

# ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

January 15, 2019

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 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, Lockmiller, Pelley, Perkinson, 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 meetings of November 20, 2018 and December 18, 2018 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

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## COMMUNICATIONS

### EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER PRESENTATION

C. Seth Sumner, City Manager, presented the "Employee of the Quarter" award for the first quarter of 2019 to Gene McConkey, a Building Inspector. Mr. McConkey was unable to attend the meeting.

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### PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION - SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION WEEK

Vice Mayor Perkinson read a proclamation recognizing the week of January 20-26, 2019 as "School Board Appreciation Week". Beth Jackson and Abby Carroll of Athens City Schools Board of Education were present to accept the proclamation on behalf of the School Board. Dr. Melanie Miller, Director of Athens City Schools, was also in attendance.

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### MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Burris acknowledged receipt of a letter from the FBI congratulating City Manager Sumner and Police Chief Couch upon Chief Couch's graduation from the 274<sup>th</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy, a letter from Jean Wilson extending her thanks to the sanitation workers and all those who provide services to the people of Athens, and note from the students of Athens City Middle School to the City Council thanking them for listening to their presentation and for their generous donation to their Storybook Trail Project.

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## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

### REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Glenn Whiting, 237 County Road 655, wanted to speak on Ordinance No. 1072. Mayor Burris explained to Mr. Whiting that the appropriate time to speak was during the public hearing for the ordinance further down on the agenda. Holly Owens, Principal of North City School, who resides at 1601 Palos Street, expressed her appreciation to the employees of the City of Athens for their personal donations to the Adopt-A-School program for the students of her school. Edgar L. King, 905 Central Avenue, stated he was interested in raising birds at his property but was told it was not permitted. He asked the City Council to consider allowing birds in the City limits. City Manager Sumner asked Mr. King for his contact information and said he would be in contact with him to discuss this issue.

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REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Cliff Couch presented the Police Department Report for the month of December 2018. The report was accepted as presented. At the December 2018 City Council meeting, Council Member Lockmiller asked Chief Couch if there was any data on the number of crimes that had been solved because of the new fingerprinting equipment. In response to that inquiry, Chief Couch stated that since they have just begun to use the equipment they do not have that data at this time.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for the month of December 2018. The report was accepted as presented. Council Member Coker requested more information on the types of EMS assistance the Athens Fire Department is providing to the citizens.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY /ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Anthony Casteel, Community Development Director, presented the Building Permit Quarterly/ Annual Report for the City of Athens. 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 read the following items into the record:

- a. Appoint Ralph Fenton to fill vacancy on Board of Adjustments and Appeals, term expires June 3, 2020.
- b. Accept bid as submitted by PROTIME Sports Inc. for baseball and softball uniforms.
- c. Approve Resolution No. 2019-01 to declare the week of January 20-26, 2019 as Athens Flood Awareness Week.
- d. Approve Resolution No. 2019-02 authorizing the distribution of Athens Utilities Board's electrical in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2018/2019.
- e. Approve Resolution No. 2019-03 authorizing the distribution of Athens Utilities Board's gas in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2018/2019.
- f. Approve Resolution No. 2019-04 authorizing fire and emergency assistance mutual aid agreement with Tri State Mutual Aid Association.
- g. Approve Resolution No. 2019-05 authorizing submission of a grant application for a FM Global Fire Prevention Grant.

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

**AYES:** Coker, Lockmiller, Pelley, Perkinson, Burris  
**NAYS:** None

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ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 1072 – SECOND/FINAL READING - PUBLIC HEARING  
ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALTER THE ORDER OF BUSINESS OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Burris opened the public hearing. Jordan Curtis and Todd Cox spoke in favor of the ordinance. Glenn Whiting stated he was opposed to the ordinance. There being no one else present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. **A motion was made by Vice Mayor Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Coker, to approve Ordinance No. 1072 on Second and Final Reading. A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Lockmiller, to amend the motion to leave the order of business as it currently exists with one exception and that was to add the Pledge of Allegiance.** Upon roll call, the amendment to the motion failed by the following vote:

**AYES: Lockmiller, Pelley**  
**NAYS: Coker, Perkinson, Burris**

Upon roll call, the original motion to approve Ordinance No. 1072 was approved by the vote:

**AYES: Coker, Perkinson, Burris**  
**NAYS: Lockmiller, Pelley**

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NEW BUSINESS

ACCEPTANCE OF COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL AUDIT (City/AUB/ACS)

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2018 was presented. **A motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Council Member Lockmiller, to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2018 as presented.** Upon roll call, the motion was accepted by the following vote:

**AYES: Coker, Lockmiller, Pelley, Perkinson, Burris**  
**NAYS: None**

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PROPOSAL TO PERMIT SUPERVISED SHOOTING ACTIVITIES

ORDINANCE NO. 1073 – FIRST READING  
ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE TO PERMIT SUPERVISED SHOOTING ACTIVITIES.

The caption of Ordinance No. 1073 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Vice Mayor Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Pelley, to approve Ordinance No. 1073 on first reading.** Upon roll call, the motion was approved by the following vote:

**AYES: Coker, Lockmiller, Pelley, Perkinson, 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. City Manager Sumner stated he had an opportunity to work with the Kettering Institute in Dayton, Ohio, on a specific two-year project called "Making Democracy Work." He is one of about a dozen members selected from the United States to participate in the project. The Kettering Institute pays all travel expenses for the meetings which are held in Dayton. City Manager Sumner stated that he hopes in two years' time to be able to provide the Council with the study's findings on how we can better address making democracy work and specifically making our democracy work. City Manager Sumner remarked that there were a lot of wonderful comments at this meeting by his staff, there was applause, there was cheering, and there was discussion of the wonderful things that were happening in this City that his employees were doing under the direction of their City Manager who was acting under the guidance of our City Council by the policies that they set. He

has some rock stars working for him. He felt that everyone should be very proud of the work they are doing day in and day out as it is not easy. It is very hard to work in the best interest of the entire community. City Manager Sumner stated at the November meeting he extended an olive branch to Council Member Pelley. He asked that they find a common friend with whom they both trusted to come together to mediate some of the issues that were spoken about in that meeting. They had mutually chosen Larry Wallace, someone who was licensed to mediate, to serve as their mediator. On December 5, 2019, the three individuals met to have a discussion. Both Mr. Wallace and City Manager Sumner had cleared their schedules for that afternoon. Council Member Pelley gave them one hour of his time. City Manager Sumner stated he wished he could report that they got somewhere but it was not a fruitful conversation. The three of them agreed to come back after the holidays for another session when Council Member Pelley could give them more of his time. Last night City Manager Sumner received a call from Mr. Wallace letting him know that Council Member Pelley had declined to hold a second mediated session. It was City Manager Sumner's hope that sometime in the future Council Member Pelley will have a change of heart and they can have a serious discussion and try to work through some issues so they can work together in the best interest of this beautiful 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 7:41 p.m.



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C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



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CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor