

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

September 22, 2021

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Perkinson presiding. The invocation was given by Vice Mayor Lockmiller; 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 August 17, 2021 regularly scheduled meeting were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

City Manager Sumner and Council Member Witt-McMahan presented the Very Important Volunteer Individual (VIVID) Award for the month of September 2021 to Pastor Larry W. Saunders in recognition of the significant positive impact he has made in the community.

- 3 -

INGLESIDE SCHOOL UPDATES

Jill Swafford, Principal at Ingleside School, presented an update on services Athens City School is now able to provide students including a certified speech pathologist, occupational and physical therapist, full-time guidance counselor, full-time nurse, and COVID testing with parental permission.

- 4 -

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Perkinson acknowledged receipt of a card from John Binando commending Rick Langford, who just retired from the City, for his instructions, guidance, friendliness, and organization at the Recycle Center making a trip there a painless and fun experience. Mr. Binando also commented that he is consistently impressed with the City employees he interacts with. City Manager Sumner received thank you letters from the students at North City School for his support of their Read Together, Grow Together program for the past two years.

- 5 -

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Perkinson advised that the following items were discussed during the recent study session and are presented as part of the Consent Agenda. The recording clerk read the following items into the record:

- a.) Reappoint Nancy Contreras and Amanda Curtis to the Health & Educational Facilities Board, terms expire September 21, 2027.
- b.) Reappoint Laura LeNoir and Richard Newman to the Historic Preservation Commission, terms expire October 1, 2026.
- c.) Approve Resolution No. 2021-34 to award Rogers Group, Inc. for resurfacing of various city streets with STBG funds.
- d.) Approve Resolution No. 2021-35 authorizing submission an application to TDOT to allocate STBG paving funds.
- e.) Approve recommendation to declare property surplus as detailed in memorandum dated September 7, 2021.

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

RETAIL STRATEGIES, LLC CONTRACT RENEWAL

Council Member Curtis moved, Vice Mayor Lockmiller seconded, to approve renewal of contractual agreement with Retail Strategies, LLC for professional development consultant services. Roll call vote:

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

- 9 -

REPORTS

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS QUARTERLY REPORT

Mr. Robert Greene, Superintendent of the Athens City Schools, presented his quarterly update.

- 10 -

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Mike Keith, Finance Director, was unable to attend the meeting. The Finance Department Report for the month of August 2021 was included in the agenda packet. The report was accepted as presented.

- 11 -

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for the month of August 2021. The report was accepted as presented.

- 12 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Cliff Couch presented the Police Department Report for the month of August 2021. The report was accepted as presented.

- 13 -

REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Larry Eaton, 279 Sweetfield Valley Road, stated that a larger venue was needed for the next called meeting. He had submitted emails to the City Manager, with copies to the City Council and Senior Staff, on September 9, 12, and 16 requesting documents from citizens filing a complaint about any department. He has never received a response from anyone and asked the City Council to instruct the City Manager to give him what he was asking for without him having to file a public records request. Council Member Pelley asked that all the issues raised by Mr. Eaton be placed on the Study Session agenda. Glenn Whiting, 249 County Road 655, read a prepared statement regarding public records requests, access to building on the night of the Special Called Meeting of August 10, 2021, and lawsuits he has filed against the City and City Manager and Mayor personally. Council Member Pelley asked that the issues raised by Mr. Whiting

also be placed on the Study Session agenda. Dan Anderson presented the City Council with a handout. He stated accusations had been made regarding an incident involving Council Member Pelley and a veteran's wife that he had taken to a hotel after she was evicted from another hotel room. Mr. Anderson stated he was with Council Member Pelley that night and that the accusations were not true, and he wanted an apology. He asked the Council to read the handout that was his account of the incident.

- 14 -

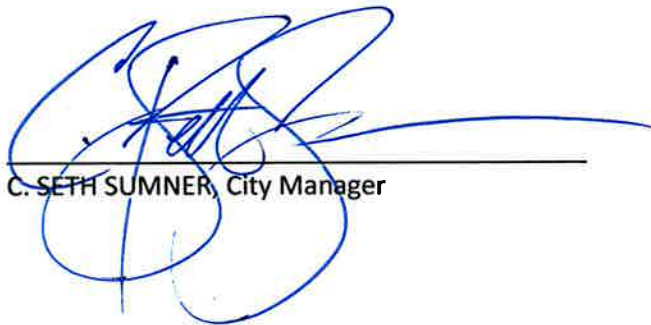
REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Sumner reviewed his monthly report including the various Parks and Recreation and Public Works projects and activities going on throughout the city.

- 15 -

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.



C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager



WILLIAM BO PERKINSON, Mayor