

SPECIAL SESSION

MARCH 4, 2015

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Annex with the following members present, to-wit:

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor
Monte Montgomery, Mayor Pro-Tem
Charles Elliott
Joe Whatley
Tres Winn

David Hopkins, Interim City Administrator
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

others present: Glen Herriage, Gary Crecelius, John McQueary, Buddy Hill, Sherri Skeeters, Haven Cox, Tyler Hendrickson, Steve Grant, Lisa Denton, Grant Rabon, Blake Armstrong and other interested citizens;

constituting a quorum at which time the following proceedings were enacted, to-wit:

The invocation was given by Councilmember Montgomery.

Mayor Vaught introduced Mr. Philip Rodriguez as the new City Administrator for the City of Athens to the Staff and audience. Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Council for being selected and stated he was blessed to be a part of the team and looking forward to working with the City Staff.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER A RESOLUTION FOR MASTER PLAN UPDATE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AT THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

David Hopkins, Interim City Administrator explained that TXDOT has approved the Master Plan Update and they are requesting a Resolution supporting the City's 10% of the expected expenses to be incurred.

A motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Whatley to approve a Resolution for Master Plan Update and Financial Management Plan at the Athens Municipal Airport. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7, 2015 SPECIAL SESSION, JANUARY 12, 2015 REGULAR SESSION, JANUARY 21, 2015 SPECIAL SESSION, JANUARY 26, 2015 REGULAR SESSION

David Hopkins explained there was a wording issue on the agenda to approve the minutes, and the minutes are being submitted back to Council to ratify and correct the minutes.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS;
A) DISCUSS WATER AND SEWER RATE STUDY

David Hopkins explained that he and Glen Herriage, Director of Utilities, Councilmember Montgomery, and Councilmember Whatley worked with Grant Rabon of NewGen Strategies & Solutions on the water and wastewater rate study.

Grant Rabon explained the last rate increase was in August 2012. He presented an outline of the water and sewer utility rate study and recommended the rates for water and sewer increase by a

combined \$20 per month. He further stated the rate increase would bring the City in immediate alignment with the cost of service and allow the City to facilitate the Utilities, Capital and other financial needs. He also presented an outline should the City phase-in the rate increase over time.

Mayor Vaught stated the City needs to make the difficult decision of implementing the water and sewer rate increase to address the major needs of the city.

Mr. Rabon also presented revised miscellaneous fees and charges.

After further discussion; the consensus was for Staff to work on an Ordinance for the water and sewer increase and submit back to Council.

B) DISCUSS AUTHORIZING SOLUTIENT GEOSCIENCES, INC. TO PERFORM 2015 ANNUAL POST-REMEDIAL MEASURES PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND PROGRESS REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMPREHENSIVE LANDFILL GAS REMEDIATION PLAN

Glen Herriage, Director of Utilities explained that this will authorize Solutient GeoSciences, Inc. to perform the required annual gas monitoring of the landfill at a cost of \$1,560. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

C) DISCUSS AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS CITY PROPERTY THROUGH AUCTIONEEREXPRESS.COM AND AUTHORIZING CONTRACT

Glen Herriage explained that the City previously sold surplus property at local auctions. He stated since the City started using an online auction process through AuctioneerExpress.com there has been an increase in price per unit. He explained there was not a price increase from the last contract with AuctioneerExpress and recommended using the online auction. The item will appear on the agenda Monday

D) DISCUSS AUTHORIZING STAFF TO ADVERTISE FOR RETRO FITTING FOR PARKING LOT LIGHTS AT COLEMAN PARK

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning and Development, explained that Staff is requesting authorization to seek bids for retro-fitting of parking lot lights at Coleman Park. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

E) DISCUSS AWARDED BIDS FOR PAINTING OF CLEARWELLS

Mr. Herriage stated that eight (8) bids were received for painting two (2) 500,000-gallon clearwells, with low bidder being Cherokee Painting and Sandblasting Inc. at a cost of \$160,00.00. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSENT AGENDA

A) DISCUSS APPROVING MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2015 SPECIAL SESSION, FEBRUARY 3, 2015 SPECIAL SESSION, FEBRUARY 4, 2015 SPECIAL SESSION, FEBRUARY 9, 2015 SPECIAL SESSION AND FEBRUARY 9, 2015 REGULAR SESSION

This item will appear on the Consent Agenda.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO EXPRESS ITEMS OF CONCERN
RELATING TO THE CITY OF ATHENS

There was no discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE,
SECTION 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS; A) DISCUSS TERMS AND
CONDITIONS OF PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR
CANDIDATE AND DISCUSS TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PROPOSED
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR B) DISCUSSION WITH
CITY ADMINISTRATOR CANDIDATE REGARDING PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT;
C) DISCUSS ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF CITY ATTORNEY; D) DISCUSS
EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS REGARDING POSITION OF CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE
CITY OF ATHENS

The City Council adjourned to Executive Session.

The City Council returned to Special Session

CONSIDER ACTION RESULTING IN DELIBERATIONS IN EXECUTIVE
SESSION, SECTION 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS; REGARDING THE
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT OF CITY
ADMINISTRATOR CANDIDATE, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PROPOSED
EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR; ACCEPTING
RESIGNATION OF CITY ATTORNEY AND EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS
REGARDING THE POSITION OF CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF
ATHENS.

A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Montgomery to accept the resignation of Conor Bateman as City Attorney effective March 31, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Whatley to hire Blake Armstrong of Birdsong & Armstrong as the City Attorney effective April 1, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 23rd DAY OF MARCH 2015.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary