

REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 12, 2015

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Regular Session on Monday, January 12, 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

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary
Conor Bateman, City Attorney

others present: Glen Herriage, Gary Crecelius, Buddy Hill, John McQueary, David Hopkins, Haven Cox, Sherri Skeeters, Tyler Hendrickson, Dee Purselley, Kerri Womack, Rich Flowers, Terri Hill and other interested citizens;

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Montgomery.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mayor Vaught filed a Conflict of Interest concerning the item "Discuss/consider appeal of denied claim for plumber's charges by City of Athens Utilities Department, as requested by Dee Purselley."

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Vaught explained that Council was briefed by Chris Hartung Consulting in the search for a new City Administrator. He stated that it would be 2-3 months before the new City Administrator would be in place. Mayor Vaught explained the consensus is to appoint David Hopkins as Interim City Administrator with an additional \$1000 per month. A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Whatley for the appointment of David Hopkins as Interim City Administrator with an additional \$1000 per month in pay. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPEAL OF DENIED CLAIM FOR PLUMBER'S CHARGES BY CITY OF ATHENS UTILITIES DEPARTMENT AS REQUESTED BY DEE PURSELLEY

Mr. Purselley explained that he owns five (5) different rental properties and he has had various degrees of sewer problems. Mr. Purselley stated a plumber was needed to clear portions of the sewer lines at his house at 411 Highland Drive. The plumber determined the sewer problem was on the City's side. Mr. Purselley stated he has 12 examples where he has paid plumber's bills.

Councilmember Whatley stated that if his plumber's bill was paid the City would be setting a precedence.

David Hopkins, Interim City Administrator explained the City did not have a chance to remediate the issue prior to Mr. Purselley calling a plumber. He stated he is also concerned about setting a precedence.

Glen Herriage, Director of Utilities said the City went to the location a few days later and did additional work to clear the sewer line. Mr. Herriage stated citizens should call the City first if they suspect a water and/or sewer problem at their residence as the City offers 24 hour service.

Mr. Purselley stated he was not aware of the policy asking citizens to call the City first.

After discussion a motion was made by Councilmember Montgomery, seconded by Charles Elliott to deny appeal for plumber's charges by the City of Athens Utilities Department as requested by Dee Purselley. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes; Councilmember Montgomery, Councilmember Elliott, Councilmember Whatley, Councilmember Winn. Nays; none. Abstained: Mayor Vaught.

**DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPROVING CHANGE ORDER FOR CONTRACT
#712020 FIRST TIME SEWER GRANT**

Glen Herriage explained that this is the Grant discussed by Tyler Hendrickson with Velvin and Weeks and Mary Kay Thomas with Amazing Grants, Inc. in the Special Session 1-7-15, stating the project has been completed with the reduction in cost of \$64,278 of the original contract; that of which will be refunded to the City within approximately 30 days. A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Montgomery to approve Change Order for Contract #712020 First Time Sewer Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING TASK ORDER WITH VELVIN &
WEEKS CONSULTING ENGINEERS TO DESIGN WATER LINE
IMPROVEMENTS ON S. PRAIRIEVILLE ST., PARK ST. AND CAYUGA
DRIVE**

Glen Herriage explained that the negotiated price is the normal standard rates of Velvin & Weeks Consulting Engineers to design water line improvements on S. Prairieville St., Park St. and Cayuga Drive. A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Winn to Authorize Task Order with Velvin & Weeks Consulting Engineers to Design Water Line Improvements on S. Prairieville St., Park St. And Cayuga Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER FUNDING OPTIONS FOR CAIN CENTER

City Attorney Conor Bateman informed Council that there were not any updates with Legislature since the Special Session 1-7-15. He stated that Council has approximately three (3) to four (4) weeks to reach out to appropriate Representatives to initiate a Bill being drafted.

David Hopkins stated that Sherri Skeeters has sent letters and made phone calls to all local Hotel/Motel owners and/or managers to advise them of the Special Session on 1-21-15 and to invite them to express their viewpoint on an increase in Hotel/Motel taxes.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER ACTION REGARDING HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

David Hopkins informed Council that Holiday Inn Express is current with their Hotel/Motel Taxes. No action was taken.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

A motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Montgomery to reappoint Charlie Tidmore and Sherri Robson to serve another two (2) year term on the Airport Advisory Board. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO PARKS BOARD

Gary Crecelius informed Council that Steve Grant and Billy Si McCaleb are not seeking reappointment to the Parks Board; thus leaving two (2) vacancies.

A motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Winn to appoint Chris Tinsley to serve as Chairman for a two (2) year term on the Parks Board. The motion carried unanimously.

An additional motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Whatley to reappoint Jay Eckert, Hugh Armstrong and Clyde Bowman, Sr. to serve another two (2) year term on the Parks Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Vaught informed the Council that a vacancy still remains on the Parks Board.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO SUBSTANDARD BUILDING COMMISSION

A motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Winn to reappoint Will Traxson and Tilo Galvan to serve another two (2) year term on the Substandard Building Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Winn to reappoint Todd Fowler, Thomas Faulk and Charles Morgan Jones to serve another (2) year term on the Zoning Board of Adjustments. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO ZONING COMMISSION BOARD

Gary Crecelius informed the Council that the terms of Tony Kalawe and Gail Chock are expiring from the Zoning Commission, with Mr. Kalawe agreeing to serve another term, however, Ms. Chock is ineligible due to having served two (2) consecutive terms. Mr. Crecelius noted that one vacancy remains on the Zoning Commission. A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Elliott to reappoint Mr. Kalawe to serve another two (2) year term on the Zoning Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER TRANSFER OF INSPECTION DEPARTMENT VEHICLE TO A.M.W.A.

Mr. Hopkins explained that A.M.W.A has taken over the Inspection function; therefore, seeking authorization from Council to transfer the title of the truck to A.M.W.A. A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Winn for the Transfer of Inspection Department Vehicle to A.M.W.A. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA;

(ALL MATTERS LISTED ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS UNLESS REQUESTED BY A COUNCIL MEMBER, IN WHICH EVENT THE ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.)

- A) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2014 SPECIAL SESSION, NOVEMBER 24, 2014, REGULAR SESSION, DECEMBER 3, 2014 SPECIAL SESSION, AND DECEMBER 8, 2014 REGULAR SESSION.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Winn to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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

There was no discussion.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 4TH DAY OF MARCH, 2015.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary