



## **ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**

The Athens City Council met in regular session on **Tuesday, October 21, 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 as presented for Tuesday, September 16, 2025 – Regular Session, Thursday, September 25, 2025 – Called Session, Thursday, October 2, 2025 – Called Session, and Thursday October 7, 2025 – Called Session; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.**

### **APPROVED**

#### **Roll call vote:**

**YEAS:** Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

**NAYS:** None

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Report - Athens City Intermediate School presentation
- B. Proclamation - Athens City Middle School Lady Cougar Soccer Team, presented by Vice Mayor Curtis

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA**

- Glenn Whiting commented on New Business item XI. G.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Before consideration of the Consent Agenda, Councilmember Sherlin requested that item D be moved to New Business.

- A. Approve Disposal of City-Owned Property on Tellico Avenue near the Intersection of Hammerhill Road.
- B. Approve Resolution 2025-27, a Resolution Authorizing the City of Athens to Participate in the Public Entity Partners James L. Richardson Driver Matching Grant.
- C. Approve Proposed Revision to Fee Schedule Parks & Recreation Miscellaneous Fees.
- D. *See New Business item XI. H.*
- E. Approve Surplus QTAC EMS-R Skid.

**Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve items A, B, C, and E as presented and move item D to New Business; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.**

### **PASSED**

#### **Roll call vote:**

**YEAS:** Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

**NAYS:** None

**ORDINANCES**

- A. Public Hearing & Second Reading of Ordinance 1144, 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).

Mayor Eaton opened the public hearing. There being no citizens wishing to speak, Mayor Eaton closed the public hearing.

**Councilmember Sherlin moved to approve Ordinance 1144 as presented; seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis.**

**PASSED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton**

**NAYS: None**

- B. Public Hearing & Second Reading of Ordinance 1145, An Ordinance to Amend Title 14, Chapter V "Stormwater Management", Section 14-128 and Section 14-130 of the Athens City Code.

Mayor Eaton opened the public hearing. There being no citizens wishing to speak, Mayor Eaton closed the public hearing.

**Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve Ordinance 1145 as presented; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.**

**PASSED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton**

**NAYS: None**

**OLD BUSINESS**

-None-

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. City Hall Renovations and Expansion.

**Item failed for lack of motion.**

- B. First Reading of Ordinance 1146, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 13-III, "Dilapidated and Unfit Structures and Areas," of the Athens City Code by Adding a Requirement that City Staff Engaged in Actions Under this Chapter be Certified in Residential and Commercial Building Code Inspections.

**Councilmember Sherlin moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1146; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.**

**FAILED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Pelley, Sherlin**

**NAYS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton**

- C. First Reading of Ordinance 1147, An Ordinance to Amend Title 3 "Municipal Court", Chapter I, Section 3, of the Athens City Code, by Removing the Requirement that the City Judge be a Resident of the County.

**Councilmember Pelley moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1147; seconded by Councilmember Sherlin.**

**PASSED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis**

**NAYS: Duggan, Eaton**

D. First Reading of Ordinance 1148, An Ordinance Amending the City of Athens, Tennessee Municipal Zoning Ordinance Regulating Development within the Corporate Limits of Athens, Tennessee, to Minimize Danger to Life and Property Due to Flooding, and to Maintain Eligibility for Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

**Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1148; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.**

**PASSED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton**

**NAYS: None**

E. Public Hearing and Application Selection for Certificate of Compliance for Retail Package Store.

**Vice Mayor Curtis moved to award a certificate of compliance for retail package store to the single applicant (Athens Wine & Liquor); seconded by Councilmember Pelley.**

Mayor Eaton opened the public hearing. One citizen spoke against the liquor store. Mayor Eaton closed the public hearing.

**PASSED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Curtis, Eaton**

**NAYS: Sherlin**

F. Bid Award of RFB 2025-15 for HVAC Replacement at Fire Station #2 and City Hall.

**Vice Mayor Curtis moved to award bid to Webb Plumbing, Heating, and Electrical; seconded by Councilmember Duggan.**

**PASSED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton**

**NAYS: None**

G. Authorization for Mediation with Glenn Whiting.

**Councilmember Pelley moved to proceed with mediation; seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis. Mayor Eaton asked that the motion be more specific. Councilmember Pelley withdrew the motion.**

**Councilmember Sherlin moved to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to attend meditation to engage Mr. Glenn Whiting and his legal counsel in a mutually agreed upon location and meditator; seconded by Councilmember Pelley.**

**PASSED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSTAIN: Duggan**

H. (Consent Agenda item D) Award Bid for RFP 25-12 to Tim's Fencing for New Electronic Gate at Regional Park (\$35,330).

**Vice Mayor Curtis moved to award bid of \$35,330 to Tim's Fencing; seconded by Councilmember Duggan.**

**PASSED**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton**

**NAYS: Pelley, Sherlin**

- I. Councilmember Pelley moved to have questions answered regarding the City Manager and City Mayor's trip to Japan.

**Councilmember Pelley withdrew the motion after Mayor Eaton answered the questions.**

- J. Councilmember Duggan moved to acknowledge that the travel policy has been reviewed.

**The motion failed for lack of a second.**

### **REPORTS**

- A. Community Development Quarterly Report
- B. Finance Department Monthly Report
- C. Fire Department Monthly Report
- D. Police Department Monthly Report

All reports listed are provided to council members and made available on the City's website.

### **REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

- A. Program of Work

The current program of work is available on the City's website.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

- Perry McCowan thanked the City for showing respect to his father, Capt. Robert McCowan Sr.
- Shelley Griffith submitted notes regarding Citizens Against Public Profanity (CAPP).
- Glenn Whiting addressed the code of conduct.
- Corey Jones read notes from Glenn Whiting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mayor Eaton adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.**

**Roll call vote:**

**YEAS: Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton**

**NAYS: None**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randall Dowling, City Manager  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Eaton, Mayor