

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

September 19, 2023

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Vice Mayor Easton presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member- Witt-McMahan; 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.

- 1 -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August 15 ,2023; regularly scheduled meeting were submitted and approved.

Council Member Pelley moved; Council Member Curtis seconded.

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

The minutes of the September 12th, 2023; called scheduled meeting were submitted and approved.

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

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

NAYS: None

The minutes of the July 20th, 2023; called scheduled meeting were submitted and approved.

Council Member Pelley moved; Council Member Eaton seconded.

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Council member Curtis read and presented the Proclamation for – Hunger Action awareness month.

Council member Pelley presented the VIVID AWARD for Don Jones

- 3 -

REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Approximately 3 individuals addressed the Council regarding called meeting of City Attorneys, lawsuits, and suggestions for council pay, staffing, and job descriptions.

- 4-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

I. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approve EDA request for \$16,000 for second sign at Mt. Verd Industrial Park
- b) Approve architect services agreement with Lose Designs for Heritage Park.
- c) Approve extension of contract agreement with Adams Contracting for school traffic.
- d) Approve ARP stormwater proposal from Gresham Smith for engineering services.
- e) Approve Engineering services agreement with Gresham Smith for North Jackson Street Repairs.
- f) Approve Resolution No 2023-27 Authorizing the City of Athens, Tennessee to participate in the Public Entity Partners' Property Conservation Matching Grant Program.
- g) Approve request from Moises Contreras to use Westside Gymnasium for Taekwondo.
- h) Appoint Geoffery Suhmer Smith to the Council Advisory Committee to replace Skylar Dean. (Mayor Sherlin)
- i) Temporarily appoint Bob Roseberry for Jay Hacker term. (Mayor Sherlin)
- j) Appoint Jim Packett to the board of Adjustment and Appeals term expires June 3rd, 2027.

Council Member Eaton moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, that the Consent Agenda as stated above be approved.

Roll call vote:

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

- 5 -

ORDINANCES

- 6 -

OLD BUSINESS

- 7-

NEW BUSINESS

- a.) Approve Resolution No 2023-28 Authorizing the City of Athens, Tennessee to participate in the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Grant.

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Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to participate in the Tennessee Opioid Abatement Grant.

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

b.) Update on transfer of school properties. City Manager read memo to council to establish Committee of 15.

Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to establish a committee of 15, 5 council members, community members, City manager, Building official and Fire chief.

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

c.) Motion to approve classification/Compensation Study

Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Eaton seconded, to approve classification/Compensation Study.

Roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

d.) Motion regarding authorization to allow individuals to carry handguns in city hall based on TCA 39-17-1359 (Authorization to carry in the city hall for council

Council Member Eaton moved, Council Member Sherlin seconded, regarding authorization to allow City council members and City Manager to carry handguns in city hall based on TCA 39-17-1359

Roll call vote:

AYES: Pelley, Eaton, Sherlin.

NAYS: Witt-McMahan

ABSTAIN: Curtis

e.) Motion to appoint City Attorney.

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Eaton seconded, motion to appoint City Attorney.

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AYES: Curtis, Eaton, Sherlin.

NAYS: Witt-McMahan, Sherlin

f.) Motion to appoint Caldwell City Attorney

Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Eaton seconded, motion to appoint Caldwell as City Attorney.

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

NAYS: None

g.) Motion to change work study session to 6:00 pm start time.

Council Member Eaton moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to change work study session time to 6:00pm

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

NAYS: None

h.) Motion to require all police officer's cameras to be turned on all the time except for bathroom and lunch breaks.

Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Eaton seconded, to require all police officer's cameras to be turned on at all times except for bathroom and lunchbreaks. After further discussion Motion was withdrawn.

i.) Motion to make transcripts from the depositions related to the Cliff Couch lawsuit open to council and public.

Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Eaton seconded, to make transcripts open to council and public regarding the Cliff Couch lawsuit.

AYES: Pelley,

NAYES: Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Eaton, Sherlin

j.) Motion to review deposition of Chief Schultz

Council member Pelley moved. No Second.

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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.

- 9 -

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

- 10 -

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 was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.


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

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

NAYS: None



DEB WALLACE, City Manager



STEVEN S. SHERLIN, Mayor