

# ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

September 22, 2022

The Athens City Council met in called session on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 5:15 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.

The purpose of the meeting, as issued in the "Notice of Called Meeting" dated September 16, 2022, was read and made a part of these minutes:

## NOTICE OF CALLED MEETING

There will be a called meeting of the Athens City Council at the Athens Municipal Building Burkett Witt Council Chambers located at 815 North Jackson Street, Athens, Tennessee, commencing at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, September 22, 2022. The purpose of the meeting is to hold the meeting as the regular meeting of the City Council for the month of September as outlined in the attached agenda.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

William Bo Perkinson, Mayor

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, to approve the Minutes of the August 16, 2022 regularly scheduled meeting. Roll call vote:**

<b>AYES:</b>	<b>Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson</b>
<b>NAYS:</b>	<b>None</b>

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## COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

### ATHENS MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Mike Simmons, Principal at Athens Middle School, recognized Amelia Reddy, school nurse, and provided updates on the improvements being made throughout the school.

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### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – ATHENS PLACE STAFF

Vice Mayor Mark Lockmiller and Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Distinguished Service Award to Athens Place Assisted Living. On June 11, 2022, the Athens Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at the facility and confirmed that they did have a fire in the storage closet in the Memory Care wing. The staff did a phenomenal job evacuating the residents and setting up a safe place for them in the parking lot as fire units arrived. They not only took care of the residents, but they worked hand in hand with the Fire Department. The staff was prepared for this emergency and the residents are blessed to have such amazing caregivers. The staff of Athens Place Assisted Living was unable to attend the presentation. Chief Ainsworth will take the award to the Athens Place staff.

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### MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Perkinson acknowledged receipt of a thank you note from S. Scott Anderson for allowing him to participate in the Athens Bicentennial Celebration and a thank you note from the family of Larry Wallace for the City's thoughtful gesture during their time of loss.

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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.) Approve request to amend the contract with Total Lawn Care for On-Call Property Mowing and Cleanup.
- b.) Approve recommendation to purchase four replacement Ford Police Interceptors Utility vehicles for Athens Police Department and surplus four fully depreciated police vehicles (Asset Nos. 4417, 4384, 4386, and 4276) to be sold upon receipt of new vehicles.
- c.) Approve Athens City Schools Budget Amendment No. 1 (General Purpose) for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.
- d.) Approve Resolution No. 2022-25 accepting matching Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) Contingency Funds, in the amount of \$125,000 for a total of \$250,000, for the Heritage Park Renovation Project.

**Council Member Pelley moved, Vice Mayor Lockmiller 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

ORDINANCE NO. 1111 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING  
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ‘THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE,’ SO AS TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO INCLUDE AND ZONE PROPERTY OFF COUNTY ROAD 129 TO R-2 (MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) SAID AREA BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The recording clerk read the caption of the above-described Ordinance. Mayor Perkinson opened the public hearing. There being no one present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1111 on Second and Final Reading.** Roll call vote:

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

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ORDINANCE NO. 1112 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING  
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ‘THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE,’ SO AS TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO INCLUDE AND ZONE PROPERTY OFF VELMA ROAD TO R-3 (HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) SAID AREA BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The recording clerk read the caption of the above-described Ordinance. Mayor Perkinson opened the public hearing. There being no one present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Pelley moved, Vice Mayor Lockmiller seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1112 on Second and Final Reading.** Roll call vote:

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

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OLD BUSINESS

None

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NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Pelley requested to make a motion. A discussion followed about Robert's Rules of Order. Council Member Witt-McMahan left the meeting at 5:42 p.m. **Mayor Perkinson moved, Vice Mayor Lockmiller seconded, to take a ten (10) minute recess.** Roll call vote:

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

Council Member Witt-McMahan returned to the meeting at 5:44 p.m. The meeting was recessed at 5:45 p.m. and reconvened at 5:55 p.m. City Manager Sumner read Article 5, Section 8 of the Athens City Charter which states:

*Section 8. Be it further enacted, That whenever, in the opinion of the Mayor or of any two Councilmen, the welfare of the city demands it, the Mayor shall call special meetings of the City Council upon at least twelve hours written notice served on each Councilman personally, or left at his usual place of residence. Each call for special meeting shall set forth the character of the business to be discussed at such meeting and no other business shall be considered at such meeting.*

Mayor Perkinson denied Council Member Pelley's request.

APPROVE REQUEST TO PROCEED TO BID PHASE OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY

**Council Member Pelley moved, Vice Mayor Lockmiller seconded, to approve the request to proceed to the bid phase of the Public Safety Training Facility.** Roll call vote:

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

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APPROVE DESIGN AND AUTHORIZE NOTICE TO PROCEED TO BID FOR CAMPUS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS (CTI) PROJECT

**Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, to approve the design and authorize the Notice to Proceed to Bid on the Campus Transportation Improvements Project (CTI). Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, to amend the motion to remove from the plan an eight-foot sidewalk from Athens City Middle School to Ivy Lane.** The motion to amend the motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

Roll call vote on motion as amended:

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

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APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE FIRE TOWER INSTALLATION CONTRACT WITH WILSON CONSTRUCTION

**Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to approve an amendment to the Fire Tower installation contract with Wilson Construction to include a total of \$40,000 of contingency funding.** Roll call vote:

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

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APPOINTMENTS TO ATHENS UTILITIES BOARD (AUB) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Council Member Pelley moved, Vice Mayor Lockmiller seconded, to appoint Shirley Woodcock to the Athens Utilities Board (AUB) Board of Directors to fill a vacancy (Robert Seigny), term expires June 30, 2026. Roll call vote:**

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

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**Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to appoint Patti Greek to the Athens Utilities Board (AUB) Board of Directors to fill a vacancy (Lisa Dotson), term expires June 30, 2023. Roll call vote:**

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

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REPORTSATHENS CITY SCHOOLS QUARTERLY REPORT

Mr. Robert Greene, Superintendent of the Athens City Schools, presented his quarterly update. He recognized Dr. Amy Sullins as an outgoing School Board Member.

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Mr. Mike Keith was unable to attend the meeting. The Finance Department Report for the month of August 2022 was included in the agenda packet. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for August 2022. The report was accepted as presented.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Fred Schultz presented the Police Department Report for August 2022. The report was accepted as presented.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Dale Newman, 1816 Cherokee Lane, commented on the usage of Regional Park for July 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Newman felt residents should be allowed to have fireworks in their driveways. Jerry Withrow, 3033 Lee Highway, requested a stop light at Lee Highway and Ingleside Avenue as this was a dangerous intersection. Ford Ector, 840 County Road 750, requested the fireworks be open to the public in 2023. He felt the dangers of the fireworks not being open to the public far outweigh the dangers outside the park. Dick Pelley, 155 Morning Pointe Lane, asked the Council to investigate the waste of paper from the City Manager's office. Larry Eaton, 279 Sweetfield Valley Road, recounted Athens Fire Department's quick response to a woman who had fallen off a ladder. He requested the City take care of its employees and look at increasing its wages to retain them. Glenn Whiting, 237 County Road 655, made comments but did not make a request.


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REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Sumner reviewed current projects and upcoming projects and events.

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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 7:11 p.m.

  
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C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager  
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WILLIAM BO PERKINSON, Mayor