

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 21, 2023

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Sherlin presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Witt-McMahan; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Eaton, Sherlin

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

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 regularly scheduled meeting. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Eaton, Sherlin
NAYS: None

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COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Council Member Curtis presented a proclamation to representatives of Sons of the American Revolution to celebrate the state conference being held in Athens on March 24 and 25.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Lisa Blos-Johnson requested that the City Council review the City charter and make changes to it regarding the duties of the city manager. Eddie Broadwell requested that anyone who has thoughts on the form of government to contact him and discuss this with him. Glenn Whiting made comments regarding his court cases against the city, but no request was made.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Sherlin advised the recording clerk to read the following items into the record:

- a.) Approve the recommendation to declare police vehicles as surplus property and donate 2 vehicles to City of Etowah and 2 to City of Niota.
- b.) Approve first-year extension of contract with Huggins Lawn Care for mowing and maintenance of Athens parks.
- c.) Approve first-year extension of contract with Total Lawn Care for mowing and maintenance of Athens cemeteries.
- d.) Approve the use of North City and Ingleside Schools for 2024 elections.
- e.) Approve Resolution No 2023-06 designating April to be Fair Housing Month.
- f.) Approve Resolution No 2023-07 authorizing the submission of a letter of intent and application to TDOT for Multi-Modal grant for Historic Downtown Business District.
- g.) Approve Resolution No 2023-08 authorizing the submission of a 2023 Appalachian Regional Commission grant application for Mt. Verd Industrial Park site improvements.
- h.) Approve Resolution No 2023-09 authorizing the selection of Timothy L. Hill as Delinquent Tax Attorney for the City.
- i.) Motion to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to provide a proclamation and gift for Victoria White to present during her visit to the Sister City of Isahaya.
- j.) Approve Athens Travelers Car Club schedule as submitted with the exception of June 17, 2023.
- k.) Appoint Eddie Broadwell (Eaton) and Craig Hardin (Eaton) to the Council Advisory Committee, terms expire March 21, 2026.
- l.) Reappoint Charles Byrd to Tax Equalization Board, term expires April 1, 2023.

Council Member Pelley moved, Vice Mayor Eaton seconded, that the Consent Agenda as stated above be approved. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Eaton, Sherlin
NAYS: None

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ORDINANCES

None

- 6 -

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION TO HAVE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS COINCIDE WITH THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Vice Mayor Eaton moved, Mayor Sherlin seconded, the motion to have terms of office for Council Advisory Committee members coincide with the term of office of the Council Members, effective immediately. Roll call vote:

AYES: Pelley, Eaton, Sherlin

NAYS: Curtis, Witt-McMahan

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NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE RESOLUTION NO 2023-10 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM.

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2023-10. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Eaton, Sherlin

NAYS: None

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MOTION TO APPROVE A 5% COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT TO ALL FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE FOR THE PAY DATE OF MARCH 31, 2023.

Council Member Pelley moved, Vice Mayor Eaton seconded, to approve the motion to approve a 5% cost of living adjustment as presented. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Eaton, Sherlin

NAYS: None

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MOTION TO SEEK BIDS FOR PICKLEBALL COURTS AT INGLESIDE.

Vice Mayor Eaton moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to approve a motion to seek bids for pickleball courts at Ingleside. Vice Mayor Eaton stated that this would provide hard numbers for the actual cost of the project to determine if the Council would move forward with the construction of the courts. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Eaton, Sherlin

NAYS: None

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REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance Director Mr. Mike Keith presented the Finance Department Report for February 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for February 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Chief Jason Garren presented the Police Department Report for February 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

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REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Interim City Manager Keith presented an update on upcoming events, appreciation to Council for the cost of living adjustment and appreciation for all of the City employees. He further stated that he wanted the employees to know that he supported them.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

STEVEN S. SHERLIN, Mayor

MICHAEL L. KEITH, Interim City Manager