

REGULAR SESSION

NOVEMBER 9, 2015

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Regular Session on Monday, November 9, 2015, 5:30 p.m. in the Derek D. Daniels Conference Room of the Athens Partnership Center, 201 W. Corsicana St., Athens, Texas with the following members present, to-wit:

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor  
Monte Montgomery, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Charles Elliott

Philip Rodriguez, City Manager  
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

others present: David Hopkins, Buddy Hill, John McQueary, Gordon Mayer, Gary Whittle, Haven Cox, Blake Wilson, Michael Hannigan, Dan Rogers, Carol Morton, Bob Morton, Mary Waddell, Rich Flowers, Lannie Buck, Richard Hynie, Robert Haberle, Gene Keenon, Kelly Driskell, Tyler Hendrickson, 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.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Councilmember Montgomery.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action taken.

READING OF PROCLAMATION HONORING AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Jerry Don Vaught, Mayor, read the proclamation honoring America Recycles Day, November 14, 2015.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER SCHEDULING A SPECIAL SESSION ON NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Philip Rodriguez, City Manager, discussed a Special Session on November 19, 2015, due to cancelling the December 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Session. The time will remain at 5:30 P.M.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Montgomery, seconded by Councilmember Winn approving the Special Session on November 19, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER CANCELING THE DECEMBER 28, 2015 REGULAR SESSION

Philip Rodriguez discussed canceling the December 28, 2015 Regular Session. There will be 4 meetings throughout November and December.

A motion was made by Councilmember Elliot, seconded by Councilmember Winn approving the cancellation of Regular Session on December 28, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA;**

**A) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2015 REGULAR SESSION.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Montgomery, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSS/CONSIDER REQUEST TO CLOSE A PORTION OF W. TYLER STREET FROM PRAIRIEVILLE TO PINKERTON AND NORTH PRAIRIEVILLE STREET FROM TYLER TO LARKIN ON DECEMBER 5, 2015 FROM 1:00 P.M. UNTIL 10:30 P.M., AS REQUESTED BY DAN ROGERS FOR A POST-CHRISTMAS PARADE STREET CELEBRATION.**

Citizen, Dan Rogers, brought to Council a request to close the above streets for a post-Christmas Parade Street Celebration. He proceeded on background information regarding this post celebration. This is a free event for anyone wishing to participate after the parade. The sponsoring churches include Eastern Hills Church of Christ, First Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, First Church of the Nazarene, Sand Springs Baptist Church, Fellowship Baptist Church, St. Steven's Anglican Church, St. Edward's Catholic Church, and Primera Iglesia Baptist Church. He stated the post-Christmas Parade will have bounce houses, petting zoo, and food and drinks.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Montgomery, seconded by Councilmember Elliott to approve the streets being closed on December 5, 2015 from 1:00 P.M. until 10:30 P.M. The motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSS/CONSIDER AWARDING BIDS FOR CHEMICALS FOR USE IN WATER AND WASTEWATER DEPARTMENTS.**

Gary Whittle, Interim Operations Manager, discussed the bids for the chemicals used in the water and waste water departments. Would like to reject the low bid for Alum from Chameleon Chemicals, due to several complaints on behalf of the company. There was an increase in 4.1% of price over last year's bid.

Monte Montgomery, Mayor Pro Tem, stated he would like the City to check into Fluoride being added to the water, and find out what the best practice would be.

A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Winn to approve the bids based on Staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSS/CONSIDER RECEIVING, PERFORMING, AND APPROVING THE FY 2015 CHAPTER 59 ASSET FORFEITURE REPORT AND AUDIT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief Buddy Hill explained that this Audit must be conducted annually and filed with the Attorney General for State level seized and forfeited funds

A motion was made by Councilmember Elliot, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Montgomery, to approve the Fiscal Year 2015 Chapter 59 Asset Forfeiture Report. The motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE 2015 FEDERAL EQUITABLE SHARING AGREEMENT AND CERTIFICATION FORM AND AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION BY STAFF**

Police Chief Buddy Hill explained that the Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification Form. He stated it is similar to the State version, this form is the Federal Version of the Chapter 59 Report. In order for the City of Athens to get a share of the assets seized by the Federal Government, this report must be filed. It will have to be filed electronically, by the body head, which is Mayor, Jerry Don Vaught. There was no activity for this year.

A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Elliot, to approve executing the Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification Form on behalf of the Mayor. The motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING CONTRACTS FOR HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE FOR THE CITY EMPLOYEES**

Philip Rodriguez discussed switching the City Employee's Health and Dental Insurance from United Health Care to Blue Cross and Blue Shield. This was due to a dramatic increase in a monthly premium because of the loss ratio. He stated with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan the deductible would have to be raised to a \$1,500 deductible in order to keep the monthly premium amounts about the same. The increase in price fell within the 8.67% increase that was budgeted for the Fiscal Year 2016. This will result in no increase in employee contribution, the City of Athens will assume the increase in monthly premium amount. Dental insurance will remain with United Health Care due to a quote for a two year monthly premium price.

Mr. Rodriguez also explained that trying to budget for Insurance was harder to do, due to the fact that insurance plans are ran in the actual year, not a fiscal year. Staff will try next year to get the insurance quote for the fiscal year in July, so that budgeting process will be made clearer.

After much discussion, the motion carried by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor Vaught, Councilmembers Winn and Elliot, Nays: Mayor Pro Tem Montgomery.

**DISCUSS/CONSIDER A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PHILIP RODRIGUEZ, CITY MANAGER, AND DAVID HOPKINS, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ETCOG) GRANT FUNDS**

David Hopkins, Finance Director, introduced new employee Blake Wilson, Finance and Compliance Specialist. He will assist with Finance and City Secretary Departments.

Mr. Hopkins, is seeking authorization for a Resolution for the ETCOG Grant. In order to receive this grant, a new bank account must be setup.

A motion was made by Councilmember Elliot, seconded by Councilmember Winn, to authorize the Resolution to establish a new bank account for the ETCOG Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Gene Keenon, Republic Services

Presented a check for \$500 to sponsor the annual Christmas Parade. Republic Services will also help with a head count and traffic control.

Mr. Keenon also commended Mr. Philip Rodriguez for an excellent job in requesting the grant for the ETCOG.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

Philip Rodriguez discussed what will be happening in the next few months.

- New employees include Blake Wilson, Finance & Compliance Specialist
- Gary Whittle, and Interim Operations Manager, will be over all of Utilities and Street Maintenance.
- Will have a few more new hires November 30<sup>th</sup>, a new Building Official, and a new Community Development Manager.
- Stated Staff is close to selecting a new Director of Development and he would like for the Council to meet the finalist for the position.
- City of Athens will be closed Wednesday November 11, 2015 in observance of Veteran's Day.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL UPDATE

Jerry Don Vaught, Mayor, recognized TVCC for being ranked number 16 in the nation for the best Community College in the United States.

ADJOURN

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

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Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary