



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION

The Athens City Council met in regular session on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, 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: 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

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the minutes of Tuesday, August 19, 2025 – Regular Session; seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- A. Report - Athens City Middle School presentation
- B. Proclamation - Janice Hardaway, presented by Vice Mayor Curtis
- C. Proclamation - Arliss Douglas, recipient unable to attend
- D. Proclamation - Silas Millsaps, presented by Councilmember Duggan

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA

- Elisa Howell commented on funding request for Mid-East Tennessee Community Chorus.
- Glenn Whiting commented on the pipes donated for the Veteran's Park banners.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Athens City Schools FY 2025 – 26 Budget Amendment #1.
- B. Approve Allen & Hoshall to Proceed with Phase II of Renovating the House at Regional Park into the Parks & Recreation Offices.
- C. Approve RFB 25-11 Bid Award to Whaley Construction for Mt. Verd Industrial Park Improvements.
- D. Approve Resolution 2025-25, A Resolution to Amend Section 4, Article V of the Charter of the City of Athens, Tennessee, to Remove Fixed Salary Provisions for the Mayor and Councilmembers and to Authorize Future Compensation to be Established by Ordinance.
- E. Approve Resolution 2025-26, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Athens, Tennessee, to Apply for Funding Through the Atlanta Braves Foundation – Braves Park Project Grant Program for Field Renovations at Brody Ellis Field, Prof Powers Park.
- F. Approve Resolution 2025- 27, A Resolution of the City of Athens, Tennessee to Declare Certain Property as Surplus and to Authorize its Disposal.
- G. Approve Purchase of Equipment and Services for the Decatur Pike Corridor Traffic Signal Retiming Project (\$257,409.15 from Capital Improvement Fund).
- H. Appoint Abby Burke Carroll to the Council Advisory Board as Councilmember Pelley's appointee.
- I. Reappoint Frances Witt-McMahan to the Athens Municipal Regional Planning Commission.

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

Councilmember Duggan moved to amend the consent agenda by moving item H and item I to New Business for further discussion. Vice Mayor Curtis withdrew the original motion and moved to approve items A – G and move item H and item I to New Business; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

ORDINANCES

-None-

OLD BUSINESS

-None-

NEW BUSINESS

- A. First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Athens, Tennessee, and the Official Zoning Map to Rezone Property Located Within the Corporate Limits of Athens, Tennessee at 2201 Decatur Pike (A Portion of McMinn County Tax Map 056, Parcel 009.00) from B-3 (Intensive Business District) to R-2 (Medium Density Residential District).

Vice Mayor Curtis moved approval of first reading; seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

- B. First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Title 14, Chapter V, Sections 14-128 and 14-130 of the Athens City Code.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve first reading; seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

- C. Phase II of Designing and Construction of Fire Station #3 (Wold Architect & Engineers)

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve continuing to Phase II; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.

Mayor Eaton moved to amend the original motion by adding that the bid specifications include various alternatives, so that multiple options will be available for consideration at the time of the bid award. Vice Mayor Curtis withdrew the original motion. Vice Mayor Curtis then moved to approve proceeding with Phase II, specifying that various alternatives be offered during the bid process; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.

Councilmember Pelley moved to call the question. The motion was seconded by Mayor Eaton. The motion carried, and discussion ended.

PASSED (Amended Motion)

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Sherlin

D. Mid-East Tennessee Community Chorus (METCC) Funding Request.

Councilmember Pelley moved to approve \$5,000 funding request from METCC to be paid from the General Fund; seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Sherlin

E. RFB 25-13: Bid Award for ARP Stormwater Grant Construction Project.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to award the bid to the lowest bidder Wilson Construction Group, LLC; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

F. Consent Item H moved to New Business:

Appoint Abby Burke Carroll to the Council Advisory Board as Councilmember Pelley's appointee.

Councilmember Pelley moved to approve appointment of Abby Burke Carroll to the Council Advisory Committee; seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis.

FAILED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Pelley, Curtis

NAYS: Duggan, Sherlin, Eaton

G. Consent Item I moved to New Business:

Reappoint Frances Witt-McMahan to the Athens Municipal Regional Planning Commission.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve reappointment of Frances Witt-McMahan to the AMRPC; seconded by Councilmember Sherlin.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Pelley

H. Councilmember Pelley moved to authorize additional arbitration to address a settlement between the City of Athens and Glenn Whiting. Councilmember Sherlin seconded the motion.

FAILED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Pelley

NAYS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

ABSTAIN: Sherlin

I. Councilmember Pelley moved to discuss the ruling by the Chancellor that found that the City's failure to produce the requested documents in a timely fashion was willful regarding Glenn Whiting v. City of Athens, Tennessee McMinn County Chancery Court No. 2024-cv-334.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

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J. Councilmember Pelley moved to discuss the code of conduct and ethical standards for City Council members; seconded by Councilmember Sherlin.

FAILED

Roll call vote:

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

K. Councilmember Pelley moved to discuss accountability standards for the department heads.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Community members Jason Wright, Glenn Whiting, Dick Pelley, Chuck Burris, and John Coker commented on various topics.

Councilmember Duggan left the room during this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to adjourn; seconded by Mayor Eaton.

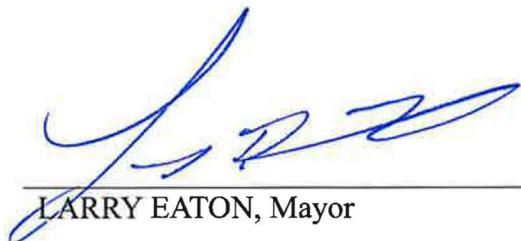
Roll call vote:

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

Adjournment: 8:45 p.m.



RANDALL DOWLING, City Manager



LARRY EATON, Mayor