

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

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 21, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Buttram presiding. The invocation was given by Mayor Buttram; 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.

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MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of September 16, 2014 was submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

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COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

Mayor Buttram read a proclamation recognizing the month of October as National Arts and Humanities Month. Lauren Shepherd, Executive Director of the Athens Area Council for the Arts, along with Jerry Hagaman, AACA Board of Directors President, and Sandra Boyd, Immediate Past President, were present to accept the proclamation.

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PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

Council Member Perkinson presented the Very Important Volunteer Individual Award for October 2014 to Frank Davis for his outstanding support of this community. Frank Davis and his wife, Audrey, were present. Mr. Davis thanked the Council stating it was a tremendous honor and something he never expected. He felt blessed to be able to help others. Mr. Davis explained that he had discovered a whole new demographic of people in the community that for a host of reasons did not have the means to take care of their homes. He established the Helping Hands ministry to help those people. The ministry recruits volunteers, begs for money, buys materials and tries to do the repairs that will keep the homes safe and mitigate any health/safety hazards as well as keep them from deteriorating further. Mr. Davis also thanked his wife for all her support.

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MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Buttram acknowledged receipt of letter of appreciation from the Rotary Club of Tellico Lake to the Athens Police Department for their support of the 9th annual Tour de Tellico bicycle ride. He also noted the City Council had received a letter from Frank Biondo, member of Charles R. Ware. The Charles R. Ware reunion was recently held in the city and Mr. Biondo thanked the City of Athens for hosting it. The Ware members were so impressed and appreciative of the planning and execution that went into making their visit so special. The letter also acknowledged Austin Fesmire, McMinn County Living Heritage Museum and Pumpkintown organizers for their part in making the reunion a meaningful event.

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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, stated that approximately four years ago she had approached the Council about the fluoride in the drinking water and asked that it be removed because it was poison. Ms. White stated the Council took her request under consideration and she did not hear

anything further about it. She reported there were 16 cities in the state of Tennessee that found the Fluoride Alert organization was right and stopped putting fluoride in their drinking water. Ms. White stated there were health risks associated with fluoride. In addition, the City could save approximately \$35,000/year if they removed fluoride. She asked the Council to please stop putting fluoride in the water.

Doug Luttrell, 607 Shoemaker Street, stated he had a series of six rhetorical questions that were just food for thought. He commented the elections were coming up and his questions were as follows:

1. What has this Council accomplished over the last couple of years that they would be proud enough of to call their mothers and say look at what we did?
2. Why do we have radar cops in selective places of all days on Sunday morning?
3. Last year about this time he tried to promote a gathering of the community to say thanks to our creator for all of our national blessings. One of our government leaders replied to me that was really a dumb idea. Why would a government official make a statement like that?
4. Mr. Luttrell stated he did not come to all the Council meetings because of his work but he does try to keep up with the voting records of the Council. Whether an issue the Council has to vote on passes or fails, why does it always seem like three against the same two?
5. Why does it seem like the crime rate in Athens is higher per capita than other cities of the same size in Tennessee?
6. How did Athens coin the name "The Friendly City"?

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REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Captain Rob Davis presented the Police Department Report for the month of September 2014. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Dyer presented the Fire Department Report for the month of September 2014. The report was accepted as presented. Council Member Burris congratulated Chief Dyer and his entire staff for getting the City's ISO rating down. Chief Dyer stated it was a community award and attributed it to the Council funding him, the City Manager for turning him loose to do a few things during tough economic times, and to the business owners for letting them come in and do inspections. Residents should see a significant reduction in their insurance of 2% or better. Vice Mayor Davis commented on the impact a lower ISO rating has on industrial recruitment. Chief Dyer noted the City was 1.02 points from an ISO 2 rating. A 2 will not help residential but commercial and industrial would see significant savings. If the City receives a 2, it will be in the top 1% of the fire departments in the nation. To him that would be a significant accomplishment for the City's 21 firefighters. Chief Dyer and the firefighters were commended for what they do for the City.

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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. 2014-21 authorizing the submission of a State Industrial Access Road Application to extend George Price Boulevard to County Road 170 for "Project Price";
- b.) Accept bid (Bid No. 1608 dated September 17, 2014) as submitted by Gov Connection for ruggedized laptops;
- c.) Accept bid (Bid No. 1609 dated September 17, 2014) as submitted by CE Mashburn DBA Trio Equipment for equipment rental;
- d.) Approve staff's recommendation to declare assorted vehicles as surplus property and authorize public sale or disposal thereof as detailed in memorandum from Matthew Marshall, Director of Purchasing dated October 8, 2014;
- e.) Approve Athens City Board of Education Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015;
- f.) Approve City of Athens, Tennessee Defined Benefit Pension Plan Funding Policy.

On motion by Council Member Perkinson, 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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NEW BUSINESS

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING CODE TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW AND THE CHANGES TO THE VESTED RIGHTS ACT

ORDINANCE NO. 1033 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, PROVIDING THAT THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 14, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 4.17.07 BE AMENDED TO ADD LANGUAGE CONCERNING VESTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS; AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. **A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Burris, to approve Ordinance No. 1033 on First Reading.** Upon roll call, the first reading of Ordinance No. 1033 was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Burris, Pelley, Perkinson, Davis, Buttram
NAYS: None
ABSENT: 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 October and November. The report was accepted as presented.

Council Member Burris asked City Manager Moore to address the current closing of the Recycle Center. Mr. Moore stated someone had disposed of human feces and it was transported to the City's vendor. During the recycling process, the waste was splashed on several workers who had to go home sick. He stated that neither cameras nor a full time employee would have helped in this situation since the people used plastic bags. As a result, the Recycle Center had to be closed. Mr. Moore commented this was despicable and whoever did it, when discovered, will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. At a minimum in the future, plastic bags will not be allowed at the Center.

Vice Mayor Davis stated the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) sponsors sessions for learning what is going on and what they need to be doing as council members. They conducted a session in Chattanooga last year on economic development and site selectors. Site selectors are people who are sent into communities to select a site for industry. Ms. Davis requested a DVD of that session. She invited anyone interested in getting a copy of the DVD to contact the City Manager's office. The DVD explains what industries look for when they are looking for a community in which to locate. Site selection has become very competitive and this session goes into detail about the things industries are looking for when considering a community. Last year approximately 400 new jobs were created in the area. Industries are expanding. According to the Economic Development Authority Director, there are more big expansions coming. Vice Mayor Davis remarked they could not keep up with the workforce loads and with this new growth will come a lot of new challenges. They were going to need more staff to handle this expansion. She commented that Mayor Buttram had a lot to do with this growth. He led the City through a recession and some pretty tough times and she was grateful for his leadership and guidance. Mayor Buttram was leaving Athens in a great place. Mayor Buttram thanked Vice Mayor Davis for her kind words. He remarked that the City Council, City Manager and staff deserve the credit. They are the ones that have gotten the job done and it has been his pleasure to serve the City of Athens and the citizens of the city.


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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 7:05 p.m.



R. HAL BUTTRAM, Mayor



MITCHELL B. MOORE, City Manager