



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION

The Athens City Council met in regular session on **Tuesday, August 18, 2026**, 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: McCowan, Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

ABSENT: Sherlin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Tuesday, July 21, 2026 – Regular Session

B. Friday, July 31, 2026 – Special Called Session

Council approved the minutes of July 21, 2026, Regular Session and July 31, 2026, Special Called Session as presented on a motion by Vice Mayor Curtis, seconded by Councilmember McCowan.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- A. Athens Police Chief Fred Schultz presented a Chief's Award to Brycen White. Brycen received the award after being nominated by his School Resource Officer for demonstrating both inside and outside the classroom the qualities this award was created to recognize citizenship, character, and compassion.
- B. Mayor Eaton presented a proclamation recognizing DENSO Manufacturing for being designated a "Gold Level Veteran Ready Business" by the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services. The designation recognizes DENSO's commitment to recruiting, hiring, and retaining veterans.
- C. Meredith Willson, representing Friendly City Festivals, thanked the City for its assistance with the Sounds of Summer Concert Series, which concluded with the Confederate Railroad concert at Athens Regional Park on Saturday, August 15, 2026.

CITIZENS COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA

- Glenn Whiting commented regarding expenditures associated with Consent Agenda Items F and G.
- Cheryl Redmond and Missy McJunkins advocated in favor of the North City area park.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Resolution 2026-20, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Athens, Tennessee, Designating Certain City-Owned Property in the Area of Palos Street, Bryson Street, and Railroad Avenue as a Public Park and Community Recreational Space, Providing for Its Incorporation into the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Providing for Potential Future Park Improvements, and Establishing a Public Input Process for Naming the Park.
- B. Approve Resolution 2026-21, a Resolution Authorizing the City of Athens, Tennessee, to Participate in the 2026-2027 Property Conservation Matching Grant Program through Public Entity Partners.
- C. Approve Resolution 2026-22, a Resolution Authorizing the City of Athens, Tennessee, to Apply for Norfolk Southern's Safety First Grant for the 2026 Program Year.
- D. Approve Resolution 2026-23, a Resolution Authorizing the City of Athens, Tennessee, to Apply for the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development FY27 Tourism Enhancement Grant and to Provide the Required Local Match.
- E. Authorize an update to the employee pay scale for the Information Technology Department to add the new Class 9 position of Support Specialist II and retitle the GIS Technician position as IT Technical Support Specialist I.
- F. Authorize the purchase of a CAT 275 skid-steer from the Fleet Fund for \$115,458.50 under Statewide Contract SWC-225; declare Asset No. 4316 as surplus property; and authorize its sale through GovDeals.
- G. Authorize the purchase of a skid-steer mounted asphalt mini-paver system for \$69,315 from the Capital Improvement Fund using a sole-source contract.
- H. Approve Amendment No. 2 to Gresham Smith Agreement for the STBG-L Paving Project.

Council approved the Consent Agenda as read on a motion by Vice Mayor Curtis, seconded by Councilmember McCowan.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

ORDINANCES

- A. Second Reading of Ordinance 1159 to amend Title 1, Chapter 1-II of the Athens City Code by Adding Section 1-46 Establishing Compensation for the Mayor and Councilmembers Pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of the Charter of the City of Athens, Tennessee.

A public hearing was opened at 6:21 p.m.

- Glenn Whiting spoke objecting to the pay increase.

No other citizens spoke and the public hearing was closed at 6:22 p.m.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve Ordinance 1159 as presented, seconded by Councilmember McCowan.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Duggan

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- B. Second Reading of Ordinance 1160 to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Athens, Tennessee, so as to Amend the Official Zoning Map to Rezone the Property Located off Spruce Street from I-1 (Light Industrial District) to R-2 (Medium Density Residential).

A public hearing was opened at 6:23 p.m. No one spoke, and the public hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve Ordinance 1160 as presented, seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

OLD BUSINESS

-None-

NEW BUSINESS

- A. FY 2026-27 Street Paving and Resurfacing

Motion to have the City Manager direct the Public Works Director to complete the bidding process on remaining FY 2026-27 Street Paving and Resurfacing Projects by Mayor Eaton, seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Eaton

NAYS: Curtis

- B. Title Insurance Refund for Property Sold

Motion to have the City Attorney and City Manager pursue action to get a refund from the Title Insurance on property sold that had restrictions by Mayor Eaton, seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

During discussion, it was explained that there was property conveyed for the specific purpose of being used as a Habitat for Humanity project, which did not happen and should have reverted back to the city. The property has since increased in value and been sold multiple times violating the restrictions of its intended use. This will allow the City Attorney and City Manager to pursue a claim against the Title Insurance company for a possible refund to the city.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, 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

-None-

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Donna Davis addressed Council regarding the condemnation of her residence, City code-enforcement actions, and related concerns.
- Glenn Whiting discussed information obtained through public records requests, stated that the former City Manager had personally provided him with unredacted emails, and asked about existing underground fuel tanks and the City's response.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Eaton called for roll call to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote:

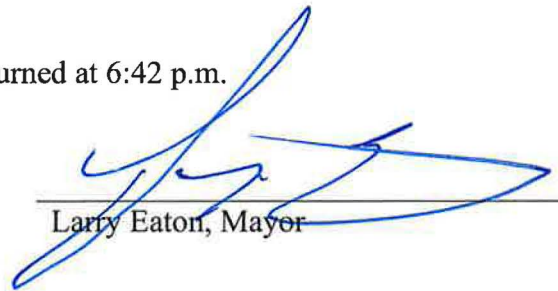
YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Curtis

NAYS: Eaton

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.



Bridget Roberts, Interim City Manager


Larry Eaton, Mayor