

ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

July 18, 2023

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with Vice Mayor Eaton presiding. The invocation was given by council member Eaton; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Curtis, Pelley, Eaton.

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 June 20, 2023 regularly scheduled meeting and the June 27, 2023 called meeting were submitted and approved.

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded. Roll call vote:

AYES:	Curtis, Pelley, Eaton
NAYS:	None

- 2 -

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – MIKE KEITH

Council member Curtis presented a plaque and proclamation for Mike for serving as Interim City Manager.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – STEPHEN HATCHETT

Council member Curtis presented a plaque and proclamation for Steven Hatchett for his dedication as City Attorney.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION – WILLIAM BUCKLEY

Council member Pelley presented a plaque and proclamation for William Buckley for his guidance and expertise as interim City Attorney.

- 3 -

- 4 -

REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS

Approximately 18 individuals addressed the Council in regard to volunteers for food bank, library board, the need for speakers in the overflow room, money to arts council and Main Street. Some individuals spoke in favor of Pickleball, while others spoke against it.

- 5 -

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Mayor Eaton advised the recording clerk to read the following items into the record:

I. CONSENT AGENDA

- a.) Approve Resolution No 2023-19 to authorize application for Downtown Improvement Grants from Main Street.
- b.) Approve Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Stormwater Engineering Services.
- c.) Approve contact amendment with Adams Construction for traffic signal poles for campus transportation improvements.
- d.) Approve Public Safety Facility Change Order Request.
- e.) Appoint Elizabeth Ruleman to Friendly City Sister Cities Committee term expires on July 17, 2024.
- f.) Appoint Ersu Henry to Friendly City Sister Cities Committee term expires on July 17, 2024.
- g.) Reappoint Jona Garrett to Athens Regional Municipal Planning Commission term expires on August 13, 2026.

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, that the Consent Agenda as stated above be approved. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Eaton.

NAYS: None

- 6 -

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1121 – Second Reading - An Ordinance to amend the Athens Municipal Code, Title 12 entitled “Building, Utility, Etc. Code’ to adopt the 2018 edition of the International Residential Energy Conservation Codes

The caption of the above-described ordinance was read by the recording clerk. Vice Mayor Eaton opened the public hearing. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

July 18, 2023

Page 3 of 5

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to approve Ordinance No. 1121. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Eaton.

NAYS: None

- 7 -

OLD BUSINESS

Motion concerning bids for Pickleball Courts at Ingleside.

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to approve the base bid from Baseline Sports for pickleball courts at Ingleside. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Eaton

Motion to provide up to \$30,000 for converting tennis courts at Athens Middle School to pickleball courts.

Council Member Curtis moved, Council Member Pelley seconded, to approve the above stated motion. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Eaton.

NAYS: None

- 8 -

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendations from Planning Commission

Council Member Curtis moved, Council member Pelley second to approve the rezoning request by Tracy and Wanda Dennis. to change a parcel located at 708 Virginia Avenue from B-1 (Intensive Business District) to R-2 (Medium-Density Residential District). Council Member Curtis moved, Council member Pelley seconded to approve the rezoning request. Roll call vote:

AYES Curtis, Pelley, Eaton

NAYS None

- 9 -

Proposal to alter the hours for Sunday beer sales.

July 18, 2023

Page 4 of 5

Vice Mayor Eaton moved, Council Member Curtis seconded, to alter the hours for Sunday beer sales. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Eaton.
NAYS: None

- 10 -

Motion to rescind the requirement for Main Street and Arts Council to request council approval of all uses of hotel/motel funds prior to receiving proceeds from The city.

Council Member Pelley moved, Council member Curtis seconded, to request council approval of all uses of hotel/motel funds prior to receiving proceeds from the city. Roll call vote:

AYES: Curtis, Pelley, Eaton
NAYS: None

- 11 -

Motion for appointments to the council advisory committee for Vice Mayor Eaton's appointees

POSTPONED TO WORK SESSION

- 12 -

Motion to appoint John Duggan to replace Craig Hardin on the library board.

Council Member Pelley moved, Council member Eaton seconded, to request motion to replace Craig Hardin whose term expires 6-30-2023 Roll call vote:

AYES: Pelley, Eaton
NAYS: Curtis

- 13 -

REPORTS

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS QUARTERLY REPORT

Mr. Robert Greene, Superintendent of the Athens City Schools, presented his quarterly update on their current projects and activities.

- 14 -

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Finance director Mike Keith presented the Finance Dep Report for July 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

-15-

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Community director Anthony Casteel presented the Community Development Report for July 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

- 16 -

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brandon Ainsworth presented the Fire Department Report for July 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

- 17 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Fred Schultz presented the Police Department Report for July 2023. The report was accepted as presented.

- 18 -

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Deb Wallace presented an update on various projects and programs taking place. The report was accepted as presented.

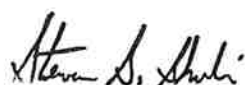
- 19 -

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.



Deb Wallace, City Manager



STEVEN S. SHERLIN, Mayor