



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION

The Athens City Council met in regular session on **Tuesday, May 20, 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, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

ABSENT: Pelley

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, April 15, 2025 – Regular Session; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- A. Proclamation - Elks Lodge #1927, Elks National Youth Week (May 1st - May 7th)
- B. Athens City Intermediate School Update

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS GERMANE TO THE AGENDA

The following citizens commented on the topic of increasing the limit of retail package stores.

- Prakash Patel - in favor
- Candi Morgan - opposed
- Amar Patel - opposed

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve FY 2025-26 Athens City Schools Budget
- B. Approve AIA Document B101-2017 between the City and Wold Architects and Engineers for new City Fire Station #3, Phase 1 and 2
- C. Accept FY 2023-24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
- D. Approve the change to Partners for Health – TN State Health Plan for the Employee Health Insurance Coverage
- E. Approve Renewal of HHM as the City's Auditor for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.
- F. Approve Contract Renewal Between TDOT and the City for the City to Mow, Remove Litter, and Sweep/Flush Selected State Routes
- G. Approve Resolution 2025-11
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ATHENS TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA) SAFE STREETS FOR ALL PROGRAM (SS4A)

Councilmember Duggan moved to remove Item D from the Consent Agenda for further discussion during New Business; no second.

Motion failed.

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Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve all consent agenda items as presented; Councilmember Sherlin seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: Duggan

ORDINANCES

A. Public Hearing and Second Reading of Ordinance 1139

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE TO AMEND TITLE 8, CHAPTER II OF THE ATHENS CITY CODE TO INCREASE THE LIMIT ON LOCAL LIQUOR STORE PRIVILEGE LICENSES

Mayor Eaton opened the public hearing. There being no comments. The public hearing closed.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve Ordinance 1139; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Sherlin

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to set an application period to begin at 8:00 on Friday, June 20, 2025 and ending at 5:00pm on Monday, July 7, 2025; Mayor Eaton seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Sherlin

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to set a lottery selection method for the applicant, in the event there are multiple qualified applicants; Mayor Eaton seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Sherlin

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to set the date for the public hearing and application selection be at 5:30pm on Thursday, July 31, 2025; Mayor Eaton seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Sherlin

OLD BUSINESS

A. Cook Park Splash Pad

No motion was made; therefore, no action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 2024-25 Budget Amendment

First Reading of Ordinance No. 1140

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1140; Councilmember Sherlin seconded.

Motion approved.

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Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton
NAYS:

B. FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget

First Reading of Ordinance No. 1141

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A BUDGET AND SET THE TAX RATE ON TAXABLE PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026.

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1141; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

Councilmember Sherlin moved to amend FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget by adding one (1) I.T. Tech; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

Motion failed.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin
NAYS: Curtis, Eaton

Councilmember Sherlin moved to amend FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget by adding three (3) Fire Department employees; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

Motion failed.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin
NAYS: Curtis
ABSTAIN: Eaton

Councilmember Sherlin moved to remove the \$35,000 expense from the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget (Capital Improvement Fund) for the replacement of the manual main gate at Regional Park with an electric gate; no second.

Motion failed.

Councilmember Sherlin moved to amend the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget for the cemetery fee schedule by not increasing the fees; no second.

Motion failed.

Councilmember Sherlin moved to amend the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget for the Public Works Department miscellaneous fee schedule by only increasing the fee to \$100 not \$300 per trailer load; no second.

Motion failed.

Approve the first reading of Ordinance 1141 with no amendments.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton
NAYS: Sherlin

C. Bid Award of RFB 25-07 to Demolish North City School

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to award the bid to E. Luke Green Company, Inc; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton
NAYS: Sherlin

D. Allen & Hoshall Proposed Feasibility Design Services for Athens City Hall Renovation and Public Service Complex Facility

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Councilmember Duggan moved to approve moving forward with Allen & Hoshall; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

E. Discussion of the Intersection at Crestway Drive and Matlock Avenue

Mayor Eaton moved to add a 4-way stop at the intersection of Crestway Drive and Matlock Avenue and another at Miami Street and Matlock; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded.

Councilmember Sherlin moved to amend the motion by delaying any action until another traffic study can be conducted; no second.

Motion failed.

Councilmember Duggan moved to amend the motion by only adding a 4-way stop at the intersection of Matlock Avenue, but not at Miami Street; Mayor Eaton seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Sherlin

Original Motion Amended:

Mayor Eaton moved to add a 4-way stop at the intersection of Crestway Drive and Matlock Avenue; Vice Mayor Curtis seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Sherlin

F. Athens Utilities Board

- i. Reappointment - Jeff Zabo (term expires June 2025)
- ii. Applicant on file - Cynthia Webb-McCowan
- iii. Applicant on file - Perry McCowan

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the reappointment of Jeff Zabo to the Athens Utilities Board; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS: Sherlin

G. Board of Adjustment and Appeals

- i. Appointment - Jason Miller (current alternate)

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the appointment of Jason Miller to the Board of Adjustment and Appeals; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

H. Recreation Advisory Board

- i. Reappointment – Moises Contreas

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to approve the reappointment of Moises Contreas to the Recreation Advisory Board; Councilmember Duggan seconded.

Motion approved.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:

REPORTS

Community Development 1st Quarter Building Report
Director of Community Development, Anthony Casteel

Finance Department Monthly Report
Director of Finance, Mike Keith

Fire Department Monthly Report
Fire Chief, Brandon Ainsworth

Police Department Monthly Report
Police Chief, Fred Schultz

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Program of Work
City Manager, Randall Dowling

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- Cynthia McCowan – Appreciates that the city selected a contractor that will properly dispose of the asbestos material during the demolition of North City School. She requested that the city consider planning for a community / recreation center.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Curtis moved to adjourn; Councilmember Duggan seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:41 p.m.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Duggan, Sherlin, Curtis, Eaton

NAYS:



RANDALL DOWLING, City Manager

LARRY EATON, Mayor