

MINUTES OF MEETING, ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, DECEMBER 20, 2016

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Burris presiding. The invocation was given by Mayor Burris; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Coker, Perkinson, Raper, Pelley, Burris

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

- 1 -
MINUTES

The Minutes of the Called Meeting of November 28, 2016 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -
COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

Vice Mayor Pelley presented the Very Important Volunteer Individual Award for December 2016 to Charles Allen Bailey for his outstanding community service.

- 3 -
PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

AUDIENCE

Mayor Burris opened the meeting for petitions and requests from the audience. Steven S. Sherlin, 1410 Crestway Drive, stated in July 2015 he created the "City of Athens, Tennessee" Facebook group to give the citizens of Athens a platform to voice their opinions so they may be heard by the Athens City Council and the City leaders. He asked Eric Morrow to be the administrator of the site and to help monitor it. Since that time, Mr. Morrow has instituted live streaming that has been overwhelming received by the public. This is a political group but is open to the public. Their goal is to bring issues to the attention of the citizens of Athens and City government. Mr. Sherlin urged the Council to use this group to stay informed of the concerns of those that elected them. He stated the main reason for appearing before the Council was to let the employees of the Athens Police and Fire departments know that the citizens of Athens were glad that they are there for them and they were grateful and appreciative. Eric Morrow and Steven Sherlin presented Certificates of Appreciation from the City of Athens, Tennessee Facebook Group to the Police and Fire departments. Laura Sullivan, 19 Shawnee Trail, thanked the police, fire and all of the volunteers that pitched in after the tornado. Everyone pulled together to work side by side to do something for somebody else.

- 4 -
COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF USA SOFTBALL OF TENNESSEE COMPLEX OF THE YEAR AWARD – ATHENS REGIONAL PARK

Mr. Danny Wilson on behalf of the USA Softball presented the City with the USA Softball of Tennessee Complex of the Year Award for Athens Regional Park. Mr. Wilson commented that there were 100 parks considered for this award and Athens Regional Park was chosen. He stated that Austin Fesmire, Parks and Recreation Director, and his staff have done an outstanding job.

- 5 -

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – 30th ANNIVERSARY OF ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Mayor Burris presented Dr. Melanie Miller with a proclamation extending the City Council's congratulations on the 30th Anniversary of the Adopt-A-School Partnership with North City School. Dr. Miller on behalf of Principal Holly Owens, the staff and students at North City School thanked the City Council and commented that the Adopt-A-School program is one of the most important programs for the school. The students really appreciate all the things the City employees do for them and she appreciates everyone for loving their students.

- 6 -

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS TO MITCHELL MOORE, CITY MANAGER, RITA BROWN, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR AND CHUCK ZIEGLER, POLICE CHIEF

Mayor Burris presented Police Chief Chuck Ziegler with a proclamation for his years of service to the City of Athens. Police Chief Ziegler is retiring as the longest serving active city employee with 45 years of service and as the longest serving Athens Police Chief with 25 years of service. Police Chief Ziegler thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and protect the citizens of Athens. It has been a great career. Council Member Raper presented Human Resources Director Rita Brown with a proclamation for her thirty five plus years of service to the City of Athens. Ms. Brown stated it had been an honor and privilege to work for the City of Athens and will miss everyone. Council Member Perkinson presented City Manager Moore with a proclamation for his twenty one years of service with seventeen of those years as City Manager. City Manager Moore stated it has been a pleasure to work for the City. He has worked with a great group of people. All the employees with the city are all about the city. They are about doing what is right, doing it correctly and being the best they can be and they do it well every single day. He thanked everyone.

- 7 -

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Burris read a letter from Mayor Gerald Mazur, City of Van Wert, Ohio congratulating Chief Ziegler and his training officers for their excellent job in training communication skills to his officers after a recent traffic stop by Officer Badge No. 133 (Hunter Cardin).

- 8 -

REPORTS

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS QUARTERLY REPORT

Dr. Melanie Miller, Superintendent of Athens City Schools, presented the City Council with her quarterly update. She covered topics on Enrollment and Attendance, TN Report Card, Facility Planning, Activities, Special Recognitions/Activities, Family/Community Connection and Let's Read 20. Dr. Miller noted the TN Report Card had been released and this year Athens City Schools had received a five (5) in all of their TVAAS categories, which is the highest score they could receive. She also noted that the "Economically Disadvantaged Student Percent" on the report was 41.6%. For the last few years, they have reported that this percentage had been moving up and last year it was reported at almost 80%. State and federal laws have changed on how they designate economically disadvantaged students. In the past, it would be based on students that were eligible for free or reduced lunches. Now it is based on those that are directly certified as receiving government assistance. The economics have not changed. Dr. Miller invited the City Manager and City Council to Mr. Winter's technology classroom demonstration on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 11:40 a.m. at the Middle School prior to the Athens City School Board's work session.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Michael Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of November 2016. The report was accepted as presented.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Chuck Ziegler presented the Police Department Report for the month of November 2016. The report was accepted as presented.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Dyer presented the Fire Department Report for the month of November 2016. The report was accepted as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Burris 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 City of Athens Debt Management Policy, annual review by the Athens City Council;
- b.) Accept bid (Bid No. 1644 dated November 17, 2016) as submitted by Progression Electric for traffic signals;
- c.) Appoint Jordan Curtis to fill vacancy on the Council Advisory Committee, term expires March 21, 2019;
- d.) Appoint Laura Sullivan to fill vacancy on the Historic Preservation Commission, term expires October 1, 2021.

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

AYES: Coker, Perkinson, Raper, Pelley, Burris
NAYS: None

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Mayor Burris presented his list of council-represented appointments. There was no discussion on this matter.

<u>Name of Committee</u>	<u>Council Representative</u>
Athens Parks Foundation (Mayor's designee)	Yvonne Raper
Athens Regional Planning Commission (Mayor's designee)	John Coker
Athens Regional Planning Commission	Dick Pelley
Athens Utilities Board	John Coker
Board of Zoning Appeals (Mayor's designee)	William Bo Perkinson
Historic Preservation Commission	William Bo Perkinson
McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services	Dick Pelley
McMinn County Economic Development Authority	Chuck Burris
McMinn County Senior Citizens	Yvonne Raper

- 14 -
NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO UPDATE VARIOUS BUILDING AND FIRE CODES

ORDINANCE NO. 1058 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 7 ENTITLED “FIRE PROTECTION AND FIREWORKS” AND TITLE 12 ENTITLED ‘BUILDING, UTILITY, ETC. CODES’ TO ADOPT THE 2015 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL, BUILDING, PLUMBING, MECHANICAL, GAS AND FIRE CODES; 2014 EDITION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE; AND THE 2010 ADA STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. A **motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Mayor Burris, to approve Ordinance No. 1058 on First Reading.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Coker, Perkinson, Raper, Pelley, Burris
NAYS: None

- 15 -

CITY MANAGER SEARCH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Mayor Burris stated the City Manager Search Committee at their December 13, 2016 meeting made a recommendation that the City Council should move forward with the second phase of the interviews. **A motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelley, seconded by Council Member Coker, to invite the number one person (C. Seth Sumner) for the first interview and follow it with a second interview if necessary.** There being no discussion on this item, the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Coker, Perkinson, Raper, Pelley, Burris
NAYS: None

Mayor Burris stated that there was a tentative date of December 27, 2016 to have one of the candidates come in for interviews.

- 16 -

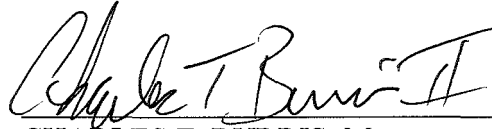
MANAGER’S REPORT

City Manager Moore presented the Manager's Report. He reviewed the progress of current city projects/meetings scheduled during the months of December/January. City Manager Moore commended the employees of the Public Works Department on their continuing efforts to clean up the City after the November 30th tornado and recent storms. They have picked up 1,700,000 plus pounds of limbs and brush since November 30th. City Manager Moore stated he did not want anyone to forget that the Police, Fire and Public Works did a great job but the support staff was also asked to do all sorts of things to assist and they did it very well. Everyone worked together without bickering or complaining to get the job done. The City Council had tentatively set the Council Planning Retreat for February 10 and 11, 2017 and everyone was going to check their calendars to see if they had any scheduling conflicts. Council Member Raper stated the Daddy Daughter Dance was scheduled for that same weekend and she has worked that event for 26 years. City Manager Moore asked the City Council to review their calendars and let him know which dates will work for them. The report was accepted as presented.

City Manager Moore announced Captain Rob Davis would serve as Interim Police Chief beginning January 1, 2017 until a new police chief is hired by the new city manager.

- 17 -
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



CHARLES T. BURRIS, Mayor



Mike Tallent, Interim City Manager