



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION

The Athens City Council met in regular session on **Tuesday, July 15, 2025**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Athens City Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Eaton presiding. Councilmember Duggan led the invocation. Councilmember Pelley 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 of Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – Regular Session; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. The VIVID Award honoring the late Randy Sliger was postponed until August 19, 2025.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA

- Joseph Latner – Commented on his support for installing turf fields at Athens Regional Park on behalf of the parents of the children participating in the little league program.
- Ronnie Starr – Commented on his support for the artificial turf at Athens Regional Park and noted that the splash pad at Cook Park has not been on the Recreation Advisory Board agenda.
- Glenn Whiting - Commented on veteran banners at Veterans Park.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Purchase of Needed Property for the ARP Funded Stormwater Project and Resolution No. 2025-17.
- B. Approve Proposal from Gresham Smith Engineers to Design and Prepare Construction Drawings to Connect View Street.
- C. Approve Proposal to Purchase IT Equipment and Services to Update/Refresh the City's Information Technology Infrastructure.
- D. Approve Proposal from Kimley Horn to Build Upon the Previously Prepared Downtown Master Plan by Preparing Schematic Designs, Developing a Pattern Book, and Refining Priorities/Phases.
- E. Approve Proposal to Add Three Additional Monuments at Veterans Park.
- F. Approve School Resource Officer (SRO) Program Grant Application and Resolution 2025-18.
- G. Approve Acquisition of Five New Vehicles for the Police Department from the Fleet Management Fund, Surplus of Assets #4068 and #4325 and Resolution 2025-19.
- H. Approve Acquisition of Two Replacement Vehicles for the Public Works Department from the Fleet Management Fund, Surplus of Assets #4307 and #4471 and Resolution 2025-19.

Councilmember Duggan moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

ORDINANCES

A. Amending Athens City Code Title 7 (Fire Codes) & Title 12 (Building Codes)

Public Hearing & Second Reading of Ordinance 1142

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ATHENS CITY CODE, TITLE 7 ENTITLED "FIRE PROTECTION AND FIREWORKS" AND TITLE 12 ENTITLED "BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION" TO ADOPT THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODES FOR FIRE (IFC), BUILDING (IBC), PLUMBING (IPC), FUEL GAS (IFGC), MECHANICAL (IMC), ENERGY CONSERVATION (IECC), AND EXISTING BUILDING (IEBC); AND CREATE CHAPTER 12-XI ENTITLED "EXISTING BUILDING CODE".

Mayor Eaton opened the Public Hearing. One citizen spoke during the public hearing, asking for unspecified amendments. Mayor Eaton closed the Public Hearing.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved approval of the second reading of Ordinance 1142; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

OLD BUSINESS

A. Cook Park Splash Pad

Councilmember Pelley moved to install a splash pad at Cook Park, Councilmember Sherlin seconded for discussion.

Councilmember Sherlin moved to amend the original motion by sending the request for a splash pad at Cook Park to be added to the next Recreation Advisory Board agenda so they may provide a recommendation and have the City Manager include it in the long-term strategic plan; Councilmember Pelley seconded.

Amendment PASSED - Original motion remained on the floor.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

Original motion as amended. - PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposal from Allen & Hoshall to Prepare Design Plans and Construction Drawings to Renovate the House at Regional Park for Parks & Recreation Offices

Vice Mayor Curtis moved approval of the proposal; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Pelley

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- B. Proposal from Baseline Sports Construction to Design and Install Artificial Turf on the Five Infields at Regional Park

Vice Mayor Curtis moved approval of the proposal; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

- C. Amending Athens City Code Title 3 (Court Costs & Litigation Tax) First Reading of Ordinance 1143

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 3, CHAPTER II OF THE ATHENS CITY CODE, RELATIVE TO THE IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES AND COURT COSTS IN ATHENS MUNICIPAL COURT.

Councilmember Duggan moved to approve Ordinance 1143 as presented; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded.

Councilmember Sherlin moved to amend the original motion to increase the fee to \$105 instead of \$120. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Councilmember Pelley moved to amend the original motion to increase the court costs to \$100 instead of the \$120; Councilmember Sherlin seconded.

Motion to Amend - FAILED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Pelley, Sherlin

NAYS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

Original Motion - PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Pelley, Sherlin

- D. Annexation & R-3 Zoning Request

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the request to proceed with the annexation and rezoning process for property located on Lee Drive (47K A 022.00); Councilmember Pelley seconded.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

- E. Hammerhill Road Sidewalks: Conduct A Right-of-Way Impact and Willingness Survey

Councilmember Pelley moved to conduct a survey of Hammerhill Road residents; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

- F. Bench Installation at Cook Drive, Veterans Park, and Ingleside Park

Councilmember Pelley moved to authorize the City Manager to complete the installation of benches; Mayor Eaton seconded.

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PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

G. Installation of Banners at Veterans Park

Councilmember Duggan moved to postpone item G to the August 11, 2025 Work Session; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Pelley

H. Reappointment of Sam Stephens to the Athens Municipal Regional Planning Commission

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve reappointment of Sam Stephens; Councilmember Sherlin seconded.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

I. Amendments to Athens City Charter

J. Amendments to the Athens City Code: 13-III Dilapidated and Unfit Structures and Areas

Councilmember Sherlin requested item I and item J be removed because both items are now included on the special session agenda scheduled for July 31, 2025; Mayor Eaton agreed. No further discussion or action was taken on these items.

Councilmember Sherlin moved to change the time of the Beer Board from 5:30pm to immediately following the City Council meeting; Councilmember Pelley seconded.

FAILED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Pelley, Sherlin

NAYS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

Mayor Eaton moved that the Work Session time be changed from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Councilmember Duggan moved to livestream the July 31, 2025 meeting; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded.

PASSED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

REPORTS

A. Community Development 2nd Quarter Building Report
Director of Community Development, Anthony Casteel

B. Finance Department Monthly Report
Director of Finance, Mike Keith

C. Fire Department Monthly Report
Fire Chief, Brandon Ainsworth

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- D. Police Department Monthly Report
Police Chief, Fred Schultz

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Program of Work
City Manager, Randall Dowling

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Charlie Senn - Commented on his discontent with the "Big Beautiful Bill Act" and his disapproval of certain elected state officials.
- Glenn Whiting - Commented on past litigation with the City of Athens.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Eaton asked for a vote to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Pelley, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:



RANDALL DOWLING, City Manager


LARRY EATON, Mayor