

MINUTES OF MEETING, ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, JANUARY 21, 2014

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Buttram presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Perkinson; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Burris, Pelley, Perkinson, Davis, Buttram

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

**A motion was made by Council Member Perkinson, seconded by Vice Mayor Davis, to omit from the agenda item XII (b) on the proposed ordinance to raise the sales and use tax and request a referendum of the people to approve the ordinance.** Council Member Perkinson stated the Council needed more information and an opportunity to gather the information before they proceed. Council Member Pelley asked if there would be enough time to place this referendum on the May ballot if they omitted it from the agenda. City Manager Moore responded that would depend on the City Council timing. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

**AYES: Perkinson, Davis, Buttram**  
**NAYS: Burris, Pelley**

- 1 -  
MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of December 17, 2013 was submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -  
COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

Vice Mayor Davis presented the Very Important Volunteer Individual Award for January 2014 to Debby Herbert for her outstanding support of this community. Mrs. Herbert stated she was honored to receive the award and thanked the City Council.

- 3 -  
PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

AUDIENCE

Mayor Buttram opened the meeting for petitions and requests from the audience. Robert Greene, Director of Athens City Schools, stated the 2013 Report Card for Athens City Schools had been received from the Tennessee Department of Education and they ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Math and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Reading in the Southeast District Ranking and 14<sup>th</sup> in Math and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Reading in the System State Ranking. He wanted to congratulate the teachers, administrators, staff and parents. C. David Derrick, 102 Nash Drive, stated he wanted to speak on the sales tax issue even though the item had been removed from the agenda. Mr. Derrick felt the .75% increase in sales tax was too much and a .25% increase would be more appropriate. He commented that several of his neighbors and friends had expressed their displeasure over some of the projects the City was applying for grant funding. These grants are not free and the City has to provide a certain amount of matching dollars. Mr. Derrick acknowledged revenues had not kept up with expenses but felt administrative costs were too high. Council Member Perkinson invited the public to contact the City Manager's office if they were interested in reviewing a detailed report of recent grant projects.