

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

March 15, 2022

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Perkinson presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Curtis; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Curtis, Witt-McMahan, Lockmiller, Perkinson

Council Member Pelley was attending the National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. and was unable to attend the meeting.

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 February 15, 2022 regularly scheduled meeting were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

NORTH CITY SCHOOL UPDATE

Angel Hardaway, Principal at North City School, provided an update on the school activities and thanked the City for all they do in support of Athens City Schools.

- 3 -

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – CASA CORRIDOR DAY

Mayor Perkinson presented a proclamation proclaiming March 31, 2022 as CASA Corridor Day in Athens and encouraging all citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of CASA Corridor of East Tennessee. Council Member Curtis, President of CASA, Council Member Witt-McMahan, Executive Director of CASA, and Meredith Willson, Treasurer of CASA, were present to accept the proclamation.

- 4 -

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

City Manager Sumner presented “Employee of the Quarter” awards for the second quarter of 2022 to Buster Thompson, Joel Church, Dale Wallis, Anthony Standridge, Cole Patton, and LT Cantrell. The Sanitation division has been faced with staffing challenges, an increase in collections, and significant delays at the landfill. These men stepped up to make sure the citizens of Athens always had their garbage picked up. Even when dealing with COVID exposures, these men came to work, stayed alone in their vehicles picking up trash and then leaving so as not to risk exposing others.

- 5 -

PRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT (ICMA) SERVICE AWARD TO KEVIN HELMS

City Manager Sumner presented Kevin Helms, Project Manager, with the International City/County Manager (ICMA) Service Award for 25 years of service in the profession.

- 6 -

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Perkinson acknowledged receipt of a thank you card addressed to City Manager Sumner from the Heart and Home Family and Community Education (FCE) Club thanking everyone for all they do for our community.

- 7 -
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 Resolution No. 2022-07 to increase the award for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Paving to Rogers Group, Inc.
- b.) Approve purchase of a replacement street sweeper and declare existing vehicle (Asset No. 4313) as surplus, to be sold on GovDeals after receipt of sweeper.
- c.) Approve purchase of a replacement tractor and mowing unit and declare existing equipment (Asset Nos. 4124 and 4128) as surplus, to be sold on GovDeals after receipt of equipment.
- d.) Approve recommendation to award bid for Mowing & Maintenance of Athens parks properties to Huggins Lawn Care.
- e.) Approve request to enter negotiations with Stantec for Architectural and Engineering (A & E) Services for the Public Safety Training Facility.
- f.) Approve request to enter negotiations with Gresham Smith for STBG engineering services.
- g.) Approve Resolution No. 2022-08 designating Fair Housing Month in the City of Athens.
- h.) Approve Resolution No. 2022-09 authorizing submission of grant application through the Governor's Highway Safety Program.
- i.) Approve auditors for City of Athens, Athens Utilities Board, City School System for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.

Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, that the Consent Agenda as stated above be approved.** Roll call vote:

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

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ORDINANCES

None

- 9 -
OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF CITY WAYFINDING SIGNS

Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Witt-McMahan moved, Vice Mayor Lockmiller seconded, to approve the proposal by Hacker Sign for the design and construction of City Wayfinding Signs.** Roll call vote:

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

- 10 -
NEW BUSINESS

None

- 11 -
REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Mike Keith, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of February 2022. The report was accepted as presented.

- 12 -

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for the month of February 2022. The report was accepted as presented.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Interim Chief Fred Schultz presented the Police Department Report for the month of February 2022. The report was accepted as presented.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Glenn Whiting, 237 County Road 655, requested the City hire outside counsel to address Council Member Pelley's issues. Vice Mayor Lockmiller stated that both he and Council Member Witt-McMahan had requested an outside investigator to investigate Council Member Pelley's request and Council Member Pelley told them no.

- 15 -

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

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

In response to a request from Mr. Dan Anderson of Riceville for an apology from City Manager Sumner, City Manager Sumner read in its entirety the apology letter he had sent to him. He noted that he had tried to issue an apology at both the October and December 2022 City Council meetings, but Mr. Anderson had left the meeting before he had a chance to speak. It was City Manager Sumner's hope that the written and now the verbal apologies would bring Mr. Anderson comfort.

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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 6:51 p.m.


C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager


WILLIAM BO PERKINSON, Mayor