



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF 2025 CDBG PUBLIC HEARING

The Athens City Council held a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, January 21, 2025**, at 5:00 p.m. in the Athens City Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Eaton presiding.

Roll call:

PRESENT: Duggan, Pelley, Curtis, Eaton
ABSENT: Sherlin

-1-

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Sam Saied, Director of Community and Economic Development for Southeast Tennessee Development District (SETD) began the discussion for the City of Athens 2025 CDBG Public Hearing. Mr. Saied provided information regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). He provided a handout that covered who provides the funds, what the funds can be used for, the application process, objectives, and funding and match requirements. Councilmember Duggan started the discussion by asking Mr. Saied to confirm the percentage match rate for Athens.

Comments regarding possible projects commenced with city council members offering their thoughts.

1. Mayor Eaton suggested the sidewalks downtown and around the Tennessee Wesleyan University campus. He believes a sidewalk project could improve public safety for TWU students and pedestrians, especially during festivals.
2. Councilmember Pelley inquired about the construction of a new fire hall. Mr. Saied stated that \$1,000,000 could be used for a construction project.
3. Vice Mayor Curtis mentioned recreational needs and investments.
4. Councilmember Duggan mentioned the need for a community center and briefly mentioned an email where Councilmember Sherlin mentioned improvements to the North City School building.

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF CDBG PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, January 21, 2025

-2-

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Bob Miller from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board addressed the need for a place where the youth can play basketball. There are over 200 kids that play basketball and there is currently no place that reasonably accommodates the needs of those children. He asks the City Council to consider a center that could meet many needs for the citizens of Athens.
2. Brittany Freeman, a parent of a youth basketball player, requests consideration of a community center that allows for indoor activities.
3. Johnnie Coffman, a member of the Parks and Recreation Board requests a place for the youth to play basketball.
4. Larry Rhodes, a member of the Parks and Recreation Board, would like to see a community center. He notes that it would be different than the YMCA.

-3-

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Eaton closed the public hearing and adjourned the meeting at 5:28 pm.



RANDALL DOWLING, City Manager



LARRY EATON, Mayor