

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

January 18, 2022

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Perkinson presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Witt-McMahan; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Perkinson

Vice Mayor Lockmiller was sick and unable to attend the meeting.

The following decisions were made and ordered made a part of the records of the Athens City Council.

- 1 -

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the December 21, 2021 regularly scheduled meeting were submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

City Manager Sumner presented the "Employee of the Quarter" award for the first quarter of 2022 to Battalion Chief Chad Ramsey, Athens Fire Department.

- 3 -

CITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

Kristine Walden, Principal at City Park Elementary School, thanked the City Council for their support of the new school building and for SRO Sheena Hensley. Mayor Perkinson noted that Kristine Walden had been chosen as "Principal of the Year".

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PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION - SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION WEEK

Mayor Perkinson read a proclamation recognizing the week of January 23-29, 2022 as "School Board Appreciation Week". Johnny Coffman of Athens City Schools Board of Education was present to accept the proclamation on behalf of the School Board. Board Members Chris Adams, Amy Sullins, Mike Bevins, and Beth Jackson along with Mr. Greene, Director of Athens City Schools, were also in attendance.

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MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

None

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Perkinson advised that the following items were discussed during the recent study session and are presented as part of the Consent Agenda. The recording clerk read the following items into the record:

- a.) Reappoint Joe Allen to the Athens Housing Authority, term expires March 6, 2027.
- b.) Approve recommendation to award bid for Public Works Building Renovation Project to Integrated Properties, LLC.
- c.) Approve draft proposal by Stantec to provide professional services for identified transportation projects and resume continuation of design services.
- d.) Approve recommendation to proceed with the consultant selection process, as outlined by TDOT Local Program guidelines, for engineering services for STBG Project.

- e.) Approve Resolution No. 2022-01 declaring week of January 23-29, 2022 as Flood Awareness Week.
- f.) Approve recommendation to declare surplus three (3) vehicles (Assets # 3694, 3278, 4020) and a slope mower with attachments (Asset # 4047).

Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, that the Consent Agenda as stated above be approved.** Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Perkinson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Lockmiller

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ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE TO REZONE PROPERTIES LOCATED ON INGLESIDE AVENUE – REQUEST BY GEORGE HESTER

ORDINANCE NO. 1106 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND 'THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE,' SO AS TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REZONE THE PROPERTIES LOCATED ON INGLESIDE AVENUE FROM B-1 (LOCAL BUSINESS DISTRICT) TO R-2 MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT SAID AREA BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Perkinson opened the public hearing. There being no one present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Witt-McMahan moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1106 on Second and Final Reading.** Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Perkinson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Lockmiller

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ORDINANCE TO REZONE PROPERTY LOCATED ON EAST AVENUE – REQUEST BY BUDDIE BEAVERS

ORDINANCE NO. 1107 – SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

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 EAST AVENUE FROM I-2 (HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) TO B-3 (INTENSIVE BUSINESS DISTRICT) SAID AREA BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Mayor Perkinson opened the public hearing. There being no one present wishing to discuss the Ordinance, Public Hearing was closed. Mayor Perkinson asked for a motion. **Council Member Pelley moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1107 on Second and Final Reading.** Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Perkinson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Lockmiller

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OLD BUSINESS

PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY CONNECTION TO JAMISON ROAD

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02

A RESOLUTION TO NEGOTIATE AND PURCHASE A PORTION OF PROPERTY FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY CONNECTION TO JAMISON ROAD.

The caption of Resolution No. 2022-02 was read by the recording clerk. **Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2022-02.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Perkinson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Lockmiller

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NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE TO REZONE PARCEL LOCATED ON WEST MADISON AVENUE – REQUEST BY ANDREAS D. MONTGOMERY ON BEHALF OF JOHNATHON AND ELIZA MIRABILE

ORDINANCE NO. 1108
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 WEST MADISON AVENUE FROM R-3 (HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) TO I-1 (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) SAID AREA BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of the above-described Ordinance was read by the recording clerk. **Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Witt-McMahan seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1108 on first reading.** Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Perkinson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Lockmiller

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ACCEPT DUPITT CIRCLE INTO THE CITY OF ATHENS STREET SYSTEM

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-03
A RESOLUTION CONCERNING A PORTION OF ROADWAY LOCATED OFF DUPITT STREET, BUILT TO CITY STANDARDS, TO BE NAMED ‘DUPITT CIRCLE’ AND ACCEPTING SAID STREET INTO THE STREET SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.

The caption of Resolution No. 2022-03 was read by the recording clerk. **Council Member Witt-McMahan moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2022-03.** The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Witt-McMahan, Perkinson
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Lockmiller

A Point of Order was raised by Council Member Pelley. He requested an executive meeting as early as possible, preferably next week, to decide on what they should do with City Manager Sumner. There was no support of this request by the other Council members.

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REPORTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY/ANNUAL REPORTS

Mr. Anthony Casteel, Community Development Director, was unable to attend the meeting and asked that his item be deferred until next month. His reports were included in the agenda packet.

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Mike Keith, Finance Director, was unable to attend the meeting. His monthly report was included in the Council’s folder.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for the month of December 2021. The report was accepted as presented.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Interim Police Chief Fred Schultz presented the Police Department Report for the month of December 2021. The report was accepted as presented. Council Member Witt-McMahan asked Chief Schultz, since his has been in this position, what he finds is the greatest need of the department and staff. Chief Schultz responded it was manpower and they are trying to address that need. While money is an important issue it is not the only issue.

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REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Glenn Whiting, 247 County Road 655, requested two independent citizen councils. The first council would review complaints, including Council complaints. The second council would be selected by the department heads to review department complaints including personnel issues. Lisa Dotson, 3 West College Street, spoke on behalf of Main Street Athens. Ms. Dotson provided members of the City Council and City Manager with a copy of her request. Her request of the Council was, as they are developing the strategic plan for the City of Athens, they consider the following:

- Are there any codes or ordinances that hinder property owners from a smooth transition when purchasing a building?
- Are there any codes or ordinances that hinder someone from starting a business?
- Are there any codes or ordinances that hinder someone from renovating a building?
- How can we support property owners by providing the use of the city parking lot?
- Are there vacant areas in downtown that the city could purchase and transform into a parking lot?
- How can we work together to develop a "welcome package" for new property/business owners that explains the expected guidelines of these things that are listed (this might already be available?); in hopes that it will make someone's investment into our community an easy one.

With investors at our door, she would like for our community to be prepared for the opportunities that are on the horizon and not allow codes, ordinances, and parking deter the progress for downtown.

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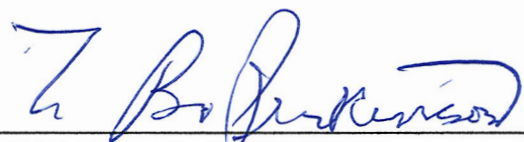
REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Sumner reviewed the monthly report including the various Parks and Recreation and Public Works projects and activities going on throughout the city.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.


C. SETH SUMNER, City Manager
WILLIAM BO PERKINSON, Mayor