

REGULAR SESSION

APRIL 13, 2015

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Regular Session on Monday, April 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
Joe Whatley
Tres Winn

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

others present: David Hopkins, Glen Herriage, Gary Crecelius, Buddy Hill, John McQueary, Haven Cox, Sherri Skeeters, Corey Frentress, Chris Tinsley, Toni Johnson, Rich Flowers, Michael Hannigan, Greg Mason, Angela Wagoner, Lisa Denton 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.

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ANNEXATION OF 30.00 ACRES
LOCATED IN THE DANIEL HARRISON SURVEY, ABSTRACT 279, (650 SOUTH
EAST LOOP 7)

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development explained that the property is in the process of being annexed at the request of the property owner and this is the second required public hearing. There was no discussion from the public and the public hearing was closed.

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ANNEXATION OF 296.142
ACRES LOCATED IN THE WILLIAM TRIMMER SURVEY, ABSTRACT 758,
MARY ANN PICKETT SURVEY, ABSTRACT 628, AND NELSON BOX
SURVEY, ABSTRACT 58 (1271 COUNTY ROAD 4500)

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development explained that the property is in the process of being annexed at the request of the property owner and this is the second required public hearing. There was no discussion from the public and the public hearing was closed.

DISCUSS 2015 AND 2016 TXDOT TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE
PROGRAM (TAP) GRANT

Philip Rodriguez, City Administrator, stated that due to time constraints in meeting the May 4, 2015 deadline, he is recommending the City not pursue the 2015 TAP Grant for bumpouts in the downtown area and focus on the 2016 Grant.

Mayor Vaught explained the City would concentrate on the sidewalks on East Tyler Street.

Councilmember Winn stated that the cost is quite excessive and suggested we pursue possibly in 2016.

Councilmember Whatley asked if the grant could be used for park improvements with Mayor Vaught explaining that the grant must be used for pedestrian or bicycle infrastructure.

The consensus was to pursue the 2016 TAP Grant.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING USE OF CENTRAL PARK ON JUNE 19, 2015 FOR STAGING OF EQUINE FOR 2015 JUNETEENTH PARADE AND AUTHORIZING CLOSURE OF PORTIONS OF PRAIRIEVILLE ST., AND TYLER ST. CONTINGENT UPON TXDOT'S APPROVAL FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 12:00 A.M. FOR JUNETEENTH POST PARADE FESTIVITIES, AS REQUESTED BY HENDERSON COUNTY BLACK RODEO ASSOCIATION

Ms. Toni Johnson explained that the Henderson County Black Rodeo Association (HCBRA) is requesting use of Central Park on June 19, 2015 for staging of equine as well as the closure of portions of Prairieville Street and Tyler Street from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 A.M. for the Juneteenth parade and post parade festivities. Ms. Johnson explained the parade route would turn left at First State Bank on Prairieville Street to allow for the food vendors to set-up.

Chief Buddy Hill informed the Council that he has not received the paperwork from TxDot approving the street closures. He also explained to Ms. Johnson that the City has not received verification of their insurance. Ms. Johnson explained that HCBRA's insurance agent will provide the insurance coverage 30 days prior to the event.

A motion was made by Councilmember Montgomery, seconded by Councilmember Whatley, to approve the use of Central Park on June 19, 2015 for staging of equine for the 2015 Juneteenth Parade and authorized closure of portions of Prairieville Street and Tyler Street contingent upon TxDot's approval from 5:30 P.M. to 12:00 A.M. and contingent upon verification of insurance for the Juneteenth post parade festivities. The motion carried unanimously.

Recess to Closed Session at 5:39 P.M. in compliance with Section 551.071 et. seq. Texas Government Code, Contemplated or pending litigation or matters where legal advice is requested of the City Attorney to discuss agenda item #7.

Reconvene into Regular Session at 6:57 P.M. and take any action necessary as a result of the Closed Session.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING PARKS ADVISORY BOARD TO DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM QUALIFIED FIRMS FOR CONCEPTUAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF CITY PARKS IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED ITEMS

A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Winn, to authorize the City Manager to contact firms regarding the design and construction of improvements of Coleman Park and Cain Park. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING OUTDOOR BURN ORDINANCE VARIANCE, AS REQUESTED BY JANE JOSLIN/ROELLEN GIN COMPANY, INC. (2860 F.M. 2495)

John McQueary, Fire Chief, explained that Ms. Joslin is requesting a variance to the Outdoor Burn Ordinance to allow for one (1) year burn permit. He explained that Ms. Joslin is aware of the guideline and is in compliance. She is allowed to burn 12 times per year. A motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Whatley, to authorize a variance to the Outdoor Burn Ordinance to allow for 12 burns for a one (1) year period, as requested by Jane Joslin/Roellen Gin Company. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER LETTER OF INTEREST TO TXDOT AVIATION FOR
THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING ADDITIONAL T-HANGARS AT ATHENS
MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Gary Crecelius explained the recommendation is from the Airport Advisory Board that a letter of interest be submitted to TxDot Aviation for building additional T-Hangars at Athens Municipal Airport. A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Montgomery, to authorize letter of interest to TxDot Aviation for the purpose of building additional T-Hangars at Athens Municipal Airport. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE REPEALING
ORDINANCE NUMBERS A-934, A-990, 29-89, O-10-97 AND O-31-08 WATER
AND SEWER FEES AND CHARGES

Philip Rodriguez explained the Ordinance repeals any currently existing Ordinances for water and sewer fees and charges.

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary, read the Ordinance aloud. A motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Winn, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance Numbers A-934, A-990, 29-89, O-10-97 and O-31-08 water and sewer fees and charges. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING
WATER AND SEWER FEES AND CHARGES

Mr. Rodriguez explained this new ordinance will establish water and sewer fees and charges.

Councilmember Whatley stated that citizens asked if the rate increase could be stepped in over a two (2) year period; however this option did not appear to be the consensus of the Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember Montgomery, seconded by Councilmember Winn, to approve first reading of an Ordinance establishing water and sewer fees and charges. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE REPEALING
ORDINANCE NUMBERS O-30-08, 33-90, O-06-03 AND O-28-10 REGARDING
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES
AND BULK WATER RATES

Mr. Rodriguez explained the Ordinance repeals any currently existing Ordinances regarding residential and commercial water and wastewater rates and bulk water rates.

Bonnie Hambrick read the Ordinance aloud. A motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Winn, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance Numbers O-30-08, 33-90, O-06-03 AND O-28-10 regarding residential and commercial water and wastewater rates and bulk water rates. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES
AND BULK WATER RATES

Mr. Rodriguez explained this new ordinance will establish residential and commercial water and wastewater rates and bulk water rates.

Bonnie Hambrick read the Ordinance aloud. A motion was made by Councilmember Montgomery, seconded by Councilmember Elliott, to approve the first reading of an ordinance establishing residential and commercial water and wastewater rates and bulk water rates. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AWARDING OR REJECTING BIDS FOR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR FOR RETRO-FITTING OF PARKING LOT LIGHTS AT COLEMAN PARK

Mr. Crecelius informed the Council that two (2) bids for retro-fitting of parking lot lights at Coleman Park were received. United Pump Supply and Godwin Electric did not meet the minimum specifications. He is recommending that all bids be rejected and staff be authorized to re-advertise. A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Whatley to reject both bids received for retro-fitting of parking lot lights at Coleman Park due to non-compliance. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING CONSULTANT SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR MASTER PLAN AT ATHENS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Mr. Rodriguez informed the Council that the Airport Advisory Committee met and are recommending a committee be established for selecting the firm for the Master Plan.

Mr. Crecelius explained the Committee will select the firm using criteria that has been given to the committee by TxDot. The firm with the highest score will be selected to come up with the Master Plan for the airport. TxDot will negotiate the rate the firm will be paid to design the Master Plan. He further explained the selection committee will consist of the following members: Jerry Don Vaught, Mayor, Councilmember Elliott, Charles Tidmore, Gary Crecelius and Phil Becker.

A motion was made Councilmember Whatley, seconded Councilmember Montgomery, to authorized consultant selection committee for Master Plan at Athens Municipal Airport. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA;

- A) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2015 SPECIAL SESSION AND MARCH 23, 2015 REGULAR SESSION
- B) CONSIDER RECEIVING AND APPROVING THE ANNUAL HENDERSON COUNTY 9-1-1 COMMUNICATION DISTRICT'S BUDGET

A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Elliott, 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.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Rodriguez reminded the Council of the Planning and Vision session scheduled for April 30, 2015 for the Council and Directors. He explained the session is to create a strategic plan for the City.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL UPDATE

Mayor Vaught reminded the audience of the reception scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at the Athens Partnership Center to welcome Philip Rodriguez and his family.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 27TH DAY OF APRIL, 2015.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary