



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF CALLED SESSION

The Athens City Council met in regular session on **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**, at 5:00 p.m. in the Athens City Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Eaton presiding. Vice Mayor Curtis led the invocation. Councilmember Pelley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

PRESENT: Duggan, Pelley, Curtis, Eaton
ABSENT: Sherlin

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

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CITIZEN'S COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA

1. Larry Rhodes – Addressed the need for a community center.

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NEW BUSINESS

Discuss and approve a project for the 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve improvements to the area around Knight Park including park improvements, road improvements on N. Jackson Street, N. White Street, and College Street, landscaping, traffic calming measures, sidewalks, and pedestrian signals in general accordance with the Downtown Master Plan prepared and approved by the city in December 2020; Councilmember Pelley seconded. Discussion began regarding the safety of the TWU students and other pedestrians that use that area. Sam Saieed with SETD spoke on the application process, noting the March 28th deadline. Councilmembers mentioned the construction of fire station #3 and a community center as being priorities. **Motion approved.**

Councilmember Pelley moved to call the question; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Pelley, Eaton
NAYS: None

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Pelley, Eaton
NAYS: None

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Livestream

Vice Mayor Curtis moved for the City Council to instruct staff to disable comments during City Council Sessions livestream on social media platforms, specifically Facebook; Councilmember Duggan seconded. Discussion followed. Councilmember Pelley spoke in opposition. City Attorney Caldwell provided a memorandum that stated: “... *the author of this memorandum... has not discovered any continuing obligation upon the City of Athens to allow comments on a livestreaming services on the basis that it has previously made available this service. Rather, the City’s obligation to provide the opportunity to the public to electronically comment depends on its use of electronic means to conduct business.*” ... Councilmember Duggan addressed the issue of cyber security. **Motion approved.**

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton
NAYS: Pelley

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ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Eaton adjourned the meeting at 5:31 pm.



RANDALL DOWLING, City Manager

LARRY EATON, Mayor