

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

June 19, 2018

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Burris presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Perkinson; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Pelley, Perkinson, Raper, Coker, 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 regularly scheduled meeting of May 15, 2018 will be submitted for approval at the July 17, 2018 meeting.

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COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD – ANIMAL SHELTER TASK FORCE

Public Works Director Ben Burchfield presented the Very Important Volunteer Individuals (VIVID) Award for the month of June 2018 to members of the Animal Shelter Task Force (Susan Buttram, Beth Coker, Deb Osborn, and Kristin Shrader) for their volunteer work in assisting him in tackling a number of challenges in both the Animal Shelter and Animal Control Department. Their combined efforts culminated in the form of a comprehensive Shelter Study that received overwhelmingly positive response from the City Council. As a result of the Council's support and encouragement, they will continue to press forward to implement positive, permanent change.

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PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL MODEL AVIATION DAY

Mayor Burris presented a proclamation proclaiming July 4, 2018 as National Model Aviation Day. Officers and members of the Association were present to accept the proclamation.

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PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION - NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES SMALL CITIES MONTH

Council Member Perkinson presented a proclamation declaring the month of June 2018 as "Small Cities Month" drawing attention to the importance and accomplishments of small cities and celebrating efforts to build better communities. Members of the Small Cities Council work together to provide opportunities for small city leaders to share best practices. Small cities are classified as places that have a population of less than 50,000. Communities are responsible for providing a wide range of services and programs to meet the needs of their citizens. They celebrate their successes and commit themselves to building partnerships to make small cities and towns safer, and more vibrant places for people to work and live.

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2018 TENNESSEE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Mayor Burris recognized Athens Firefighter Josh Roach who was named the 2018 Tennessee Firefighter of the Year by the Tennessee Firemen's Association. Maryville Fire Department Captain Mike Sing along with retired Maryville Fire Department Deputy Chief David Hodges, with whom Firefighter Roach worked as a firefighter intern, submitted Firefighter Roach's name for this award after reading on Facebook about the fire that occurred on Madison Avenue involving Roach's crew. Members of Firefighter Roach's family along with members of his crew were present for the presentation.

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TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Mayor Burris recognized City Manager C. Seth Sumner on being awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Tennessee Historical Commission for having made significant contributions to the preservation of the historical and architectural heritage of Tennessee. City Manager Sumner stated this was an unexpected honor to be named one of four people from across the State of Tennessee to receive this award this year. He deeply appreciated the Tennessee Historical Commission for selecting him for this honor.

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MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Burris acknowledged receipt of correspondence from Bob Sevigny complimenting City Manager Sumner and Chris Jerles from Public Works. Mr. Sevigny noted the City Manager had said his job was to exceed the citizens' expectations and all the employees will as well. Promise made, promise kept. Chris showed how a guy who enjoyed his job expressed it to the customer.

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PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Mayor Burris stated that prior to opening up the Petitions and Requests portion of the agenda he felt compelled to read a statement he had previously read back in December 2017. This came from him and not the City Council. "Petitions and requests are only that, petitions and requests. This is not a free for all, or a platform for opinions, this is a specific time for a specific purpose. If a citizen has previously requested something to be done by the City through the proper chain of command and has not been satisfied, they may bring the petition with other citizens or their own request asking the Council to intervene. The Council shall hear the citizens petition or request as properly presented, and may seek to add the item to a subsequent study session where it can be discussed further. No action shall be taken on petitions or requests during the Council meeting that it is presented, unless declared an emergency by the Council. Also, Council must be addressed as a single entity and not as individuals. I will not allow disparaging remarks towards our employees. The Council may not respond to requests during the meeting. From now on, there will be a five minute time limit with a one-time one minute extension if needed. We want people to be heard but must carry out business in an orderly manner."

REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Eddie Arnwine, 704 Wabash Street, addressed the Council regarding his concerns about parking at Cook Park. Recently bollards have been installed to prevent parking on the grass. When the City moved the parking from E. Harper Johnson Drive to Cook Drive, less parking spaces were

available. Mr. Arnwine heard that they were planning to put another parking lot on Cook Drive. He did not think that this was a good idea as Cook Drive was a very busy road. He recommended the statute be moved near the flagpole and another parking lot could be built where the old one used to be located. Mr. Arnwine distributed color drawings of his recommendation for parking improvements at Cook Park.

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REPORTS

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS QUARTERLY REPORT

Dr. Melanie Miller, Superintendent of Athens City Schools, presented the City Council with her quarterly update.

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Michael Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of May 2018. The report was accepted as presented.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Couch presented the Police Department Report for the month of May 2018. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Dyer presented the Fire Department Report for the month of May 2018. The report was accepted as presented.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Burris advised that the following items were discussed during the recent study session and are presented as a part of the Consent Agenda. The recording clerk announced that item f.) Approval of City of Athens Certified Tax Rate for 2018 was being removed from the Consent Agenda as the City had not received certification. The following items were read into the record:

- a.) Approve proposed Athens Utilities Board budget for Fiscal Year 2018/19.
- b.) Approve Athens City Schools Proposed Budget Amendment #2 (General Purpose) for FY 2017/2018.
- c.) Approve Athens City Schools Proposed Budget Amendment #1 (Federal Projects) for FY 2017/2018.
- d.) Approve Athens Board of Education Appropriation Resolution regarding fund balance amounts at year end that will be committed or assigned for specific purposes.
- e.) Approve Athens Board of Education Appropriation Resolution stating the Athens City Schools Federal Projects Fund shall be the budget approved for the separate projects within the fund.
- ~~f.) Approve City of Athens Certified Tax Rate for 2018.~~
- g.) Approve City of Athens Budget Amendment No. 2 for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.
- h.) Approve Resolution No. 2018-16 to adopt the first amendment to the City of Athens, Tennessee Defined Benefit Pension Plan.

- i.) Approve Medical Insurance Renewal as submitted by Blue Cross Blue Shield for year beginning July 1, 2018.
- j.) Approve extension of a contract with TruGreen Commercial for fertilization services through June 30, 2019.
- k.) Approve extension of a contract with East Tennessee Construction Services, Inc. for sidewalk construction through June 30, 2019.
- l.) Approve extension of a contract with Progression Electric for traffic signal maintenance through June 30, 2019.
- m.) Approve Resolution No. 2018-17 to authorize extension of a contract with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) for maintenance of state rights-of-way within the City of Athens for the period of time beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019.
- n.) Approve Resolution No. 2018-18 to authorize the City to receive funds in the FY2018 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program.
- o.) Accept bid as submitted by 10-S Solutions for tennis court resurfacing project at Heritage Park and \$3,200 unit price for each additional basketball goal.
- p.) Accept bid as submitted by Great Southern Recreation for large playground resurfacing at Athens Regional Park.
- q.) Appoint Shanda Wade to fill vacancy on Council Advisory Committee, term expires March 21, 2019.

On motion by Council Member Perkinson, seconded by Vice Mayor Coker, the Consent Agenda as stated above with the exception of item f.) was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

A motion was made by Council Member Raper, seconded by Vice Mayor Coker, to amend a previously adopted motion to add the City Manager back into the Classification and Compensation Plan. A discussion followed on the proposed salary for the City Manager. A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Perkinson, to table this item until their next Study Session. Upon roll call, the motion failed by the following vote:

AYES: Pelley, Perkinson
NAYS: Raper, Coker, Burris

Upon roll call, the original motion to add the City Manager back into the Classification and Compensation Plan passed by the following vote:

AYES: Raper, Coker, Burris
NAYS: Pelley, Perkinson

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ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 1069 – SECOND/FINAL READING – PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019.

City Manager Sumner reminded the City Council that since the City of Athens Certified Tax Rate for 2018 had not been received, Ordinance No. 1069 had been revised to remove any reference to setting the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. Certification of the Tax Rate would be approved at the July/August meetings. The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Burris opened the public hearing. 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 Coker, to approve Ordinance No. 1069 on Second and Final Reading. Ordinance No. 1069 was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Perkinson, Raper, Coker, Burris
NAYS: Pelley

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OLD BUSINESS

FRIENDLY CITY SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE BYLAWS

Motion was made by Council Member Raper, seconded by Vice Mayor Coker, to adopt the Friendly City Sister Cities Bylaws as presented. Upon roll call, the motion was approved by the following vote:

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

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NEW BUSINESS

AMERICAN LEGION – REQUEST FOR DONATION FOR JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

Council Member Pelley, who serves as the Commander of American Legion Post 68, stated the Legion was requesting a \$2,000 donation from the City of Athens for their Fourth of July celebration in downtown Athens. This is the third year of the celebration. There will be free entertainment for children and adults as well as free food and drinks. **A motion was made by Vice Mayor Coker, seconded by Council Member Pelley, to approve the request for a \$2,000 donation.** Mayor Burris asked if the City of Athens name would be added to the list of sponsors. Council Member Pelley responded that the City would be added to the list. **Council Member Raper moved to amend the motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Coker, to make a one-time payment of \$2,100 for one band and the sound system with payment made directly to the vendors.** Council Member Raper stated she felt in the spirit of transparency, payment should be made directly to the vendors. Council Member Pelley stated the vendors were paid in cash from funds donated to the American Legion from various individuals and organizations and no one asked for a breakdown on how their donation would be spent. A discussion followed regarding payment to the American Legion versus payment directly to the vendors. Finance Director Mike Keith recommended the direct payment for audit purposes. At the conclusion of the discussion, Council Member Pelley withdrew his request for a donation from the City of Athens.

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MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Sumner reviewed his monthly report including the various Parks and Recreation and Public Works projects and activities going on throughout the city. He noted the City was now on Instagram, YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. Currently there are 8,800 followers on social media. City employees participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life with a goal of \$1,000. Not only did the employees attain that goal but exceeded it by raising a total of \$1,668. City Manager Sumner had just received notification that the City has been selected to attend the Retail Academy 201 Course in Franklin, Tennessee. City Manager Sumner thanked the City Council for adding the city manager position back into the Classification and Compensation Plan and stated he would decline the 5% merit increase the City Council had voted to give him earlier. The City Council expressed their appreciation for his decision.

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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 7:39 p.m.



C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor