



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION

The Athens City Council met in regular session on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Athens City Hall Council Chambers, with Mayor Eaton presiding. Vice Mayor Curtis led the invocation. Councilmember Duggan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

PRESENT: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

ABSENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – Regular Session

Council approved the minutes of the March 17, 2026 regular session as presented on motion by Councilmember Duggan and second by Vice Mayor Curtis.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Athens City Intermediate School appeared before Council. A video from the school's Winter Olympics was presented. Principal Hardaway spoke then introduced two students who participated in a brief presentation.

CITIZENS COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA

- Tyler Boyd
- Abby Burke Carroll
- Tonya Burke
- Ron Sinecoff Jr.
- Glenn Whiting

The speakers expressed concerns and made comments relating to Ordinance 1153 regarding a downtown historic overlay district.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Reject Bid Proposal RFP 26-02 for a Drive-Thru Christmas Light Show at Regional Park.
- B. Approve Surplus of Pride Car Equipment (Asset Numbers: 3426, 3428, 3430, 3434).
- C. Approve Relocation of the Parks & Recreation Offices from City Hall to the SE TN Trade & Conference Center Small Classroom.
- D. Approve the Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement Between the City and Gresham Smith for Services Related to the ARP Stormwater Project. Expenses will be paid by the grant and/or from the city's Capital Improvement Fund.
- E. Approve Resolution 2026-15, A Resolution Designating May as Fair Housing Month in the City of Athens.

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- F. Confirm the Mayor's Reappointment of Shirley Woodcock to the Athens Utilities Board. The 4-year term will begin in June 2026 and expire June 2030.
- G. Approve the Reappointment of Jacob Burnette to the McMinn County Library Board. The 3-year term will begin June 2026 and expire June 2029.

Council approved the Consent Agenda as presented on motion by Councilmember Duggan and second by Vice Mayor Curtis.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

ORDINANCES

- A. Second Reading of Ordinance 1150, 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 the Corner of Hicks Street and Eastanallee Avenue from I-1 (Light Industrial District) to R-2 (Medium Density Residential District) Said Area Being Located Within the Corporate Limits of Athens, Tennessee.

A public hearing was opened at 6:30 p.m. No one spoke, and the hearing was closed.

Motion to approve Ordinance 1150 as presented was made by Vice Mayor Curtis and seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

Councilmember McCowan was absent for the vote.

OLD BUSINESS

-None-

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Ordinance 1151, an Ordinance of the City of Athens, Tennessee, Amending Title 8, Chapter III (Beer), to Add "Craft Beer Restaurant" as a Classification of Beer Permit and Amending the Athens Zoning Ordinance to Add a Craft Beer Restaurant Land Use and to Permit Accessory On-Site Beer Manufacturing in Certain Business Districts Subject to Standards

Motion to approve as presented was made by Vice Mayor Curtis and seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

Councilmember McCowan was absent for the vote.

- B. Ordinance 1152, an Ordinance to Amend Title 17, Chapter II, Sections 17-43 and 17-44 per the Athens City Code Relative to Refuse Collection and Disposal Service Charges and the Method of Collecting Service Charges

A motion was made by Councilmember Sherlin and seconded by Councilmember McCowan to amend Ordinance 1152 by striking paragraph 1 of Section 3. After discussion, this motion was withdrawn.

Councilmember Sherlin moved to postpone Ordinance 1152 until the May 11, 2026 work session for further discussion. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

- C. Ordinance 1153, an Ordinance of The City of Athens, Tennessee, Providing That the Athens Municipal Code, Title 14, Chapter 2 ("Zoning Ordinance"), be Amended by Revising Section 3.04.14 So As To Add Subsection "G" That Establishes the H-2 Historic Overlay District Limits as Bounded by College Street/East Hornsby Street, Green Street, Sunset Drive/South Jackson/Green Street/Bank Street, and Church Street; and Providing That the Official Zoning Map is Amended so as to Attach the H-2 Historic Overlay District as Described Herein and on the Attached Map; and Providing for Conflicts, Severability and an Effective Date

A motion was made by Councilmember Duggan and seconded by Councilmember McCowan to postpone Ordinance 1153 indefinitely.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: McCowan, Sherlin

- D. Ordinance 1154, an Ordinance of the City Of Athens, Tennessee, Amending the Municipal Zoning Ordinance of the City Of Athens, Tennessee, Section 4.03.03, Commercial Land Uses (Minimum), and Section 4.03.07, Commercial Land Uses (Maximum), to add Off-Street Parking Requirements for a Drive-Thru Oil Change Facility with Minor Auto Service Without Overnight Storage of Vehicles

Motion to approve Ordinance 1154 as presented was made by Vice Mayor Curtis and seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

- E. Ordinance 1155, an Ordinance to Amend the Budget for the City of Athens, Tennessee, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Motion to approve Ordinance 1155 as presented was made by Vice Mayor Curtis and seconded by Councilmember Duggan.

APPROVED

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

REPORTS

- A. Community Development Department 1st Quarter Report
- B. Finance Department Monthly Report
- C. Fire Department Monthly Report
- D. Police Department Monthly Report

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

A. Program of Work

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Ronald Sinecoff, Sr. commented for Glenn Whiting.
- Linda Long commented on Cook Park.
- Glen Wear asked for more discussion regarding the North City School property.
- Glenn Whiting commented on the wall that he writes on located downtown.
- Lisa Dodson representing Community Connectors commenting on Cook Park.
- Abby Burke Carroll commented on the downtown historical overlay district.
- Rob Chastain commented on the North City School property.
- Josh Kapellosch commented on the display and proper illumination of the American Flag.
- Dick Pelley commented on the display and proper illumination of the American Flag.

ADJOURNMENT

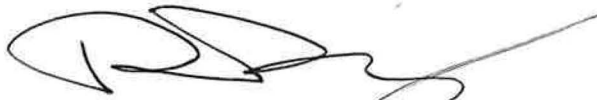
Mayor Eaton moved to adjourn the meeting and requested roll call.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: McCowan, Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



Randall Dowling, City Manager


Larry Eaton, Mayor