

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

December 17, 2019

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 17, 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 November 19, 2019 and the special called meeting of November 26, 2019 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Mayor Burris along with City Manager Sumner and Fire Chief Ainsworth presented Distinguished Service Awards to Athens Utilities Board Journeymen Linemen Abe Aziz, Josh Finnell, Dick Slack, and McMinn County Sheriff's Detectives Greg Earps and Dillon Presswood in conjunction with a residential fire on November 27, 2019.

- 3 -

PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

Vice Mayor Perkinson presented the Very Important Volunteer Individuals (VIVID) Award for the month of December 2019 to Craig Hardin in recognition of his service to E.G. Fisher Public Library and dedication to their annual book sale.

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MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Burris acknowledged receipt of a letter from Principal Tracy Lee, Westside Elementary School, thanking the Athens City Council for all they do for her school and the school system. Ms. Lee recognized Officer Cardin, School Resource Officer, for all he does to help the students and the Athens Fire Department for their diligence with fire drills to make her school safe. In appreciation of the Athens Fire and Police Departments, students put together goody bags for them and invited the Fire Department to eat lunch with them.

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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 following items into the record:

- a.) Accept bid as submitted by East Tennessee Construction Services, Inc. for the Heritage Park Renovation project.
- b.) Approve City of Athens Debt Management Policy, annual review by the Athens City Council.

- c.) Approve staff's recommendation of Animal Control Officers receiving POST certification training and positions be moved to the Athens Police Department in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded Council Member Lockmiller, 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

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ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 1085 -SECOND/FINAL READING -PUBLIC HEARING

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. Mayor Burris opened the public hearing. There being no one present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. **A motion was made by Vice Mayor Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Pelley, to approve Ordinance No. 1085 on Second and Final Reading.** Ordinance No. 1085 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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OLD BUSINESS

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TOW/WRECKER RATE SCHEDULE

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-29

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A WRECKER/TOW SCHEDULE FOR LOCAL WRECKER/TOWING SERVICE PROVIDERS IN THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of Resolution No. 2019-29 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Coker, to approve Resolution No. 2019-29.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A BUILDING PROGRAM FOR ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-30

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING ATHENS CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF A BUILDING PROGRAM FOR THE ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS.

The caption of Resolution No. 2019-30 was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Burris asked City Manager Sumner to read Resolution No. 2019-30 in its entirety. **Motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Council Member Pelley, to approve Resolution No. 2019-30.** Council Member Pelley moved to amend the motion to change the last sentence of the sixth paragraph of the proposed resolution to delete the words "is economically feasible" following the words "be delayed until construction" and add "of Phase I is completed", seconded by Council Member Lockmiller. Council Member Pelley stated his reasoning for requesting the amendment was because this Council wants the project to be done but they do not know what a future Council will do. Many of the current Council members may not be on the Council in 2026 and what he wants to do is state that when Phase I is done, they move on to the next phase.

Without the change in wording, a future Council could very effectively decide it was not economically feasible to proceed with the next phase. A discussion followed on the merits of the amendment. Vice Mayor Perkinson asked City Manager Sumner for his thoughts on this issue. City Manager Sumner stated that he did not believe that the amendment as stated would add value and may actually hinder the process because it would lock their hands and they would have to wait, which is most likely the scenario, to complete Phase I before Phase II could move forward. The way the resolution is worded now, their hands would not be tied and they could move forward as fast as is feasible. Upon roll call, the amendment to the motion failed by the following vote:

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

Upon roll call, Resolution 2019-30 as presented was approved by the following vote:

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

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NEW BUSINESS

NONE

- 10 -
REPORTS

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS QUARTERLY REPORT

Dr. Melanie Miller, Superintendent of the Athens City Schools, presented the City Council with her quarterly update.

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 13 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

- 15 -

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.

- 16 -

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



CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor