

REGULAR SESSION

AUGUST 10, 2015

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Regular Session on Monday, August 10, 2015, 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Annex, 501 N. Pinkerton St., Athens, Texas with the following members present, to-wit:

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

Philip Rodriguez, City Manager
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

others present: David Hopkins, Gary Crecelius, Buddy Hill, John McQueary, Gordon Mayer, Sherri Skeeters, Lisa Denton, Chris Tinsley, Tyler Hendrickson, Michael Hannigan, David Graem, 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

No action was taken.

DISCUSS POLICY MAKING PLAN FOR FY2016

City Manager Philip Rodriguez thanked the Mayor and City Council Members for participating in the discussion of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016. Mr. Rodriguez explained a staff budget was presented and the City Council gave their input and direction on the budget and the next step is to present a proposed budget to the City Council. Mr. Rodriguez also made the Council and audience aware of the following important dates:

August 24, 2015 first public hearing on the tax increase
September 14, 2015 second public hearing on the tax increase, and public hearing concerning the budget for fiscal year, ratify the property tax increase in the budget, and first reading of an Ordinance adopting the budget
September 28, 2015 final reading of an Ordinance adopting the budget, and a Resolution setting the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2016

Mr. Rodriguez stated he has received questions from the public asking if the budget process was over and he has informed citizens that the budget process was still in progress and the public hearings and the public process is very important.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Mayor and Council for their time and energy and the direction they provided during the budget workshop. He invited the public to come out to the public hearings on August 24th, September 14th and 28th to participate in the budget making process.

ATHENS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S
A) STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Lisa Denton, Athens Economic Development Corporation's Executive Director presented an AEDC Status Update from 1/1/15 to 7/31/15 highlighting a total investment for Athens is \$17,425,000 and 167 jobs retained and/or created for the approved projects for this time period.

**DISCUSS RESIGNATION OF DARLENE FORSHAGE FROM TOURISM
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Sherri Skeeters, Tourism Coordinator, informed the Council that Ms. Darlene Forshage has resigned has an alternate from the Tourism Advisory Council.

CONSENT AGENDA;

- A) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE JULY 27, 2015 REGULAR SESSION, AUGUST 4, 2015 SPECIAL SESSION AND AUGUST 5, 2015 SPECIAL SESSION

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

**DISCUSS RESOLUTION ABANDONING A PORTION OF DEAN STREET THAT
LIES WITHIN LOT 6 BLOCK 72, ATHENS ORIGINAL TOWN**

- A) OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO PROVIDE INPUT

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning and Development explained Trinity Valley Community College has requested the City consider abandoning a portion of Dean Street that begins at Lakeside and runs past the two dormitories to increase the safety of their students.

The City Council heard from Carla Ellerbe, 318 Dean Street and Ms. Maria Gaza, 321 Dean Street who were both opposed to the street closure. Ms. Ellerbe stated the students do not stop and are usually dealing with an iPad or using their cell phones and she felt this would impose on the children who ride the school bus as it would require them to walk to the end of the street to catch the school bus. Ms. Ellerbe further stated she was concerned about the emergency services and how long it would take to reach their residents in the event of an emergency.

Councilmember Winn explained that if safety is the concern perhaps speed bumps should be placed on a portion of Dean Street to slow the vehicles driving through the area.

Mr. Rodriguez informed the Council that he received input from two other citizens who were unable to attend the meeting. He stated that one citizen owns two pieces of property on Dean Street and he was opposed to closing the street. This citizen stated Dean Street was important for students attending TVCC that travel from Malakoff, Trinidad and the Mabank area, due to the fact they are able to avoid the Downtown Square and Prairieville.

Mr. Rodriguez explained Mr. Tyner called and is in favor of closing the street as his tenants have small children and there has been a close call with excessive speed and if the street was not closed perhaps explore ways to reduce the speed.

After a lengthy discussion there was no other input from the public.

**DISCUSS/CONSIDER A RESOLUTION ABANDONING A PORTION OF DEAN
STREET THAT LIES WITHIN LOT 6 BLOCK 72, ATHENS ORIGINAL TOWN**

A motion was made by Councilmember Montgomery, seconded by Mayor Vaught to approve a Resolution abandoning a portion of Dean Street that lies within Lot 6 Block 72, Athens Original Town. The motion failed by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor Vaught, Councilmember Montgomery. Nays: Councilmember Winn, Councilmember Whatley, and Councilmember Elliott.

**DISCUSS/CONSIDER ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR COLEMAN AND CAIN
PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Winn to accept donations for Coleman and Cain Parks improvements and earmark the Challenge Grant in the amount \$150,000 specifically for the concession stand. The motion carried unanimously.

**A) RECOGNIZE THE EFFORTS OF THE PARKS BOARD IN SECURING PRIVATE
DONATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO COLEMAN AND CAIN PARKS**

Mr. Rodriguez recognized the efforts of the Parks Advisory Board in securing private donations for improvements to Coleman and Cain Parks.

**B) RECOGNIZE THE INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING
DONATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO COLEMAN AND CAIN PARKS**

Mr. Rodriguez recognized the following individuals responsible for providing donations for improvements to Coleman and Cain Parks:

1) Athens Economic Development Corporation	\$ 25,000
2) Dr. Harold and Stephanie Smitson	\$ 15,000
3) Trinity Valley Abstract and Title	\$ 2,500
4) Law Office of Jeff Weinstein	\$ 2,500
5) East Texas Medical Center	\$ 2,500
6) First State Bank of Athens	\$ 2,500
7) Athens Teenage Baseball Association	\$ 5,000
8) Henderson County Girls Softball Association	\$ 5,000

Mr. Rodriguez stated staff would prepare a letter recognizing the Parks Advisory Board and individuals for their efforts in securing donations along with a plaque.

**DISCUSS FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PARKING ON A
PORTION OF MCCALED STREET AND A PORTION OF SAWYER STREET**

Buddy Hill, Police Chief, explained Gary Gillert, owner of Gillert Gas Company provided a written request to implement a no parking zone on part of McCaleb Street stating that cars regularly park on both sides of the street which reduces the effective road width to one traffic lane. Chief Hill stated that staff's recommendation is to create a no parking Ordinance as follows:

McCaleb Street, west side, from Corsicana Street to Sawyer Street

Sawyer Street, north side, from Aaron Street to McCaleb Street.

The item will appear on a future agenda.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Crecelius informed the Council there was a vacancy on the Airport Advisory Board due to the resignation of Mr. David Stewart. He explained Mr. Larry Babb submitted his application to serve on this board.

Councilmember Whatley stated he felt Mr. Babb would be an excellent board member.

A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Elliott to approve the appointment of Larry Babb to the Airport Advisory Board. 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 24th day of August, 2015.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary