

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

December 15, 2020

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Perkinson presiding. This meeting was held pursuant to Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order # 65, allowing the virtual attendance of council members, and CDC/White House guidelines limiting the number of the group present. The City of Athens upholds its citizens right to witness their legislative body in action and provided this meeting by livestream and the ability to physically attend. The invocation was given by Council Member Pelley; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson

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

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 17, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

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COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER PRESENTATION

C. Seth Sumner, City Manager, presented the "Employee of the Quarter" award for the first quarter of 2021 to Dave Albertson, Firefighter.

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ATHENS CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATES

An update from Principal Mike Simmons on the various activities in which the students and faculty at Athens City Middle School are involved was included in the agenda packet.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Perkinson 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 Amy Goodin to fill vacancy on Athens Regional Planning Commission, term expires September 21, 2021.
- b.) Reappoint Barry Toomey and Burkett Witt to Council Advisory Committee, terms expire March 21, 2024.
- c.) Appoint Tyler Forrest and Hugh Willson to fill vacancies on Council Advisory Committee (Council Member Curtis representatives), terms expire March 21, 2022 and March 21, 2023 respectively.
- d.) Reappoint Radley Lockmiller to Council Advisory Committee, term expires March 21, 2024.
- e.) Appoint Moises Contreras to fill vacancy on Council Advisory Committee (Vice Mayor Lockmiller's representative), term expires March 21, 2024.
- f.) Reappoint Patti Greek and John Proffitt to Council Advisory Committee, terms expire March 21, 2024.
- g.) Appoint Reita Witt and Craig Hardin to fill vacancies on Council Advisory Committee (Council Member Witt-McMahan representatives), terms expire March 21, 2024.
- h.) Appoint Linda Long to fill vacancy on Council Advisory Committee (Council Member Witt-McMahan representative), term expires March 21, 2023.
- i.) Appoint Alex Mora, Kyla Martin, and Eddie Arnwine to fill vacancies on Council Advisory Committee (Council Member Pelley representatives), terms expire March 21, 2022, March 21, 2023, and March 21, 2024 respectively.
- j.) Appoint Richard Newman to fill vacancy on Historic Preservation Commission, term expires October 1, 2021.
- k.) Appoint Council Representatives to Boards and Committees:

- i. Council Member Pelley to the Athens Parks Foundation and Board of Zoning Appeals
- ii. Council Member Witt-McMahan to the Athens Regional Planning Commission
- iii. Vice Mayor Lockmiller to the Athens Regional Planning Commission and McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services
- iv. Mayor Perkinson to the Athens Utilities Board and Friendly City Sister Cities Committee
- v. Council Member Curtis to the Historic Preservation Commission and McMinn County Economic Development Authority Board of Directors
- vi. Yvonne Raper to the McMinn County Senior Citizens Board of Directors
- l.) Approve City of Athens Debt Management Policy, annual review by the Athens City Council.
- m.) Approve Resolution No. 2020-46 authorizing the distribution of Athens Utilities Board’s electrical in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2020/2021.
- n.) Approve Resolution No. 2020-47 authorizing the distribution of Athens Utilities Board’s gas in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2020/2021.
- o.) Approve amendment to replacement of Asset # 3280 Ingersoll-Rand Compactor.
- p.) Approve replacement and surplus of Assets # 4260 and # 4309 ASL Refuse Trucks.
- q.) Approve Resolution No. 2020-48 authorizing a contract with Lose Design for professional services consisting of landscape architecture, coordination with City staff, and project management for the landscape improvements within the Athens downtown district and City Hall.

Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Vice Mayor Lockmiller moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, that the Consent Agenda as stated above be approved.** Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson
NAYS: None

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ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 1097 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

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 14 CARTER ROAD FROM R-2 (MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO B-3 (INTENSIVE BUSINESS DISTRICT) SAID AREA BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Perkinson opened the public hearing. There being no one present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1097 on Second and Final Reading.** Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson
NAYS: None

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ORDINANCE NO. 1098 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 10, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 10-202, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDMENT OF ANIMALS KNOWN OR SUSPECTED TO HAVE BITTEN A PERSON.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Perkinson opened the public hearing. There being no one present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Vice Mayor Lockmiller moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1098 on Second and Final Reading.** Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson
NAYS: None

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OLD BUSINESS

None

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NEW BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF MAIN STREET ATHENS EXPERIENCE MASTER PLAN

Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, to adopt the Main Street Athens Experience Master Plan.** Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson
NAYS: None

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CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN UPDATES

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-49

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of Resolution No. 2020-49 was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Curtis moved, Vice Mayor Lockmiller seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2020-49. Council Member Pelley moved to amend the motion to create a new full-time animal shelter position and to keep one part-time position, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded.** Council Member Pelley stated that currently employees are being asked to work twelve (12) straight days every other week. If they kept one part-time position, that individual could work the weekends which would not put an extraordinary burden on the budget. Mayor Perkinson asked City Manager Sumner to comment on the amendment. City Manager Sumner stated that as they discussed in Study Session, they cannot find and keep part-time employees and have not been able to do so for a number of years. This is why the part-time positions are being converted to a full-time position with benefits. The pay will be the same but now with benefits they should be able to recruit and retain someone who will be able to pick up the slack needed to be at an appropriate staffing level for the Animal Shelter. This is being done by adding approximately \$10,000 to budget to cover the benefits. Council Member Witt-McMahan stated she was in support of the amendment as she did not want to eliminate a part-time position should an opportunity come open. Mayor Perkinson, Vice Mayor Lockmiller, and Council Member Curtis stated they were not opposed to discussing the addition of a part-time position, but they have not discussed the financial impact of this option and felt it should be discussed at the next Study Session. Roll call vote on the amendment:

AYES: Pelley, Witt-McMahan
NAYS: Curtis, Lockmiller, Perkinson

The amendment failed. Roll call vote on the motion:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson
NAYS: None

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REPORTS

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS QUARTERLY REPORT

Mr. Robert Greene, Superintendent of the Athens City Schools, presented the City Council with his quarterly update.

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Mike Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of November 2020. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for the month of November 2020. The report was accepted as presented.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Cliff Couch presented the Police Department Report for the month of November 2020. The report was accepted as presented.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

None

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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.

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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



WILLIAM BO PERKINSON, Mayor