

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

December 19th, 2023

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 19, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Sherlin presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Pelley; 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.

- 1 -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 20, 2023 called meeting and the minutes of the November 21, 2023, City Council Regular scheduled meeting were submitted and approved. **Council Member Curtis moved; Council Member Pelley seconded.**

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

- 2 -

REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Six (6) individuals addressed the Council expressing concerns about Ingleside Courts, Council Member Pelley and recent new developments.

- 3 -

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Approve Resolution No. 2023-32 to officially close and abandon an Unopened/Unimproved alley way between Rock Street and View Street.
- b) Approve Resolution No. 2023-33 for T-Mobile hometown grant application for sound system for historic downtown Athens.
- c) Approve Resolution No. 2023-34 for review of Charter changes.

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- d) Approve annual review of Debt Management Policy.
- e) Approve bid to replace roof at City Hall
- f) Approve Purchases for Vehicles Utilizing State of Tennessee Bid
- g) Approval of Committee Appointees
 - 1. Jordan Curtis to Economic Development Authority
 - 2. Frances Witt-McMahan to Senior Citizens
 - 3. Mayor Sherlin to Sister Cities Committee
- h.) Approve application for NLC Centennial Roadshow to promote the city.

Mayor Sherlin requested that item C from the consent agenda be moved to New Business for discussion and a public hearing.

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, that the Consent Agenda as stated above with the removal of item C, be approved. Roll call:

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

Motion Passes

- 5 -

ORDINANCES

None

- 6 -

OLD BUSINESS

None

- 7 -

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Resolution No. 2023-34 requesting State Legislators receive approval for charter changes.

Vice Mayor Eaton moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded to approve Resolution No. 2023-34. Mayor Sherlin opened the floor for a public hearing. Two citizens spoke concerning the Charter Amendments, one in favor and one in opposition. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing. There was an amendment made by Vice Mayor Eaton to clarify which

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elections the term limits were to be implemented seconded by Council Member Witt-McMahan Roll call on Amendment:

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

NAYS: None

Roll call on Resolution No. 2023-34

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

NAYS: Pelley,

Motion Passes

- 8-

Review tennis/pickleball courts bid for Ingleside.

Finance Director Mike Keith provided detailed information on the bids for replacing the tennis courts at Ingleside. The project will require the current courts to be demolished and new courts installed at the same location. The current courts are over 30 years old and have reached the end of their life. If the low bid is accepted from Baseline Sports, six new tennis courts and six pickleball courts will be constructed. The bid will also include additional parking and drainage. The total bid award is \$1,119,090.

Council Member Curtis moved, and Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded to approve the bid from Baseline Sports in the amount of \$1,119,090. Roll call:

AYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Eaton, Sherlin

NAYS: Pelley

Motion Passes

Council Member Curtis had to leave the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

- 9-

Motion regarding termination of K-9 program for Police.

Council Member Pelley moved, and Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded that K-9 program be disbanded.

Mayor Sherlin opened the floor for discussion. Vice Mayor Eaton made an Amendment to strike out 1,2, 3, 4, and 5. It was seconded by Council Member Witt-McMahan.

City Attorney Chris Caldwell spoke and encouraged the Council to not amend and pass as discussed in work study session.

Roll Call Vote on Amendment:

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

Amendment Fails

Roll call on original motion:

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

Motion Fails, item to be returned to Study Session

- 10 -
REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 11 -

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 12 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 13 -

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.

- 14 -

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Curtis



DEB WALLACE, City Manager



STEVEN S. SHERLIN, Mayor

