ATHENS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION

The Athens City Council met in regular session on **Tuesday, October 20, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Burkett L. Witt Council Chambers at Athens City Hall, with Mayor Eaton presiding. Councilmember Duggan led the invocation. Councilmember McCowan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

PRESENT: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton
ABSENT: -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 15, 2026 regular session will be presented for approval at the November 17, 2026 regular session, as the September session recessed and did not reconvene until October 20, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Vice Mayor Curtis presented the VIVID Award to Jim and Patti Greek for 30 years of Service and Civic Leadership.

B. Athens City Primary School Principal Dr. Kristine Walden thanked the Athens Fire Department for its Fire Prevention Week program.

CITIZENS COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA

- Two individuals spoke in support of additional funding for the McMinn Senior Activity Center
- Glenn Whiting expressed concerns regarding City operations.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve extension of the janitorial services contract with TMA Services, LLC.

B. Approve extension of the contracts with Stansell Electric Company, Inc. for highmast preventative maintenance and repair and traffic signal maintenance and repair.

C. Approve Resolution 2026-25 Authorizing the City of Athens to Participate in the Public Entity Partners James L. Richardson Driver Matching Grant.

D. Approve Resolution 2026-26 Authorizing the Application for and Conditional Acceptance of Grant Funding under the BJA FY2026 Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative for the Purchase of an Armored Vehicle for the Athens Police Department.

E. Approve the Purchase of a Global R4 Air Sweeper utilizing Sourcewell contract at a price of $399,122, subject to potential price adjustments for tariffs, duties or similar government charges, from the Fleet Fund and declare asset #4879 as surplus and to be disposed on GovDeals upon the delivery of the new sweeper.

F. Declare construction equipment trailers (Asset #'s 4310 and 4311) as surplus and to be disposed on GovDeals.

G. Authorization to execute a contract for guardrail repairs under Statewide Contract CN262036 for $49,235.19, plus a 10% contingency for a total not to exceed $54,158.71.

H. Adopt Athens Storm Water Master Plan Volume 1: report dated September 2026.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember McCowan seconded the motion.

PASSED
Roll call vote:
YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton
NAYS: -

ORDINANCES

A. Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 1161 to Amend Title 1-II of the Athens City Code by Replacing Section 1-44 to Revise the Order of Business for City Council Meetings.

Mayor Eaton opened the public hearing at 6:20 p.m. One individual spoke in opposition to eliminating the second public comment period. Mayor Eaton closed the public hearing at 6:22 p.m.

Councilmember Sherlin requested discussion in November regarding increasing the time allotted to each speaker from three minutes to five minutes.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve Ordinance 1161 as presented on second reading. Councilmember McCowan seconded the motion.

PASSED
Roll call vote:
YEAS: McCowan, Curtis, Eaton
NAYS: Duggan, Sherlin

OLD BUSINESS

-None-

NEW BUSINESS

A. Award bids for six Downtown Improvement Grant projects.

A memorandum from Finance Director Mike Keith reported that bids were opened on October 16, 2026, for six projects approved for Downtown Improvement Grant funding. One project received no bids, and bids for the remaining five exceeded anticipated costs. SETD will discuss the bid results with the property owners to determine whether they are willing to cover costs exceeding the approved budgets.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to revisit the bids at the November work session following SETD's discussions with the property owners. Councilmember Duggan seconded the motion.

PASSED
Roll call vote:
YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton
NAYS: -

B. New Business

Mayor Eaton introduced a proposal to amend the Personnel Handbook, General Service Regulations, or other applicable City policies concerning employee testimony in legal proceedings, including depositions. No action was taken. Council agreed to discuss the proposal at the November work session.

REPORTS

A. Finance Department Monthly Report

B. Fire Department Monthly Report

C. Police Department Monthly Report

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

-None-

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Bill Cagle commented on his desire to see a recreation area at the former North City School property.
- Glenn Whiting commented on various issues he has with the City of Athens.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Eaton called for roll call to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis
NAYS: Eaton

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Larry Eaton, Mayor

Bridget Roberts, Interim City Manager