

**ATHENS CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
October 19, 2021**

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Perkinson presiding. The invocation was given by Mayor Perkinson; 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.

Mike Keith, Finance Director, asked to make a brief statement in light of all of the activity that has gone on over the past few months and the Mayor and Council approved his request. Mr. Keith was joined by fellow department heads. Some could not be present, but still provided support of his comments. Mr. Keith stated that they all agreed it was a sad event for everyone involved in relation to the dismissal of Cliff Couch as the police chief for the City of Athens, Tennessee, and did not wish harm to come to any individual. It was a decision they felt was necessary to allow our city to move forward for the better. They simply wanted the council to understand that they support the dismissal of Cliff Couch as the police chief for the City and look forward to working with Fred Schultz and the rest of the department as they were unable to do during Cliff Couch's tenure.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the September 22, 2021 regularly scheduled meeting were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

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COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

WESTSIDE SCHOOL UPDATE

Tracy Lee, Principal at Westside School, submitted a letter to the Athens City Council expressing their appreciation for having Officer Hensley as their SRO and for the Athens Fire Department's participation in Fire Prevention Day. The City Council was also invited to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> year reception on October 24<sup>th</sup> in Westside's library.

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EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

James Gallup, Interim City Manager, presented the "Employee of the Quarter" award for the fourth quarter of 2021 to Megan Chandler, Patrol Officer.

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PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

Council Member Curtis presented the Very Important Volunteer Individual (VIVID) Award for the month of October 2021 to Erica Allen Peden in recognition of her volunteer work to help the furry members of our community.

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CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

Mayor Perkinson announced the Government Finance Officers Association had awarded the City of Athens the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. This marks the City's 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive year receiving this award. Mayor Perkinson thanked Finance Director Mike Keith. Mr. Keith noted that in 1990, Jackie Jenkins, the City's Finance Director at the time, spoke with him about her desire to apply for this award. At that time, Mr. Keith was the Senior on the audit working for G.R. Rush & Company. The firm decided to work with Ms. Jenkins on this project and they were able to apply for the award for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1992, which was the first year they received the award. The City would not be in the financial position it is today without giving

credit to Ms. Jenkins. Marvin Bolinger also provided great encouragement to go towards achieving this award. He noted this award does not come because of Mike Keith, as the Finance Director, it comes because of the City Council, City Manager, and all the departments working together. It also involves the City Schools and Utilities Board because of their reports being included in it. It is definitely a joint effort that he appreciates very much. Mr. Keith stated he was proud to be the Finance Director for the City of Athens.

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40 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP AWARD FROM PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERS (PEP)

Council Member Curtis presented Interim City Manager James Gallup with an award for 40 years of membership with its insurer Public Entity Partners (PEP), formerly known as the Risk Management Pool. The cities of Athens and Hendersonville were the two founding members of the Risk Management Pool.

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MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Perkinson acknowledged receipt of a thank you card from Athens City Middle School to City Manager Sumner for speaking at their Constitution Day assembly and for his continued support of their school.

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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 purchase of Scott self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) from Scott Safety (using a cooperative purchasing agreement).
- b.) Approve contract with Stansell Electric for High Mast Preventative Maintenance and Repair.
- c.) Approve contract with Stansell Electric for Traffic Signals Maintenance and Repair.
- d.) Approve contract with MaidPro of Chattanooga for janitorial services for City buildings.
- e.) Approve recommendation to surplus fire pumps.
- f.) Approve recommendation to surplus Cascade compressor.
- g.) Approve recommendation to replace and surplus Asset #3173 Chevrolet C6500 container handler.
- h.) Approve Resolution No. 2021-36 authorizing submission of an application for FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.
- i.) Approve Resolution No. 2021-37 authorizing submission of an application to TDOT for Community Transportation Planning Grant (CTPG).
- j.) Authorize execution of contract with TDOT for STBG paving.

Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **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

None

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OLD BUSINESS

None

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NEW BUSINESS

NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT

**Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to authorize participation in the National Opioid Settlement and to authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents as necessary. Roll call vote:**

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

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REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY BUILDING REPORT

Mr. Anthony Casteel, Community Development Director, presented the Building Permit Quarterly Report for the City of Athens. The report was accepted as presented.

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Mike Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of September 2021. The report was accepted as presented.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for the month of September 2021. The report was accepted as presented.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Interim Police Chief Fred Schultz presented the Police Department Report for the month of September 2021. The report was accepted as presented.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Steven Sherlin, Stephani Burchfield, and John Coker withdrew their names from the sign in sheet. Kellie Yielding, 2152 County Road 700, Riceville, spoke but did not make a request. Glen Whiting, 237 County Road 655, expressed his opinions but did not make a request.

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REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Interim City Manager Gallup reviewed the monthly report including the various Parks and Recreation and Public Works projects and activities going on throughout the city.

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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 6:59 p.m.

  
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JAMES GALLUP, Interim City Manager

  
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WILLIAM BO PERKINSON, Mayor