

REGULAR SESSION

JULY 13, 2015

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Regular Session on Monday, July 13, 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
Tres Winn

Philip Rodriguez, City Administrator
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary
Blake Armstrong, City Attorney

others present: David Hopkins, Gordon Mayer, Gary Crecelius, Buddy Hill, John McQueary, Haven Cox, Sherri Skeeters, Rich Flowers, Michael Hannigan, Lisa Denton, Steve Creamer, Chip Perryman, Will Perryman, Corey Frentress and other interested citizens;

with the following member absent: Joe Whatley

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

No action was taken

DISCUSS ANNEXATION PROCESS

City Administrator Philip Rodriguez explained the annexation process appears on the agenda as a result of the Vision & Planning Session that was held where it was requested that staff research the benefits of annexation and its implications. Mr. Rodriguez stated the item was not aimed at a particular area for annexation, simply what is annexation and what will it require from staff.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that annexation is done to increase the tax base and to protect the land uses to ensure the city has input into the growth that occurs within the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) of the City.

Councilmember Montgomery asked about the cost and stated it appears it would be expensive to annex from US 175 to the West side of Highway 19 as the City would incur the cost of surveys and the purchase of the water rights from the company that owns the meter. Councilmember Montgomery stated the City needs a study to tell us how much it would cost for annexation.

City Attorney, Blake Armstrong stated that the surveying of property would not be the major cost, however, providing like services to the people in the area and the purchase of water rights.

Gordon Mayer, Interim Public Works Director, stated the recent rate study did not include any capital programs to extend sewer lines outside the current city limits.

Councilmember Elliott stated he does not want the Council to annex property piece by piece such as the airport expansion property was done. He explained the longer you wait to do annexation the more expensive it will become.

Mr. Rodriguez concluded the discussion and stated staff will continue to look into the annexation process and the possible impact it has on FY2016 budget.

DISCUSS POLICY MAKING PLAN FOR FY2016

Mr. Rodriguez explained that on the next council meeting he would provide a formulated document of issues that were discussed during the Vision and Planning Session to consider as part of the budget. He stated it would continue to evolve in every Council meeting and become the strategic plan for FY2016.

CONSENT AGENDA;

- A) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2015 REGULAR SESSION
- B) CONSIDER FINAL READING OF AN ORDINANCE GRANTING NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISE TO IMPEL AMBULANCE SERVICE

City Secretary Bonnie Hambrick read the Ordinance aloud. A motion was made Councilmember Montgomery, seconded by Councilmember Elliott to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development, explained there was a vacancy on the Parks Advisory Board due to Ms. Lillian Bell resigning. He stated the Board met in Special Session on 7/1/15 receiving three (3) board applications and the board is recommending the appointment of Justin Boswell to fill the vacancy. He stated that the Parks Advisory Board wanted the City Council to know that all three are excellent candidates and would not be upset if council chose someone else other than the recommendation of Justin Boswell.

Councilmember Montgomery asked if this has been the way the boards picked their members, stating he was in an uncomfortable situation due to one of the applicants using him as a reference.

Gary advised that it was the Parks Advisory Board's recommendation and it was the Council's ultimate decision.

Mayor Vaught stated he has to support Mike Conley as he was also used as a reference.

Councilmember Winn stated this is the Parks Advisory Board's recommendation and he would hate to go against their decision.

Councilmember Elliott stated he would like to see the item tabled until all Council members were present to vote.

Councilmember Winn stated there should be a uniform policy for board appointments.

Mr. Rodriguez explained that an advisory board brings recommendations to the Council, whereas Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustments are governed by state statute. Mr. Armstrong agreed that they are an advisory board to advise the Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Winn to table the appointment to Parks Advisory Board until Monday, July 27, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SEEK REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR LEASING OF AIRPORT HANGAR DONATED BY GEORGE AND LOUISE BROMLEY

Mr. Crecelius informed the Council that Mr. Bromley built the airport hangar in 1998 which is 40x42 with no utilities and donated it to the Athens Municipal Airport at that time. Mr. Bromley informed Mr. Crecelius that he no longer has use for the hangar so now it will revert back to the Athens Municipal Airport. The recommendation from the Airport Advisory Board is to seek proposals from the public for leasing of the airport hangar donated by George and Louise Bromley.

A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Montgomery to authorize staff to seek request for proposals from the public for leasing of airport hangar donated by George and Louise Bromley. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ATHENS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
TENANT AGREEMENT WITH CHARLIE TIDMORE FOR LOT 3 AREA 3B

Mr. Crecelius informed the Council that Mr. Robert Strong had a land lease at Lot 3 and has sold the hangar to Mr. Tidmore. Mr. Strong is canceling his lease and we need to enter into a new tenant agreement with Mr. Tidmore. A motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Montgomery authorizing Athens Municipal Airport Tenant Agreement with Charlie Tidmore for Lot 3 Area 3B. The motion passed unanimously.

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

There was no discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A) PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072
(DELIBERATION REGARDING THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE OR
VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY) - TEXAN THEATER

The City Council adjourned to Executive Session at 6:19 p.m.

The City Council returned to Regular Session at 6:46 p.m.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER ACTION RESULTING FROM DELIBERATIONS IN
EXECUTIVE SESSION

A) TEXAN THEATER

A motion was by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Elliott authorizing the City Administrator to finalize the conveyance of the Texan Theater to the City. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Rodriguez reminded the Council and audience of the Community Budget Forum set for July 15, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for the public to come out in person to suggest new revenues, and new ways to expend funds. He stated the forums are intended to get the citizens involved in the budget process. The community was also reminded of the Budget Input Boxes placed throughout the City and the on-line survey are available through July 16, 2015.

The following updates were also provided:

1. BMC -updated inventory of equipment has been put together for a liquidation plan
2. Draft lease with West Pharmaceuticals, should be finalized within the next month
3. Draft lease with another prospect for the remaining space in the building
4. Applauded Ms. Denton for all her hard work

MAYOR AND COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilmember Winn asked if the new lease agreement with BMC had been signed with Ms. Denton responding the lease agreement was signed.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 27th DAY OF JULY, 2015.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary