

MINUTES OF MEETING, ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, APRIL 15, 2014

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Buttram presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Pelley; 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 March 18, 2014 was submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -
COMMUNICATIONS

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER PRESENTATION

Ms. Rita Brown, Human Resources Director, presented the "Employee of the Quarter" award for the period ending March 31, 2014. Gene McConkey, Building Inspector in the Community Development Department, was recognized for his outstanding service to the City of Athens. As in the past, the recipient of this award receives \$50 and becomes eligible for the "Employee of the Year" award, which is given annually to recognize significant service to the City of Athens. Mr. McConkey thanked everyone for the award.

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PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

Vice Mayor Davis presented the Very Important Volunteer Individual Award for April 2014 to Reverend Hendree Harrison for his outstanding support of this community. Rev. Harrison stated he was humbled, honored and surprised to be nominated for this award. He did not feel he merited such an award because he was just one of a group of people in the community working for the common good. He accepted the award on behalf of those individuals.

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PRESENTATION OF 2014 JOHN S. WILDER REBUILD TENNESSEE AWARD

Chuck Hammonds from the Southeast Tennessee Development District stated that each year the Development District nominates communities for the John S. Wilder Rebuild Tennessee Award. This year they nominated the City of Athens, Tennessee and the Athens Utilities Board in recognition of the Athens Green Sewer System Redevelopment Project designed to improve Oostanaula Creek water quality. As a result of Athens Utilities Board's renovations and rehabilitation of their overall sewer system and the jointly funded sewer line extension, HP Pelzer built its new plant at the Mt. Verd Industrial Park. The City of Athens adopted three natural infrastructure guiding principles which decrease flooding and erosion. They secured TDEC Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant money which leveraged other contributions enabling them to construct a wetlands on E.G. Fisher Public Library property which retains storm water and prevents it from entering the creek. Additionally, the City has retrofitted parking lots with Geoblock porous pavement and has been constructing rain gardens at homes and businesses throughout the city to improve environmental outcomes. Mr. Hammonds stated he was pleased to present the City of Athens and Athens Utilities Board with the John S. Wilder Rebuild Tennessee Award. He also announced that the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation's publication of Best Practices Case Studies recognized the City of Athens for its Natural Infrastructure Design and Implementation. A copy of this publication was presented to each council member and city manager.

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PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

AUDIENCE

Mayor Buttram opened the meeting for petitions and requests from the audience. Kikki White, 157 South Jackson Street, expressed her concerns about the City's budget situation and the amount of money it was spending on grant related projects.

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REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 7 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Chuck Ziegler presented the Police Department Report for the month of March 2014. The report was accepted as presented. In response to questions regarding an article on the number of cases cleared by various law enforcement agencies, Chief Ziegler presented the council with a handout detailing the total offenses in the City of Athens since 2001 and the number of cases cleared during the same time period.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Dyer presented the Fire Department Report for the month of March 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. 2014-09 to amend the City of Athens Personnel Rules and Regulations;
- b.) Accept proposal from Lose and Associates, Inc. (Bid No. 1600) for professional services related Safe Routes to Schools;
- c.) Accept bid (Bid No. 1601 dated March 14, 2014) as submitted by Lee Smith for two (2) dump trucks;
- d.) Accept resignation by John Ray McKeehan on the Athens Regional Planning Commission, term expires August 18, 2016;
- e.) Appoint S. Thomas (Tom) Hamilton to fill unexpired term on Athens Regional Planning Commission, term expires August 18, 2016.

On motion by Vice Mayor Davis, seconded by Council Member Perkinson, 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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OLD BUSINESS

CITY MANAGER'S SALARY MERIT ADJUSTMENT

A motion was made by Mayor Buttram, seconded by Council Member Perkinson to approve a one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) merit adjustment to City Manager Moore's salary. Mayor Buttram stated City Manager Moore has the option of awarding up to a two percent (2%) merit salary increase to city employees. Since the City Manager reports to the City Council it was their obligation to do the same for him. Council Member Perkinson rose in favor of the motion. He stated his reasons why he was in favor of the motion included the strong reserve balance in spite of the recession and Manager's solid performance evaluation. The City also has excellent department heads and employees and that doesn't just happen. Based on a survey of comparative cities, Mr. Moore's salary is in the middle range. Council Member Burris stated the City Manager does not have an easy job. He agreed with Council Member Perkinson's comment regarding the middle range but felt that the difference in the comparison was Athens had 109 employees and a lot of the other cities had between 300 and 400 employees. Council Member Burris felt the City Manager made a good salary. Vice Mayor Davis stated she asked this item to be postponed from last month's meeting because she felt that it was a good idea for the council to meet with the City Manager individually and discuss this issue. Council Member Pelley rose in opposition to the motion. He disagreed with the Mayor's statement that the council was obligated to bring this issue before them and did not feel they were obligated to give the City Manager a raise. The City Manager negotiated a very good contract fifteen years ago and he makes a good salary. Mayor Buttram stated the cost of the merit adjustment in this year's budget is \$1,300 which goes back to the City Manager's September anniversary date. A full year would be \$1,600. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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NEW BUSINESS

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT #2 – FY 2013/2014

A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Burris to approve Athens City Schools proposed Budget Amendment #2 for fiscal year 2013/2014. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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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 April and May. The report was accepted as presented.

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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 7:18 p.m.



MITCHELL B. MOORE, City Manager



R. HAL BUTTRAM, Mayor