

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

November 21, 2023

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 21, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Sherlin presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Curtis; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Pelley, Eaton, Sherlin.

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 October 17th, 2023; regularly scheduled meeting, and the minutes of the November 6th, 2023, City Council Called meeting was submitted and approved.

Council Member Curtis moved; Council Member Pelley seconded.

AYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Pelley, Eaton, Sherlin
NAYS: None

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COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION- ASHLEY ROGERS

Mayor Sherlin presented a proclamation to honor Ashley Rogers.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER- JOHN ANTONE

Nina Edmonds presented Josh Antone in the IT department with this award.

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS-MIKE SIMMONS

Mr. Simmons presented an update on behalf of Athens City Schools.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Approximately 8 individuals addressed the Council expressing concerns about Council Member Pelley and recent news developments.

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City Attorney Chris Caldwell addressed the council concerning Pelley's recent controversies. He noted three potential avenues to Pelley's removal from office.

1. Allowance by the city charter.
2. Recall election against Pelley.
3. Ouster motion- The City Attorney has received an ouster request and will be filing it later.

A motion was made by Council Member Witt-McMahan asking Dr. Pelley to resign from the City Council; it was seconded by Council Member Curtis.

AYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Eaton, Sherlin.
NAYS: Pelley

Mayor Sherlin asked the Council if there was a motion to reprimand Council Member Pelley.

Council Member Witt-McMahan made the motion to reprimand Council Member Pelley if he's not going to do the right thing and resign to remove him from all boards and committees. It was seconded by Council Member Curtis

Mayor Sherlin said the motion to reprimand Council Member Pelley includes the removal of him from all boards and committees in which he currently serves.

AYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Eaton, Sherlin.
NAYS: Pelley

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Sherlin advised the recording clerk to read the following items into the record:

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approve Resolution No. 2023-29 authorizing the distribution of Athens Utilities Board's gas in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2023/2024.
- b) Approve Resolution No. 2023-30 authorizing the distribution of Athens Utilities Board's electric in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2023/2024.
- c) Convert part-time animal shelter employee to full-time.
- d) Approve restructure of authorized positions for police department.

Council Member Pelley moved, Vice Mayor Eaton seconded, that the Consent Agenda as stated above be approved.

AYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Pelley, Eaton, Sherlin.
NAYS: None

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ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1124 – Second Reading/Public Hearing – Ordinance to amend title 8, chapter 2 of the Athens Municipal Code to limit the number of local liquor store privilege licenses to 2.

Vice Mayor Eaton moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, that the Ordinance as stated above be approved.

AYES: Pelley, Eaton, Sherlin.
NAYS: Witt-McMahan, Curtis

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OLD BUSINESS

- 8 -

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Bid for Animal Shelter Kennel

Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Curtis to approve bid for Animal Shelter Kennel

AYES: Witt-McMahan, Curtis, Pelley, Eaton, Sherlin.
NAYS:

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Motion concerning K-9 program and all issues associated

Vice Mayor Eaton made an amendment to the motion to retire canine dog and give to Savana Casteel, and to keep current dog/canine until March 2024. Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded.

AYES: Eaton
NAYS: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Pelley, Sherlin

Mayor Sherlin made an amendment to the motion to give the canine dog to its previous owner and end the program with other dogs and follow the chief advice.

No one seconded.

Council Member Curtis moved that we send to study session issue involving k-9 program. Council Member Pelley seconded.

AYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Pelley
NAYS: Eaton, Sherlin

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Motion to rescind a previous motion from the June 20th, 2023, council meeting to conduct an investigation into who leaked information from an executive session.

Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, to conduct investigation into who leaked information.

AYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Pelley, Sherlin.
NAYS: Eaton

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d.) Approve funding in the amount of \$1000 to the VFW for maintaining the airplane and tank at the VFW post.

Council Member Pelley moved, Vice Mayor Eaton seconded, to approve funding in the amount of \$1000 to the VFW for maintaining airplane and tanks at the VFW post.

AYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Eaton, Pelley, Sherlin.
NAYS:

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REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance director Mike Keith presented the Finance Dep Report for October 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for October 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Fred Schultz presented the Police Department Report for October 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

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REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Deb Wallace presented an update on various projects and programs taking place. The report was accepted as presented.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Council Member Pelley moved, Vice Mayor Eaton seconded, for the meeting to be adjourned.

AYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Pelley, Eaton, Sherlin.

NAYS: None



DEB WALLACE, City Manager



STEVEN S. SHERLIN, Mayor

