

MINUTES OF MEETING, ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, APRIL 21, 2015

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Davis presiding. The invocation was given by Vice Mayor Perkinson; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Burris, Pelley, Raper, Perkinson, Davis

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 March 17, 2015 was submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

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COMMUNICATIONS

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Ms. Rita Brown, Human Resource Director, presented the "Employee of the Quarter" award for the period ending March 31, 2015. Harold Thompson, Patrol Officer, 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. Officer Thompson thanked everyone for the award.

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PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – GEORGE R. JOHNSON FAMILY FOUNDATION / HARDEE'S

Mayor Davis read a proclamation recognizing the George R. Johnson Family Foundation / Hardee's. Janice Wilson, whose father was the founder of the George R. Johnson Family Foundation, was present to accept the proclamation. Ms. Wilson thanked everyone for the award. She stated the very first Hardee's her father built was in Athens which is one reason why her family loves Athens.

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PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

Mayor Davis presented the Very Important Volunteer Individual Award for April 2015 to Judi Hankins Davis for her outstanding support of this community. Ms. Davis thanked the Council for recognizing her for this award. She stated the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and McMinn County Education Foundation were very close to her heart. Ms. Davis spoke briefly about the Imagination Library of McMinn County and the success of MCEF Buzzword project, which raised \$12,000. She recognized the McMinn County Education Foundation Board who work in concert with all of the projects.

Mayor Davis recognized Vice Mayor Perkinson who recently received one of the highest awards in scouting, the Great Smoky Mountain Boy Scouts Council Silver Beaver Award. She thanked him for all the work he had done with the young men in the community for many years. Vice Mayor Perkinson responded that a lot of people in the Unaka District of McMinn, Monroe and Meigs counties have made scouting what it is today. He was glad to be a part of it and thanked everyone.

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PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

AUDIENCE

Mayor Davis opened the meeting for petitions and requests from the audience. Ms. Elizabeth Luttrell, 607 Shoemaker Street, addressed the Council about the water backing up on her property. She stated no one from the City was doing anything to correct the problem. The City did fix the road where the water was going underground onto their property. Approximately ten to twelve feet of her backyard has washed away in the past year and a half and the water just continues to creep up. Ms. Luttrell stated she had not spoken to any one from the City since last summer. She stated if the Streets division cannot take care of the problem then the City should find someone that can fix it. There was water in the ditch and it was not draining out. The week before last she went out and noticed the water was a greenish color and had an odor. She wanted someone to come out and clean the ditch out, have the water tested and resolve the problem. Ms. Luttrell showed the Council photos from 2010 and photos she had taken recently. The photos were returned to Ms. Luttrell per her request. Vice Mayor Perkinson requested staff provide the Council with a report on this issue at the May Work Session. Ms. Luttrell was invited to attend the May 11<sup>th</sup> Work Session to hear the report.

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REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Michael Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of March 2015. 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 March 2015. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Dyer presented the Fire Department Report for the month of March 2015. The report was accepted as presented.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Davis 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 Athens City Board of Education Budget Amendment No. 4 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015;
- b.) Approve Resolution No. 2015-12 to authorize submission of grant application through the Governor's Highway Safety Program;
- c.) Accept low bid (Bid No. 1614 dated March 9, 2015) as submitted by Jarrett Builders for infrared asphalt repair.

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

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

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NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST TO NAME EARTH SHELTER BUILDING THE CONNIE ALLEN EDUCATION CENTER

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Burris, to approve request to name Earth Shelter Building the Connie Allen Education Center. Council Member Pelley offered an amendment to the motion to name the Recycling Center and house in total the Connie Allen Education and Environmental Center, seconded by Council Member Burris for discussion. Council Member Pelley stated that he understood that the Keep McMinn Beautiful Board voted unanimously to name the house after Connie and to reserve naming the Recycling Center for someone else. It was his contention, after talking with many people in the community, that no one supports just naming the house after her. He stated that he calls it a house because many people in the community have a derisive term for it and don't support it. He understood the KMB Board made the recommendation to name the house the Connie Allen Education Center but the City Council does not have to take their recommendation. Council Member Pelley felt the Council should have the intestinal fortitude to step up and say Mrs. Allen deserves more than just that building. Council Member Burris stated that upon reflection he felt renaming the entire center in Mrs. Allen's name would be appropriate. Vice Mayor Perkinson stated that he felt the only reason the comments about the Earth Shelter House continue to be negative is because some people haven't approached it as an education source. Council Member Raper stated she was torn on which direction to vote. She conceded some aesthetic improvements were needed at the Earth Shelter Building and was informed by the KMB Director Sandy Moore that improvements would soon be done to improve the building's appearance. Mayor Davis stated that she was asked to speak at Connie Allen's funeral. She commented that Mrs. Allen was like a sister to her and she would have been the first one to say they should do what the KMB Board asked because she supported the Board with her whole life and whole heart. Mayor Davis felt Mrs. Allen should be honored with the request the KMB Board made. The amendment failed by the following roll call vote:

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

The original motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 1037

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 056N GROUP A PARCEL 002.00 AS B-1 LOCAL BUSINESS 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. A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Vice Mayor Perkinson, to approve Ordinance No. 1037 on First Reading. Upon roll call, the first reading of Ordinance No. 1037 was approved by the following vote:

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

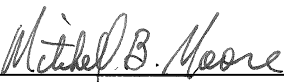
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MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Moore presented the Manager's Report. He reviewed the progress of current city projects/meetings scheduled during the months of 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 7:03 p.m.

  
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MITCHELL B. MOORE, City Manager

  
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ANN S. DAVIS, Mayor