



## ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF CALLED SESSION

The Athens City Council met in called session on **Thursday, July 31, 2025**, at 5:30 p.m. in the Athens City Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Eaton presiding. Vice Mayor Curtis led the invocation. Councilmember Duggan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll call:**

**PRESENT:** Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton  
**ABSENT:** None

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

The purpose of the meeting, as issued in the "Notice of Special Session" dated July 11, 2025, is made a part of these minutes:

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### **NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION**

Notice is hereby given to all residents of Athens, Tennessee, and to all persons interested, that a special session of the Athens City Council will be held at the Athens City Hall located at 815 North Jackson Street, Athens, Tennessee, commencing at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, 2025.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

1. Conduct a public hearing for a proposed retail package store located at 312 Congress Parkway S.;
2. Act on the issuance of a certificate of compliance for the above-referenced application;
3. Discuss and potentially act upon proposed updates to Article V City Council of the Athens City Charter;
4. Discuss and potentially act upon proposed updates to Article XX Department of Education of the Athens City Charter;
5. Discuss and potentially act upon proposed amendments to Title 13-111 Dilapidated and Unfit Structures and Areas of the Athens City Code.

There will be an opportunity for citizens to comment. Prior to commencement of the meeting, all citizens intending to address the city council must sign in on the sheet located at the entrance of the council chambers. The speaker must abide by the Public Comment Rules.

For more information, please contact the Office of the City Manager at (423) 744-2702.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Larry Eaton, Mayor

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA**

- Abby Burke Carol – Commented on Amending Article XX, specifically speaking against term limits for the Board of Education.
- Tyler Boyd – Commented on Amending Article XX and Amending Article V.
- Keith Bright – Commented on the certificate of compliance application, specifically about the non-compliant plans submitted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Conduct a public hearing for a proposed retail package store located at 312 Congress Parkway S.

**Mayor Eaton opened the public hearing regarding the proposed retail package store. With no comments received, the public hearing was closed.**

- B. Act on the issuance of a certificate of compliance for the above-referenced application.

**Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the certificate of compliance contingent upon compliant site plans being submitted and approved by staff before the 45-day deadline (August 15<sup>th</sup>); Mayor Eaton seconded. Upon discussion, the motion was withdrawn by Vice Mayor Curtis.**

**Councilmember Sherlin moved to deny certificate of compliance; Councilmember Pelley seconded.**

**PASSED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton**

**NAYS:**

- C. Discuss and potentially act upon proposed updates to Article V - City Council of the Athens City Charter.

**Councilmember Sherlin moved to amend Section 4 Article V of the Athens City Charter to remove the fixed salary provisions for the Mayor and Councilmembers, authorize all future changes in compensation to be established by ordinance, and have the city attorney to write the amendment; Mayor Eaton seconded the motion.**

**PASSED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton**

**NAYS: Pelley**

- D. Discuss and potentially act upon proposed updates to Article XX - Department of Education of the Athens City Charter.

**Vice Mayor Curtis moved to postpone item D to August 11, 2025 Work Session; Mayor Eaton seconded.**

**PASSED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton**

**NAYS: Pelley, Sherlin**

- E. Discuss and potentially act upon proposed amendments to Title 13-III - Dilapidated and Unfit Structures and Areas of the Athens City Code.

**Councilmember Sherlin moved to amend Athens City Code 13-61 to include the terminology that requires the code enforcement officer to be certified / licensed by the proper authority. Upon discussion Councilmember Sherlin withdrew the motion.**

Discussion began regarding 13-64, 13-65, 13-67, 13-69, and 13-70 of the Athens City Code.

**Councilmember Duggan moved point of order.**

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**Mayor Eaton called the meeting to order.**

**Councilmember Pelley Challenged the Chair; Councilmember Sherlin seconded.**

**FAILED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Pelley, Sherlin**

**NAYS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton**

No further action was taken on 13-64, 13-65, 13-67, 13-69, and 13-70 of the Athens City Code.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Eaton adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.

  
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RANDALL DOWLING, City Manager

  
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LARRY EATON, Mayor