

# ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

April 20, 2021

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Perkinson presiding. This meeting was held pursuant to Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order # 78, 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 Pelley; 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.

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the March 16, 2021 regularly scheduled meeting were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

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## COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

### PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

Council Member Pelley presented the Very Important Volunteer Individuals (VIVID) Award for the month of April 2021 to Michael L. Bevins in recognition of the energy, effort, and time he has donated in helping the children in our community.

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### WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATES

Tracy Lee, Principal at Westside Elementary School, presented the Athens City Council and City Manager with a book of thank you cards from the students for the Council's contributions to the construction of the new schools.

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### MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Perkinson noted there was no miscellaneous correspondence this month.

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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 Tyler Forrest and Everett Gillespie to McMinn County Library Board, terms expire June 20, 2024.
- b.) Appoint Andre Montgomery to fill vacancy on Council Advisory Committee (Council Member Pelley's representative), term expires March 21, 2024.
- c.) Approve second/final year extension of contract with Total Lawn Care for mowing and maintenance of Athens cemeteries.
- d.) Approve one-year extension of audit contract with Neal, Scouten & McConnell for the June 30, 2021 audit.
- e.) Authorize negotiation and purchase of the Cook Park playground equipment repair necessitated by automobile crash on March 10, 2021.
- f.) Approve Resolution No. 2021-11 authorizing agreement with Main Street Athens for use of Market Park, Knight Park, Veterans Park, and for use of City streets and rights-of-way and certain services of the City.
- g.) Authorize a \$5,000 gift to Tennessee Wesleyan University Leadership Academy as a title sponsor.

Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, that the Consent Agenda as stated above be approved.** Roll call vote:

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

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ORDINANCES

None

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OLD BUSINESS

PROJECT MANAGER

**Vice Mayor Lockmiller moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to authorize the City Manager to begin the recruiting process for a Project Manager with the intent of funding the position in fiscal year 2021-2022 budget.** City Manager noted that the Project Manager position was created by the City Council during their last budgetary approval session along with a handful of other positions. They funded all the positions except for the Project Manager. There are a plethora of items on our agenda moving forward such as the construction, streets, rehabilitation of city properties, and parks improvements that necessitate the need for a project manager to help alleviate some of the stress placed on existing staff, who are having to fulfill multiple roles. This motion is an opportunity to give staff what they need to be able to begin the recruiting process with the understanding that it is the intent of the City Council to fund the position in the next fiscal year. If successful in the recruiting process, we hope to have a starting date of July 1, 2021 or at some point thereafter. Council Member Pelley opposed the motion as he felt it was an unnecessary expense. He felt there was another way to provide assistance to the staff as a project manager would necessitate the individual being trained in several areas of construction. This need could be easily addressed by approaching the University of Tennessee and hiring interns. A discussion followed on hiring interns as opposed to hiring a full-time Project Manager. City Manager Sumner noted that while they may be able to get civil engineering interns, they will not have the certifications that will be required for this job. The interns might be able to help out in other ways if we want to expand our internship program with the City; but as far as our needs for reviewing quality control on site during our construction projects, a college student of any level likely will not have the time, education, or the skillset to be able to provide what is needed. Upon conclusion of the discussion and roll call vote:

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

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NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 104/106 BENTON ROAD – REQUEST BY ALLEN KOLB

ORDINANCE NO. 1100

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND 'THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE,' SO AS TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 104/106 BENTON ROAD FROM I-1 (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) TO M-1 (MEDICAL DISTRICT) SAID AREA BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. **Vice Mayor Lockmiller moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1100 on first reading.** Roll call vote:

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

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NEGOTIATION FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR ANIMAL SHELTER

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-12

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE FOR THE ANIMAL SHELTER AND TO AUTHORIZE FUNDS TO SERVE AS EARNEST MONEY FOR SAID PURCHASE.

The caption of Resolution No. 2021-12 was read by the recording clerk. **Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2021-12.** Roll call vote:

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

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REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

Anthony Casteel, Community Development Director, was unable to attend the meeting and requested his report be tabled until the May Council meeting.

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Mike Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of March 2021. 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 March 2021. 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 March 2021. The report was accepted as presented.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Glenn Whiting, 237 County Road 655, requested the City Council look at the Charter and address the issues he had previously brought before them.

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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.

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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 7:29 p.m.



C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



WILLIAM BO PERKINSON, Mayor