

MINUTES OF MEETING, ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, DECEMBER 20, 2011

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Buttram presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Davis; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Davis, Jackson, Pelley, Perkinson, Buttram

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

- 1 -
MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of November 15, 2011 was submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -
COMMUNICATIONS

The Boy Scouts of Troop #118 working towards completion of the "Citizenship in the Community" merit badge attended the December 2011 City Council meeting. Mayor Buttram presented each scout with a certificate acknowledging his attendance at the meeting.

PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

Council Member Davis presented the *Very Important Volunteer Individual Award* for December 2011 to Patsy Duckworth for her outstanding support of this community.

- 3 -

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Buttram acknowledged receipt of letters of appreciation for services performed by City staff.

- 4 -
PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

AUDIENCE

Mayor Buttram opened the meeting for petitions and requests from the audience. There were no petitions or requests presented at this time.

- 5 -
REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Brad Harris, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of November 2011. After brief comments, the report was accepted as presented.

- 6 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Chuck Ziegler presented the Police Department Report for the month of November 2011. After brief comments, the report was accepted as presented.

- 7 -

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Jim Dyer presented the Fire Department Report for the month of November 2011. After brief comments, the report was accepted as presented.

- 8 -

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Buttram advised that the following items were discussed during the recent work session and are presented as a part of the Consent Agenda. The recording clerk read the items into the record:

- a.) Approve City of Athens Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2011/12 dated November 30, 2011;
- b.) Accept bid (Bid No. 1554 dated December 6, 2011) as submitted by Cleveland Ready Mix (CRM) for concrete ready mix;
- c.) Appoint Sally Page to fill vacancy on Athens Housing Authority, term expires March 6, 2014;
- d.) Appoint Grady Williams to fill vacancy on Historic Preservation Commission, term expires October 1, 2016.

On motion by Vice Mayor Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Davis, the Consent Agenda as stated above was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Davis, Jackson, Pelley, Perkinson, Buttram
NAYS: None

- 9 -

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY OF ATHENS

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-40

“A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.”

The caption of the above-described Resolution was read by the recording clerk. Mr. Brad Harris stated that a change had been made to the Debt Management Policy since the City Council had reviewed it at the December Work Session. A revised copy of the policy had been placed in the council folders. The only change was to the section on Variable Rate Debt that appears on page 8 of the policy. After reviewing the policy, it was felt that this section was too restrictive. Mr. Harris noted that the TML Bond Fund estimated that the City has saved approximately \$7,500,000 as a result of the variable interest rate. Council Member Jackson cautioned against having too much variable rate debt, and noted that a blend of fixed and variable debt was desirable. **Motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Jackson, to approve Resolution No. 2011-40 as presented.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Davis, Jackson, Pelley, Perkinson, Buttram
NAYS: None

- 10 -

CONSIDERATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY WRITE-OFFS

Mr. Harris gave a brief explanation of personal property taxes. He stated that in talking with the Property Assessor and checking current business licenses it was found that a number of businesses no longer exist and owners are now deceased or cannot be found. **A motion was made by Vice Mayor Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Jackson, to approve request to write-off personal property taxes as detailed in the memorandum from Brad Harris, Finance Director dated December 5, 2011.** Upon roll call, the motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Davis, Jackson, Pelley, Perkinson, Buttram
NAYS: None

- 11 -

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) FOR AN URBAN WATERS SMALL GRANT

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-41

“A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDING FOR A GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) URBAN WATERS PROGRAM FOR A COMMUNITY GARDEN/GREENHOUSE.”

The caption of the above-described Resolution was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve Resolution No. 2011-41 as presented.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Davis, Jackson, Pelley, Perkinson, Buttram
NAYS: None

- 12 -

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Moore presented the Manager's Report. He reviewed the progress of current city projects/meetings scheduled during the months of December and January. After brief comments, the report was accepted.

- 13 -

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.



R. HAL BUTTRAM, Mayor



MITCHELL B. MOORE, City Manager