

MINUTES OF MEETING, ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, MARCH 18, 2014

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 18, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Buttram presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Burris; 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.

- 1 -

MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of February 18, 2014 was submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – “BLINK OUT” DAY

Mayor Buttram read a proclamation recognizing April 2, 2014 as “BLINK Out” Day which stands for Because Life Is Never Known. Susan Ray from McMinn County High School and four students from her Life Skills class were present to accept the proclamation.

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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. Emily Cate and Lisa Epps spoke about their concerns that the community was not growing. Ms. Epps stated the City was losing its youth because it doesn't have the things it needs such as jobs and a revitalized downtown. There are options out there that are innovative and pull people together that are not particularly costly. Ms. Epps remarked the City has the foundations in place for growth such as the Regional Park and Rails to Trails. She urged the Council to make Athens a place where our children want to come back to not leave from.

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REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Michael Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of February 2014. The report was accepted as presented.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Chuck Ziegler presented the Police Department Report for the month of February 2014. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Captain Tim Schultz presented the Fire Department Report for the month of February 2014. The report was accepted as presented.

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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 Resolution No. 2014-06 designating Fair Housing Month in the City of Athens;
- b.) Approve Resolution No. 2014-07 to adopt the Small Purchase Procurement Policy for the Safe Routes to School grant;
- c.) Approve Authorizing Resolution No. 2014-08 for the financing of the construction of a water facilities project in the amount of \$2,550,000;
- d.) Reject bid (Bid No. 1599 dated March 5, 2014) as submitted by Wilson Construction for Police Renovations;
- e.) Approve reappointments of Amy Arnwine, Linda Garza, Laura LeNoir and Robert Miller to the Council Advisory Committee, terms expire March 21, 2017;
- f.) Accept resignation by Lewis Talmadge on Board of Zoning Appeals, term expires June 30, 2017;
- g.) Approve appointment of Ralph Fenton to Board of Zoning Appeals as Athens Planning Commission representative to fill vacancy, term expires June 30, 2017;
- h.) Appoint William B. Wilson, Jr. to the Council Advisory Committee, term expires March 21, 2016.

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

**AYES:           Burris, Pelley, Perkinson, Davis, Buttram**  
**NAYS:           None**

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ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 1022 – SECOND/FINAL READING – PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ‘THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE,’ SO AS TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REZONE PROPERTY AT 110 KEITH LANE FROM B-1 (LOCAL BUSINESS DISTRICT) TO R-2 (MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) SAID AREA BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Buttram opened the public hearing. Kent Cormack stated he along with Bill Pugh were the current owners of the property. He remarked that this historic property had been zoned residential and was changed to commercial within the past decade. It was their intent to continue its residential use. In order to protect this property historically and be consistent with the rest of the neighborhood, they were in support this ordinance. There being no one else present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. **A motion was made by Council Member**

**Perkinson, seconded by Vice Mayor, to approve Ordinance No. 1022 on Second and Final Reading.** Ordinance No. 1022 was approved by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:           Burris, Pelley, Perkinson, Davis, Buttram**  
**NAYS:           None**  
**ABSENT:       None**

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ORDINANCE NO. 1023 – SECOND/FINAL READING – PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ‘THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE,’ SO AS TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO ADD 29 PARCELS KNOWN AS UNION HILL SUBDIVISION, TAX MAP 066 PARCEL 161.00 THROUGH TAX MAP 066 PARCEL 161.28 AS R-2 (MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL), SAID AREA BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Buttram 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 Davis, seconded by Council Member Burris, to approve Ordinance No. 1023 on Second and Final Reading.** Ordinance No. 1023 was approved by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:           Burris, Pelley, Perkinson, Davis, Buttram**  
**NAYS:           None**  
**ABSENT:       None**

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ORDINANCE NO. 1024 – SECOND/FINAL READING – PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ‘THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE,’ SO AS TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO ADD PARCEL TAX MAP 047 PARCEL 001.00 AS I-2 (HEAVY INDUSTRIAL), SAID AREA BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Buttram opened the public hearing. There being no one present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. **A motion was made by Council Member Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Burris, to approve Ordinance No. 1024 on Second and Final Reading.** Ordinance No. 1024 was approved by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:           Burris, Pelley, Perkinson, Davis, Buttram**  
**NAYS:           None**  
**ABSENT:       None**

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NEW BUSINESS

CITY MANAGER’S SALARY MERIT ADJUSTMENT

Mayor Buttram stated the Council had reviewed the City Manager’s performance and those reviews were submitted to the MTAS organization in Knoxville for a collective evaluation of all of their comments. At the February 2014 City Council Work Session, Margaret Norris from MTAS came and made that collective presentation. Mr. Moore as City Manager had done very well in many areas. **A motion was made by Mayor Buttram, seconded by Council Member Perkinson, to recognize Mr. Moore’s abilities and grant him a one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) merit adjustment to his salary.** Mayor Buttram explained that beginning in July 2013 all employees received a one percent salary increase. Mr. Moore makes the decision regarding merit increases for all employees. It was the Council’s responsibility to take Mr. Moore’s evaluation and grant him that same courtesy. This increase would be effective from the Manager’s anniversary date of September 2013 through June 2014 which is the end of the fiscal year. The total amount of the increase would be \$1,335. **A motion was made by Vice Mayor Davis, seconded by Council Member Burris, to postpone this item until the April City Council meeting.** Vice Mayor Davis stated that she would like to meet with the City Manager

on this issue and suggested each member of the Council do the same. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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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 March and April. The report was accepted as presented.

City Manager Moore stated the litter on state highways and city streets was a terrible problem for the community. He encouraged the high school students in the audience to talk with their friends and family members as he felt they could help the City resolve this problem. Mr. Moore said it was a shame to drive through some of the areas in McMinn County and the City and see litter on a daily basis. The City has one employee whose only job is to pick up litter. It is disheartening to see him pick up litter and two days later have to go back to the same location to pick up litter again because it was in such bad shape. Some of the litter comes from the back of trucks going to landfill and the City was trying to police that problem. He asked for any assistance from the viewing public and schools and stated he would appreciate any help because this is everyone's community. There was talk earlier in the meeting about community growth and in order for the community to grow there must be self-pride in the community. Council Member Perkinson asked City Manager Moore about the Adopt-a-Street program and commented that would be a good project for a group of individuals to get involved in. Mr. Moore agreed and suggested anyone interested in that program should contact the Public Works Director Shawn Lindsey for more information.

Shawn Lindsey, Public Works Director, announced he had received notification that the City had been awarded \$543,452 from the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Multimodal Access Fund Program for sidewalk construction and renovation. Athens was one of only ten cities statewide to be awarded this grant and was required to match only 5% or a little more than \$27,000. Mr. Lindsey stated this grant would help build a new sidewalk along Congress Parkway from Rocky Mount Road to Bryson Street, complete all unfinished sections along Decatur Pike from Jackson Street to Congress Parkway and fix approximately \$100,000 worth of sidewalk damage.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

  
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MITCHELL B. MOORE, City Manager

  
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R. HAL BUTTRAM, Mayor