



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION

The Athens City Council met in regular session on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026**, at 6:00 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: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – Regular Session

Councilmember Duggan moved to approve the minutes as presented; Councilmember McCowan seconded.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sberlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- A. Vice Mayor Curtis presented a VIVID Award to Crystal Sutton
- B. Vice Mayor Curtis presented “Our Town, Our Tales” a book written and illustrated by Mrs. Hall’s class at Athens City Middle School.
- C. Mayor Eaton commented on the Be Pro Be Proud Truck that allows students hands-on opportunity to explore high-demand careers.

CITIZENS COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA

- Virali commented on Athens Wine & Liquor’s request for an extension of time, on behalf of the retail package store applicant Amar Patel, stating that he would need an additional three months beyond the expiration date to prepare to open the business.
- Glenn Whiting commented on items unrelated to the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Resolution 2026-10, a Resolution Authorizing the City of Athens to Apply for Funding Through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program.
- B. Resolution 2026-11, a Resolution Authorizing Application to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) for a Fiscal Year 2026 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG).
- C. Resolution 2026-12, a Resolution Authorizing Application for the 2026 Community Development Block Grant.

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D. Resolution 2026-13, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Athens, Tennessee, Authorizing the Submission of an Application for the Tennessee Department of Health Healthy Built Environment Grant for Improvements at Prof Powers Park (Brody Ellis Field).

~~E. Resolution 2026-14, a Resolution Authorizing the City of Athens, Tennessee, to Apply for a Traffic Signal Modernization Program (TSM) Grant Through the Tennessee Department of Transportation and to Commit Local Funding for the Project if the Grant is Awarded.~~

Mayor Eaton moved item E, Resolution 2026-14, to New Business for further discussion. There was no objection from the Council.

Councilmember Duggan moved to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items as presented; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

ORDINANCES

-None-

OLD BUSINESS

-None-

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 1150, an Ordinance to Amend ‘The Zoning Ordinance of the City of Athens, Tennessee, so as to Amend the Official Zoning Map to Rezone the Property Located on the Corner of Hicks Street and Eastanallee Avenue from I-1 (Light Industrial District) to R-2 (Medium Density Residential) said Area Being Located Within the Corporate Limits of Athens, Tennessee.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1150; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

B. Request for Extension – Athens Wine & Liquor

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve a 6-month extension for Athens Wine & Liquor to open its liquor store, extending the current expiration date from April 21, 2026, to October 21, 2026; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Sherlin

C. Athens City Code Title 8 and Municipal Zoning Ordinance Amendments

No Action Taken.

- D. This item was moved from Consent Agenda for further discussion.
Resolution 2026-14, a Resolution Authorizing the City of Athens, Tennessee, to Apply for a Traffic Signal Modernization Program (TSMP) Grant Through the Tennessee Department of Transportation and to Commit Local Funding for the Project if the Grant is Awarded.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve Resolution 2026-14; Councilmember McCowan seconded.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

REPORTS

- A. Finance Department Monthly Report
- B. Fire Department Monthly Report
- C. Police Department Monthly Report

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Program of Work

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Before Citizen Comments began City Attorney Matt Dunn was asked by Mayor Eaton to summarize the two filings from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit regarding three separate lawsuits involving the City of Athens and Glenn Whiting.

- Dick Pelley commented on displaying and illumination of the American Flag.

ADJOURNMENT

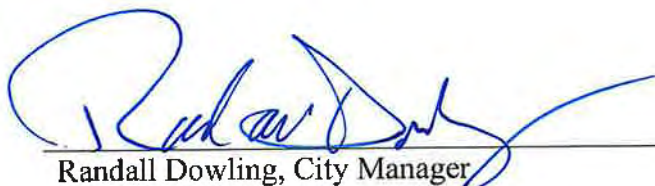
Mayor Eaton moved to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Randall Dowling, City Manager



Larry Eaton, Mayor