



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION

The Athens City Council met in regular session on **Tuesday, August 19, 2025**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Athens City Hall Council Chambers, with Mayor Eaton presiding. Vice Mayor Curtis led the invocation. Mayor Eaton 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Duggan moved to approve the minutes of Tuesday, July 15, 2025 – Regular Session and Thursday, July 31, 2025 – Special Session; seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. The VIVID Award honoring the late Randy Sliger was presented.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA

- Chuck Burris – Commented on his support for fire station #3.
- Lisa Dotson – Commented on her desire to keep the heritage alive for the area of Cook Park.
- Glenn Whiting - Commented on veteran banners at Veterans Park.
- Linda Long – Commented on the poles at Veterans Park.
- Virali Patel – Commented on the application that her husband submitted for the Certificate of Compliance for Retail Package Store during the last application period.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Award RFB 25-09 to Wilson Construction Group, LLC for Construction Services to Renovate Heritage Park & Approve Purchase of Site Amenities from Bluegrass Recreation Sales through RFP 24-09.
- B. Approve Bid Award of RFB 25-10 to Rogers Group, Inc for Resurfacing 9 City Streets (3.94 miles).
- C. Approve Resolution 2025-20, Declaring Certain Fire Hose Equipment as Surplus Property and Authorizing its Sale Through GovDeals.
- D. Approve Resolution 2025-21, Authorizing the City of Athens to Submit a Grant Application to the BlueCross Healthy Places Program.
- E. Approve Resolution 2025-22, Authorizing the City of Athens to Participate in the 2025-2026 Judy Housley Safety Partners Matching Grant Program Through Public Entity Partners.
- F. Approve Resolution 2025-23, Authorizing the City of Athens to Participate in the 2025-2026 Property Conservation Matching Grant Program Through Public Entity Partners.
- G. Approve Purchase of Replacement Garbage Dumpsters from WasteQuip using the Sanitation Fund.

H. Certificate of Compliance Application for Retail Package Store

- 1) Approve Application Period of Monday, September 8, 2025 to Friday, September 19, 2025.
- 2) Approve a Lottery Selection Method in Case of Multiple Applicants.
- 3) Approve Tuesday, October 21, 2025 for the Public Hearing and Selection Date for New Retail Package Store Certificate of Compliance

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

ORDINANCES

A. Public Hearing and Second Reading of Ordinance 1143

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 3, CHAPTER II OF THE ATHENS CITY CODE, RELATIVE TO THE IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES AND COURT COSTS IN ATHENS MUNICIPAL COURT.

Mayor Eaton opened the Public Hearing. There being no citizens wishing to speak, Mayor Eaton closed the Public Hearing.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved approval of the second reading of Ordinance 1143; seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Sherlin

OLD BUSINESS

-None-

NEW BUSINESS

A. Design and Construction of Fire Station #3

Councilmember Pelley moved to approve going forward with the designing process with Wold Architects and Engineers; seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

B. Installation of Poles and Banners at Veterans Park

Mayor Eaton moved to rescind the October 13, 2023 motion to approve installation of poles and banners at Veterans Park; seconded by Councilmember Curtis.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Pelley, Sherlin

C. Disposal of Real property Located at 2201 Decatur Pike.

Councilmember Sherlin moved rezoning the property from B-3 to R-2 and put on the market to sell; seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

D. Potential Acquisition of Downtown Property for Parking and Garbage Dumpster Consolidation.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to authorize staff to obtain an appraisal of this property to determine fair market value, obtain a Phase I environmental assessment to determine if any environmental issues are present on the site, and authorize the City Manager to make an offer to the owner based on the appraised value; seconded by Councilmember Sherlin.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

E. Hammerhill Road Sidewalks Project Survey Results

Councilmember Sherlin moved to add the Hammerhill Road sidewalk project to the City Managers long-term plan and come back with additional input from property owners; seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

F. Council Advisory Committee Appointments

Mayor Eaton moved to decrease the number of Council Advisory Committee appointments per Councilmember from five (5) to three (3) which will take effect after the November 2026 election; seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Pelley

ABSTAIN: Sherlin

G. Amending Athens City Charter Article XX

Councilmember Duggan moved to amend Article XX of the Athens City Charter to set term limits for the Board of Education; seconded by Mayor Eaton.

FAILED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Eaton

NAYS: Pelley, Curtis, Sherlin-passed the first roll call

H. Resolution 2025-24, A Resolution to Authorize the Submission of a Downtown Improvement Grant for Main Street.

Mayor Eaton moved to authorize financial coordination and partnership with SETD and Main Street; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

- I. Request for Funds from the Commemorative Air Force

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to allocate \$4,000 to the Commemorative Air Force for precuring various WWII aircraft to appear at the McMinn County Airport in support of the USS Ware reunion on October 10, 2025; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

- J. Resignation of Reita Witt from Councilmember Duggan's Advisory Committee seat and appointment to Vice Mayor Curtis's seat.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to appoint Reita Witt to fill a vacancy for his group; seconded by Councilmember Sherlin.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: Duggan, Eaton

- K. Councilmember Pelley moved to Amend Athens City Code, Title 13-III; seconded by Councilmember Sherlin.

After discussion the motion was withdrawn.

- L. Councilmember Sherlin moved to Amend Athens City Code, Title 13-III, to include any person on staff who are involved in dilapidated buildings be qualified in residential and commercial building codes; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin

NAYS: Eaton

ABSTAIN: Curtis

- M. Councilmember Pelley requested clarification on the rules for Councilmembers submitting public records request; Councilmember Sherlin.
Motion was withdrawn.

REPORTS

- A. Finance Department Monthly Report
Director of Finance, Mike Keith
- B. Fire Department Monthly Report
Fire Chief, Brandon Ainsworth
- C. Police Department Monthly Report
Police Chief, Fred Schultz

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Program of Work
City Manager, Randall Dowling

B. Report on Current Litigation and Legal Issues
City Attorney, Christopher Caldwell

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Community members, Dick Pelley, Charlie Senn, Juanita McClure Lewis, Katherine Hunter, and Linda Long, commented on various topics.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Eaton asked for a vote to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

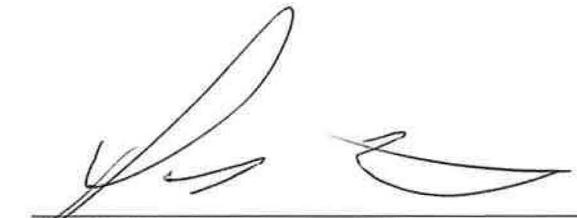
Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:



RANDALL DOWLING, City Manager



LARRY EATON, Mayor