

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

January 19, 2021

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Perkinson presiding. This meeting was held pursuant to Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order # 71, allowing the virtual attendance of council members, and CDC/White House guidelines limiting the number of the group present. The City of Athens upholds its citizens right to witness their legislative body in action and provided this meeting by livestream and the ability to physically attend. The invocation was given by Council Member Curtis; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson

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 December 15, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting and the December 21, 2020 called meeting were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION

C. Seth Sumner, City Manager, presented the "Employee of the Year" award for 2020 to Blake Travis, Park Maintenance Foreman.

- 3 -

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION - SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION WEEK

Vice Mayor Lockmiller read a proclamation recognizing the week of January 24-30, 2021 as "School Board Appreciation Week". Beth Jackson of Athens City Schools Board of Education was present to accept the proclamation on behalf of the School Board. Mr. Greene, Director of Athens City Schools, was also in attendance.

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MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Perkinson acknowledged receipt of a letter from Wholesale Supply Group, Inc. thanking the City for its business during 2020 and a note from Patti Greek thanking the City for great customer service after a bag of someone's trash had exploded all over Green Street and her driveway and Public Works cleaned it up.

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CONSENT AGENDA

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 Carl Williams to the Athens Housing Authority, term expires March 6, 2026.
- b.) Approve Resolution No. 2021-01 authorizing hourly contract with Lose Design to prepare construction and bid documents for improvements at Cook and Regional Parks.
- c.) Approve Resolution No. 2021-02 declaring week of January 24-30, 2021 as Flood Awareness Week.
- d.) Approve Resolution No. 2021-03 authorizing submission of an application to the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Vice Mayor Lockmiller moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, that the Consent Agenda as stated above be approved.** Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson
NAYS: None

- 6 -
ORDINANCES

None

- 7 -
OLD BUSINESS

None

- 8 -
NEW BUSINESS

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

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2020 was presented. Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Witt-McMahan moved, seconded by Council Member Curtis, to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2020 as presented.** Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson
NAYS: None

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CONTRACT WITH BARTH ASSOCIATES TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-04

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH BARTH ASSOCIATES TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN.

The caption of Resolution No. 2021-04 was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Vice Mayor Lockmiller moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2021-04.** City Manager Sumner stated the City has not had a strategic plan in place for several years. They are ready to put a long-term plan in place for 5, 10, and 20 years. Council Member Witt-McMahan asked City Manager Sumner if the strategic plan would also include support of the school building plan and Main Street Athens Downtown. City Manager Sumner stated it would and that this will be a two-year project. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson
NAYS: Pelley

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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 2020. 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 2020. 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 2020. The report was accepted as presented.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Glenn Whiting, 237 County Road 655, stated the purpose he was before the City Council was to talk about two City ordinances currently in place that were, in his opinion, of great concern to him. The first ordinance deals with the authority the Council has given the city manager for demolition of buildings. The way the ordinance is written, it gives the city manager permission to have a building torn down without any qualified witnesses as to the structure's quality. In his opinion, this is a dangerous policy and unconstitutional. The second issue dealt with the authority given to the city manager to hire and fire City employees. The same goes toward the discipline of employees. Mr. Whiting stated there were no checks and balances and felt this authority should lie with the department heads. Mayor Perkinson thanked Mr. Whiting and stated they would look into his concerns and respond back to him. Council Member Pelley stated he would hope these issues would be on the next study session agenda. Mayor Perkinson stated that if that was the will of the Council then the items would be placed on the next study session agenda. There were no further comments.

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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 a Study Session was scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. to discuss the School Building Project and a Called Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. to make a decision on whether to move forward and adopt the plan.

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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 7:00 p.m.



C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



WILLIAM BO PERKINSON, Mayor