

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

January 21, 2020

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Burris presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Lockmiller; 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.

- 1 -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of December 17, 2019 were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION - SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION WEEK

Vice Mayor Perkinson read a proclamation recognizing the week of January 27-31, 2020 as "School Board Appreciation Week". Chris Adams, Beth Jackson, Amy Sullins 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 an email from Principal Tracy Lee, Westside Elementary School, thanking the Athens City Council for their support for financing the new school and voting to proceed with the project.

- 4 -

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.) Reappoint Everett Gillespie to the Athens Housing Authority, term expires March 6, 2025.
- b.) Accept bid as submitted by Custom Truck and Body Works, Inc. for Athens Fire Department Light Duty Rescue Truck.
- c.) Approve Resolution No. 2020-01 to declare the week of January 19-25, 2020 as Flood Awareness Week.
- d.) Approve Resolution No. 2020-02 authorizing the distribution of Athens Utilities Board's electrical in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2019/2020.
- e.) Approve Resolution No. 2020-03 authorizing the distribution of Athens Utilities Board's gas in lieu of tax payments for fiscal year 2019/2020.
- f.) Approve Resolution No. 2020-04 authorizing submission of an application to the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) for Community Transportation Planning Grant (CTPG).
- g.) Approve Resolution No. 2020-05 authorizing the Mayor to sign a proposal from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) to construct interchange improvements at SR-30 and SR-305.

A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded Council Member Coker, to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety. The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- 5 -
ORDINANCES

NONE

- 6 -
OLD BUSINESS

NONE

- 7 -
NEW BUSINESS

ACCOUNTING FOR PROCEEDS OF THE CITIZENS' ADOPTION OF THE .75% INCREASE IN SALES TAX

A motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Vice Mayor Perkinson, to adopt the recommendations made by the Finance Director in his memorandum dated January 4, 2020 in regard to accounting for proceeds of the citizens' adoption of the .75% increase in sales tax. Council Member Pelley rose in opposition to the motion. He stated that last year the vast majority of citizens that voted to approve a .75% sales tax increase did not understand that it was going to anything but schools. In speaking with many citizens of Athens, the sales tax increase would not have passed had it not been for education. According to the recommendation, the City is only allocating \$1,000,000 of the \$1,425,000 increase to the schools not everything. It was his belief that all of the funds from the .75% sales tax increase needed to be allocated to education and to school construction and building improvements. Mayor Burris asked Council Member Pelley if he was making that recommendation in the form of a motion. Council Member Pelley stated he was not making a motion only voicing his opposition. Vice Mayor Perkinson stated that the \$425,000 was not from sales tax but from the property tax in 2015. It was clearly pointed out by the media from the outset how the money was going to be distributed. Council Member Pelley stated he misspoke, the estimated revenue from the sales tax increase was \$1,700,000 not \$1,425,000 assuming the County preempts. If they don't preempt, the revenue will be an estimated \$3,600,000. Council Member Coker stated that the only point to this discussion was to divide them. Vice Mayor Perkinson stated that it was clearly pointed out at the outset how the money was going to be distributed if the sales tax passed and all the media that went out stated how that money was going to be distributed. Mayor Burris stated they were going to support their schools. At the conclusion of the discussion, the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

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CONSIDERATION OF REAL ESTATE BROKER COMMISSION FOR REDFERN SITE

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NEGOTIATION OF SALES COMMISSION AND EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2110 REDFERN DRIVE.

The caption of Resolution No. 2020-06 was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Vice Mayor Perkinson, to approve Resolution No. 2020-06. Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:**

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

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

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2019 was presented. A motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Lockmiller, to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2019 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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ADOPTION OF COMPREHENSIVE 20-YEAR LAND USE PLAN UPDATE

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-07

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF ATHENS COMPREHENSIVE 20-YEAR LAND USE PLAN UPDATE.

The caption of Resolution No. 2020-07 was read by the recording clerk. Motion was made by Council Member Coker, seconded by Vice Mayor Perkinson, to approve Resolution No. 2020-07. Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

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

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REPORTS

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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FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 14 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Cliff Couch presented the Police Department Report for the month of December 2019. The report was accepted as presented.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

- 16 -

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.

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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 6:46 p.m.



C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



CHARLES T. BURRIS, II, Mayor