY OF ATHENS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

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. 1085 on First Reading.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- 9 -

PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE LEGISLATORS EXEMPT CITY FROM REQUIREMENTS OF T.C.A. § 67-4-1425 IN ORDER TO LEVY A LODGING TAX

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-28

A RESOLUTION TO ASK THE TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXEMPT THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED 67-4-1425 AND ALLOW THE CITY OF ATHENS TO LEVY A TAX ON THE PRIVILEGE OF OCCUPANCY OF A HOTEL.

The caption of Resolution No. 2019-28 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Council Member Lockmiller, seconded by Council Member Coker, to approve Resolution No. 2019-28.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

- 10 -

REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 11 -

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 12 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 13 -

REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

- 14 -

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.

- 15 -
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor