

**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
April 18, 2023

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Sherlin presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Eaton; 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

The minutes of the March 16, 2023 called meeting, the March 21, 2023 regularly scheduled meeting and the April 3, 2023 called meeting were submitted and approved. **Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Curtis seconded.** Roll call vote:

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

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COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – MCMINN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

Council Member Curtis presented a proclamation to coaches and players of the McMinn County High School Boys Basketball Team for their accomplishments during the year and for reaching the state tournament.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Charlene Such, 219 Shadows Lawn Drive in Davis Place subdivision, addressed concerns of new lots not being cleared properly, through-traffic speeding problems and an additional entrance to new homes. Pat Grayson, 351 Shadows Lawn Drive, shared similar concerns and requested information on when violations would be addressed. Barry Bitzker, 116 Shadows Lawn Drive, Davis Place subdivision, expressed concern of the shape lots were left in. This item was referred to the next Study Session. Glenn Whiting made comments regarding his court cases against the city, but no request was made. Craig Johnson, 1411 Hammerhill Road addressed major speeding issues in the neighborhood. Brian McKinney, 11817 No Pone Valley Road, Decatur, addressed concerns stated about Davis Place subdivision as the contractor for the excavating.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a.) Approve Resolution No 2023-11 to close and abandon remaining sections of Cumberland Avenue.
- b.) Approve report prepared by Neal, Scouten & McConnell, P.C. due to the resignation of former City Manager Seth Sumner.
- c.) Approve an increase in the contract with Integrated Properties for the Public Works Facility in the amount of \$1,215.
- d.) Approve an increase in the contract with Adams Contracting for the school traffic project in the amount of \$18,651.22.

**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, Eaton, Sherlin**

**NAYS: None**

ORDINANCES

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE TO ALTER THE METHOD OF MEASURING THE MINIMUM DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR LIQUOR STORES

ORDINANCE NO. 1116 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO ALTER THE METHOD OF MEASURING THE MINIMUM DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR LIQUOR STORES

The caption of the above described ordinance was read by the recording clerk. **Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1116 on First Reading.** Roll call vote:

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

**NAYS: None**

ORDINANCE TO ALTER THE METHOD OF MEASURING THE MINIMUM DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF BEER PERMIT HOLDERS

ORDINANCE NO. 1117 – FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE TO ALTER THE METHOD OF MEASURING THE MINIMUM DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF BEER PERMIT HOLDERS

The caption of the above described ordinance was read by the recording clerk. **Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1117 on First Reading.** Roll call vote:

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

APPROVE AUB REVISED REQUEST TO PROVIDE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 FOR BROADBAND SERVICE TO HUNTERS BRANCH AND BELMONT HILLS SUBDIVISION.

**Council Member Pelley moved, Vice Mayor Eaton seconded, to approve the AUB revised request to provide funding in the amount of \$15,000 for broadband service to Hunters Branch and Belmont Hills subdivisions.** Roll call vote:

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

MOTION TO APPROVE LIVE STREAMING OF ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

**Council Member Pelley moved, Vice Mayor Eaton seconded, to approve the motion to live stream all public meetings of the City Council.** Roll call vote:

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

APPROVE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR NEW CITY MANAGER DEBORAH WALLACE.

**Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to approve the motion to approve the employment agreement for new city manager Deborah Wallace.** Roll call vote:

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

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REPORTS

ATHENS CITY SCHOOL REPORT

Mr. Greene presented an update regarding the sharing of tax revenue by McMinn County, the progress on the new school building and the use of Westside Elementary School after the completion of the new school.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Community Development Director Anthony Casteel present the first quarter report of new building and improvements for 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 16 -  
POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Fred Schultz presented the Police Department Report for March 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

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REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Interim City Manager Keith presented an update on the animal shelter, parks, budget hearings and the new Parks and Recreation Director's start date. The report was accepted as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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STEVEN S. SHERLIN, Mayor

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MICHAEL L. KEITH, Interim City Manager