

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

August 15, 2023

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Vice Mayor Easton presiding. The invocation was given by Mayor Steve Sherlin; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Pelley, 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 July 18, 2023 regularly scheduled meeting were submitted and approved.

Council Member Curtis moved; Council Member Pelley seconded. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

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COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Sherlin read a thank you card from the Senior Citizen Center.
A moment of silence was held in honor of Burkett-Witt.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – JORDAN CURTIS

Council member Curtis read a proclamation for **AnnieMaye Johnson** who won the 2023 local Athens Stock Car Race, and the right to represent Athens at the world championships in the historic 85th running of the First Energy All-American Soap Box Derby, during the week of July 16-22, 2023, in Akron, Ohio.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – WHITTMCMAHAN

Council member McMahan presented a proclamation for **Hayen Rowe** who won the 2023 local Super Stock Car Race, and the right to represent Athens at the world championships in the historic 85th running of the First Energy All-American Soap Box Derby, during the week of July 16-22, 2023, in Akron, Ohio.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – DICK PELLEY

Council member Pelley presented a proclamation for **Kyia Hagerty** for finishing second in the local race, won the right to represent Athens at the National Super Kids Classic during the First Energy All-American Soap Box Derby from July 20-22, 2023, in Akron, Ohio.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Approximately 5 individuals addressed the Council regarding more police officers on duty. Flooding on Harris and Tell streets. Pickleball community, public record request and fire department emails.

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CONSENT AGENDA

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

I. CONSENT AGENDA

- a.) Approve Resolution No 2023-20 to submit application for Tourism Enhancement Grant
- b.) Approve Resolution No 2023-21 to submit application for South Art Express Grant for replacing downtown quilt squares.
- c.) Approve Resolution No 2023-22 to submit application for Tennessee Arts Commission Arts Access Mini-Grant for replacing downtown quilt squares.
- d.) Approve Resolution No 2023-23 to submit application for BlueCross BlueShield Healthy Places Grant.
- e.) Approve Resolution No 2023-24 to submit application for Public Entity Partners Safety Grant
- f.) Approve Resolution No 2023-25 to submit application for Police Recruitment and Retention Grant and TLETA Cost Sharing Grant
- g.) Approve High Mast Preventative Maintenance and Repair Contract Extension for Stansell Electric.
- h.) Approve Traffic Signals Maintenance and Repair Contract Extension for Stansell Electric.
- i.) Approve contract amendment of \$24,575.51 with Stantec for campus traffic improvement project.
- j.) Approve \$57,000.00 estimated cost for paving Rosedale Street and Hornsby Street.
- k.) Approve \$107,000.00 estimated cost for flooding issues on Tell, Harris and Clark Street
- l.) Appoint Dale Newman (Pelley), Donald Frank (Eaton), Sherry Richmond Frank (Eaton), Angela Schaffer (Eaton) to Council Advisory Board.

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

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

ORDINANCES

- a.) Ordinance No. 1122 – Second Reading - An Ordinance to amend the Athens Municipal Code, Title 8 entitled to alter the hours for Sunday beer sales.

The caption of the above-described ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Vice Mayor Eaton opened the public hearing. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1122 Roll call vote:

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

- b.) Ordinance No. 1123 – Public Hearing and Second Reading - An Ordinance to amend the Athens Municipal Code, Approve the rezoning request by Tracy and Wanda Dennis. to change a parcel located at 708 Virginia Avenue from B-1 (Intensive Business District) to R-2 (Medium-Density Residential District).

The caption of the above-described ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Vice Mayor Eaton opened the public hearing. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1123 Roll call vote:

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

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OLD BUSINESS

- 7 -

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) Approve Resolution No 2023-26 for a \$5000.00 contribution to The Better Living Center

Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, to approve contribution to the Better Living Center. Roll call vote:

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

- b.) Motion to approve \$16,000.00 for McMinn Economic Development Agency Industrial Park Signs.

Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to approve. \$16,000.00 for McMinn Economic Development Agency Industrial Park Signs.

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Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

c.) Motion on Pickleball.

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to bid design as presented by staff. Mayor votes against motion on pickle ball court.

AYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Pelley

NAYS: Eaton, Sherlin

d.) Motion to approval Councilmembers to submit action items or discussion items for the work session agenda will be 5 PM the Wednesday before the meeting.

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to approve action items or discussion items for the work session agenda will be 5 PM the Wednesday before the meeting. Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

e.) Motion to accept the school buildings with stipulation that for Westside School, Board of Education has first right of refusal on a sale of the building and rejecting the proposed amendment to the original agreement.

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to accept the school buildings with stipulation that for Westside School, Board of Education has first right of refusal on a sale of the building and rejecting the proposed amendment to the original agreement

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

NAYS: None

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REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance director Mike Keith presented the Finance Dep Report for August 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

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REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Deb Wallace presented an update on various projects and programs taking place. The report was accepted as presented.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

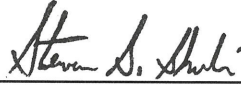
Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, for the meeting to be adjourned.

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

NAYS: None



DEB WALLACE, City Manager



STEVEN S. SHERLIN, Mayor