

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

September 18, 2018

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Burris presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Pelley; 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.

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MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of August 21, 2018 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

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COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD – OVERCOMING FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTER

Council Member Pelley presented the Very Important Volunteer Individuals (VIVID) Award for the month of September 2018 to the Overcoming Faith Christian Center in recognition of their Free Backpack Giveaway Event they have held for the community for the past seven years.

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PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION- BILL KNOX FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Council Member Perkinson read a proclamation recognizing the week of October 7-13, 2018 as Bill Knox Fire Prevention Week.

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9/11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB

City Manager Sumner stated that each year a 9/11 Memorial 110-Story Climb is held in Nashville. Firefighters must apply and be accepted to represent one of the 343 firefighters who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. This year Fire Captain Tim Schultz, Engineer Chad Ramsey, and Firefighter Tyler Evans were accepted to complete the climb, announce the name of their fallen firefighter, and ring the bell in his or her name for making the ultimate sacrifice. A video was created and presented by Tim Schultz, Chad Ramsey, Tyler Evans and Public Management Fellow James Gallup in memory of those fallen firefighters and their 110-story climb.

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MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Burris acknowledged receipt of an email from Holly Owens, Principal at North City School, to City Manager Sumner, expressing her appreciation to law enforcement and communications team, safety team, faculty, staff, parents, and especially, their Eagles during the lockdown event that occurred on Wednesday, August 29, 2018.

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PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Donna Goforth, 705 High Street, stated she was very concerned about a piece of property in her neighborhood that had been condemned. The owner of the property purchased it in 2005 as a condemned piece of property. This property, which sits between Veterans Park and East Athens Baptist Church, is a huge nuisance to the neighborhood. The neighbors have gathered all the police records for this piece of property. There have been meth labs and squatters in this house. The owner has also rented the house out even though it has been condemned. The neighbors are living in fear and the property is not maintained. She was pleased to hear that the situation was being taken care. Ms. Goforth asked the Council to put this property at the head of the list. Eugene Frantzen, 207 Central Avenue, also spoke about the same piece of property Ms. Goforth referred to stating that it was about a block from his home. The property is an eyesore and he is afraid to let his grandchildren walk around the block to visit their friends. He felt the City had done a very poor job in boarding up the building. Mr. Frantzen had researched the owner of the property and found he lives in a million-dollar neighbor in Hawaii and has done nothing to improve the property since he bought it. In Mr. Frantzen's opinion, the cost to repair the property is more than 50% of the value of the building and, based on his understanding of the Code, should be demolished. Bob Owens, 128 County Road 755, thanked Public Works for helping again this year with their school camp cleanup. Public Works has been helping Athens City Schools clean up at the beginning of school camp for nearly 20 to 25 years and their assistance is greatly appreciated. Holly Owens, Principal at North City School, 1601 Palos Street, commended all the City of Athens departments for all they do for the community. The Adopt-A-School partnership is priceless to the students and staff at North City School. She expressed her deep appreciation to the Athens Police Department and Communications for their quick and thorough response assisting North City School to initiate a lockdown because of a shooting in the area. SRO Officer Cardin and Police Captain Rob Davis were to be commended for the hours spent at the school supporting them throughout the event.

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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 August 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 August 2018. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

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 following items were read into the record:

- a.) Appoint Jordan Curtis to Athens Regional Planning Commission, term expires September 21, 2021.
- b.) Accept bid as submitted by KIMCO Services for janitorial and cleaning services.
- c.) Accept bid as submitted by Stephens Excavating for demolition and clearing of condemned structures.
- d.) Approve recommendation to declare vehicles and equipment as surplus property and authorize sale on GovDeals or as scrap as outlined in Memorandum dated September 5, 2018.
- e.) Approve Resolution No. 2018-27 authorizing participation in the TML Risk Management Pool James L. Richardson "Driver Safety" Matching Grant Program.
- f.) Approve Resolution No. 2018-28 authorizing participation in the TML Risk Management Pool Property Conservation Matching Grant Program.

Motion was made by Council Member Pelley to vote on items b.) through f.) and then vote on item a.) separately. The motion died for lack of a second.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

ARC CDBG DOWNTOWN WI-FI GRANT

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-29

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AN ARC CDBG DOWNTOWN WI-FI GRANT

The caption of Resolution No. 2018-29 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Vice Mayor Coker, seconded by Council Member Perkinson, to approve Resolution No. 2018-29.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

BOYD FOUNDATION DOG PARK DASH GRANT

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-30

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE BOYD FOUNDATION DOG PARK DASH GRANT FOR THE DOG PARK AT PROF POWERS PARK

The caption of Resolution No. 2018-30 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Council Member Raper, seconded by Council Member Perkinson, to approve Resolution No. 2018-30.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

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POLICE RECRUITMENT: LATERAL TRANSFER METHOD PROPOSAL

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-31

A RESOLUTION TO ADJUST LATERAL TRANSFER COMPENSATION

The caption of Resolution No. 2018-31 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Vice Mayor Coker, to approve Resolution No. 2018-31.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

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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 including construction of the splashpad at Athens Regional Park, the USS Ware Reunion in Daytona Beach, the recent Police Swearing In Ceremony, the appointment of Public Works Director Ben Burchfield to the RPO Technical Committee, accepting applications for the new Technology Manager position, and upcoming interviews for the canine officer position.

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ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Pelley requested an item be put on the October Study Session agenda regarding the two letters the Council received from City Attorney Trew.

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.



C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor