

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 19, 2019

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. with Vice Mayor Perkinson presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Pelley; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Coker, Lockmiller, Pelley, Perkinson

Mayor Burris was unable to attend the meeting because of smoke inhalation while fighting a house fire with the McMinn County Fire Rescue Squad.

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

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of January 15, 2019 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

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COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – OPTIMIST DAY

Council Member Pelley read a proclamation declaring the first Thursday of every February as Optimist Day in the City of Athens. Ronnie Creasman, President of the Optimist Club of Athens, was joined by members of the Optimist Club, and accepted the proclamation. He thanked the City Council for recognizing the Optimists and spoke about the history of the club and its' activities. The group meets every Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m. at Tennessee Wesleyan College, Ara Dining Room, and anyone interested in being a part of the Optimist Club was encouraged to attend.

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PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Vice Mayor Perkinson read a proclamation in commemoration of National Black History Month, and the lives of two prominent Athenians who played important roles in shaping our community: Professor W.E. Nash and E. Harper Johnson. A video on National Black History Month was played following the reading of the proclamation. Delores Johnson and Zelma McClure, decedents of Principal Johnson and Professor Nash, were each presented with a copy of the proclamation.

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MCMINN COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT QUARTERLY REPORT

The McMinn County Emergency Communications District quarterly report will be presented at the March 2019 City Council meeting at the request of Vice Chair Joel Riley.

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ATHENS MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATES

Mike Simmons, Principal at Athens City Middle School, provided an update on the Storybook Trail project and reminded everyone that "Opening Day" is on April 27th at 1 p.m. at Regional Park. In August 2017, the 8th graders from ACMS presented a historical marker to honor the Free Hill Community. Recently, the Athens Chapter of the DAR nominated those students for a National Historic Preservation Recognition Award. Last week it was announced that the students had won the award and will be recognized on May 11th at the regional meeting of the DAR at the McMinn County Courthouse at 11:45 a.m. Mr. Simmons also announced Junie B. Jones the Musical Jr., a musical adaption of a popular elementary book series by Barbara Parks, will run from March 21-23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Athens Middle School.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Vice Mayor Perkinson acknowledged receipt of a thank you note to the City Council, City Manager, and City Staff, from retiree Captain Rob Davis, for hosting his retirement reception.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Mayor Perkinson 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.) Reappoint Sally Page to Athens Housing Authority, term expires March 6, 2024.
- b.) Reappoint Charles Senn, Tim Hughes, Skylar Dean, Jordan Curtis, Jo Lundy, Shanda Wade, and Joseph Holmes to Council Advisory Committee, terms expire March 21, 2022.
- c.) Appoint Meredith Willson to fill vacancy on Keep McMinn Beautiful, term expires March 3, 2022.
- d.) Appoint Tyler Forrest to fill vacancy on McMinn County Library Board, term expires June 20, 2021.
- e.) Approve funding request for Mt. Verd Industrial Park Due Diligence and Clearing/Grading/PER Plan in the amount of \$19,033 and authorize City Manager to sign any contract related thereto.
- f.) Approve City of Athens Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.
- g.) Approve Resolution No. 2019-06 authorizing submission of grant application for a Historic Preservation grant.
- h.) Approve Resolution No. 2019-07 to replace "Employee Handbook" approved by City Council on July 17, 2018 with an updated "Employee Handbook".

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

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

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 1073 – SECOND/FINAL READING - PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL CODE TO PERMIT SUPERVISED SHOOTING ACTIVITIES.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Vice Mayor Perkinson opened the public hearing. There being no one present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. **A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Coker, to approve Ordinance No. 1073 on Second and Final Reading.** The motion to approve Ordinance No. 1073 was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

OLD BUSINESS

FUNDING REQUEST FOR REDFERN SITE

A motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Council Member Lockmiller, to approve funding request for Redfern Site Jurisdictional Determination and Site/Clearing/Grading/PER Plan not to exceed \$30,000 and to authorize City Manager to sign any contract related thereto. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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POLICE CANINE PROGRAM

A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Coker, to authorize the use of Drug Fund monies for expenditures related to a second single-purpose drug dog for the Police Canine Program. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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NEW BUSINESS

CITY OF ATHENS BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

A motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Council Member Lockmiller, to approve the City of Athens Budget Amendment No. 2 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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REVISED CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH COOPERATIVE STRATEGIES

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-08

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A REVISED CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH COOPERATIVE STRATEGIES FOR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL FORECASTING CONSULTANT SERVICES.

The caption of Resolution No. 2019-08 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Vice Mayor Perkinson, to approve Resolution No. 2019-08.** Council Member Pelley stated he was opposed to this resolution as he felt it was not necessary. Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

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REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Michael Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of January 2019. 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 January 2019. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for the month of January 2019. The report was accepted as presented.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Glen Whiting, 237 County Road 655, commented on statements made at the last City Council meeting concerning comments made by citizens under Petitions and Requests that were an embarrassment.

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REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

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 announced the first video on the City of Athens' Comprehensive Annual Financial Report will be presented at the Council Strategic Summit and will then air on social media. City Manager Sumner announced North City School was looking at a Coding Program for their students. He implemented this program for a high school in West Tennessee. It is an exciting idea and has been very beneficial to the students.

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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 7:10 p.m.



C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor