



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION

The Athens City Council met in regular session on **Tuesday, December 17, 2024**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Athens City Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Eaton presiding. Councilmember Duggan led the invocation. Vice Mayor Curtis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

PRESENT: Curtis, Duggan, Eaton, Sherlin

ABSENT: Pelley

The following decisions were made and ordered to be part of the records of the Athens City Council.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 19, 2024 and; Councilmember Duggan seconded. Minutes approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

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COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

-3-

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA

1. Glenn Whiting 2. Ron Sinecoff 3. Tyler Boyd 4. Linda Long

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CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve 2025 Meeting Dates for City Council Work Sessions, Regular Sessions, and Beer Board Meetings
- b. Approve Applying for a 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Conducting a Required Public Hearing
- c. Approve Obtaining an Appraisal of Downtown Building to be Used as a City Hall.
- d. (Removed for further discussion after consent agenda.)

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- e. Approve Bid Award for On-Call Mowing & Property Cleanup for Code Enforcement Division
- f. Approve Purchase of Replacement Laptop Equipment for the Fire Department
- g. Approve Renewal of Contract for Police Department Car and Body Camera Equipment
- h. Approve Purchase of Software and Related Equipment for the Sanitation Fund
- i. Approve Declaration of Surplus City Property
- j. Approve Resolution No. 2024-23 to Apply for a 2024 Assistance for Firefighters Grant
- k. (Removed for further discussion after consent agenda.)
- l. Approve Revised Debt Management Policy
- m. Confirm Mayor Appointments
 - Larry Eaton to Board of Zoning Appeals
 - Steven Sherlin to Athens Regional Planning Commission
 - Larry Eaton to Friendly City Sister Cities Committee
 - Larry Eaton to Athens Parks Foundation
 - John Duggan to McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services
 - Jordan Curtis to McMinn County Economic Development Authority
 - John Duggan to McMinn County Senior Citizens
 - Jordan Curtis to Historic Preservation Commission
- n. Appoint Jordan Curtis to the Athens Regional Planning Commission
- o. Appoint Larry Eaton to the Athens Utilities Board
- p. Approve Appointment of Vice Mayor Curtis to the Retirement Committee in Lieu of Mayor Eaton.
- q. Appoint Reita Witt to the Council Advisory Committee (Councilmember Duggan)
- r. Appoint Perry McCowan to the Council Advisory Committee (Councilmember Duggan)
- s. Appoint Shawn McKeehan to the Council Advisory Committee (Councilmember Duggan)

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve all consent agenda items with exception of item d & item k which will be discussed separately; Councilmember Duggan seconded. No Discussion. Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton
NAYS: Sherlin

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Approve Revision to Employee Handbook, Application of Policies, Plans, Rules, and Regulations Section and Departmental Rules and Regulations Section

Councilmember Duggan moved to approve the revisions to the Employee Handbook; Councilmember Sherlin seconded. Discussion began with all four (4) council members speaking on the matter. Three (3) are in favor and one (1) opposed. City Attorney, Caldwell also provided his opinion in opposition to the revisions to the Employee Handbook. **Motion Approved.**

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Eaton,
NAYS: Curtis

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Approve Application from McMinn County Living Heritage Museum for Additional Hotel/Motel Tax Funds

Councilmember Duggan moved to postpone this item to the January 2025 Work Session for further discussion; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded. Discussion began with all four (4) council members speaking on the matter. Three (3) are in favor of postponement and one (1) opposed.

Communications Coordinator, Frank Clark provided an explanation of the permitted usage of the funds.

Councilmember Duggan withdrew his motion to postpone; Vice Mayor Curtis agreed.

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Councilmember Duggan moved to approve the \$5,000 application from McMinn County Living Heritage Museum; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded. No discussion. **Motion Approved.**

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis
NAYS:
ABSTAIN: Eaton

-8-

ORDINANCES

- NONE -

-9-

OLD BUSINESS

- NONE -

-10-

NEW BUSINESS

Disposing of North City School

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to demolish the structure and retain the real property; Councilmember Duggan seconded. Discussion began with all four (4) council members speaking on the matter. Three (3) are in favor of retaining the property and one (1) opposed.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Eaton
NAYS: Sherlin

-11-

Appointment to the McMinn County Library Board

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to appoint Amy Sullins to the McMinn County Library Board; No Second. Motion Failed.

-12-

Mayor Eaton moved to appoint Jacob Burnette to the McMinn County Library Board; Councilmember Sherlin seconded. Motion Failed.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Sherlin, Eaton
NAYS: Curtis
ABTAIN: Duggan

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REPORTS

Finance Department Monthly Report

presented by Director of Finance, Mike Keith

Fire Department Monthly Report

presented by Deputy Fire Chief, Tim Schultz

Police Department Monthly Report

presented by Police Chief, Fred Schultz

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REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Program of Work

presented by City Manager, Randall Dowling

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CITIZENS COMMENTS

1. Glenn Whiting 2. Tyler Boyd

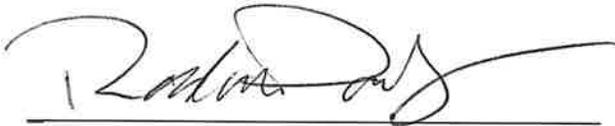
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ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Eaton moved to adjourn; Councilmember Duggan seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:



RANDALL DOWLING, City Manager



LARRY EATON, Mayor

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l. Approve Revised Debt Management Policy

m. Confirm Mayor Appointments

- Larry Eaton to Board of Zoning Appeals
- Steven Sherlin to Athens Regional Planning Commission
- ~~John Duggan~~ to Friendly City Sister Cities Committee ← Duggan asked for correction
- Larry Eaton to Athens Parks Foundation
- John Duggan to McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services
- Jordan Curtis to McMinn County Economic Development Authority
- John Duggan to McMinn County Senior Citizens
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