

SPECIAL SESSION

APRIL 4, 2012

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, 11:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Annex with the following members present, to-wit:

Randy Daniel, Mayor
Jerry Don Vaught
Carol Barton
Aubrey Jones

Pam Burton, City Administrator
Pam Watson, City Secretary
Conor Bateman, City Attorney

others present: Glen Herriage, Gary Crecelius, Buddy Hill, John McQueary, David Hopkins, Haven Cox, Sherri Skeeters, Tyler Hendrickson, Sarah Hueber, D.J. Warren and other interested citizens;

with the following member absent: Elaine Jenkins;

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Jones.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councilmember Vaught filed a Conflict of Interest concerning the item "Discuss/consider variance to Burn Ordinance for property located at 1510 Sand Springs Rd., as requested by Jerry R. Vaught".

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

A) STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT AND PROPOSED PROJECTS

Tyler Hendrickson, Velvin & Weeks Consulting Engineers

- 1) Wood St. Project is moving forward.

FINANCIAL REPORT

David Hopkins, Director of Finance presented February financials.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER VARIANCE TO BURN ORDINANCE FOR PROPERTY
LOCATED AT 1510 SAND SPRINGS RD., AS REQUESTED BY JERRY R.
VAUGHT

City Administrator Pam Burton explained that Jerry R. Vaught is requesting a variance to the Burn Ordinance to allow for 15 days of continuous burning for the purpose of clearing a massive amount of brush from six (6) acres of property.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Barton to authorize a variance to the Burn Ordinance by allowing Mr. Vaught up to 15 days of continuous burning for property located at 1510 Sand Springs Rd., as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS;

- A) DISCUSS AUTHORIZING USE OF CITY PARKING LOT FOR ATHENS FARMERS MARKET, AS REQUESTED BY D.J. WARREN, MARKET MANAGER

Ms. Burton explained that D.J. Warren, Market Manager for Athens Farmer Market has provided a request for use of the City Parking Lot for Athens Farmers Market, including dates of operation and criteria.

Councilmember Barton expressed her objection to the selling of animals at Farmers Market and stated that she has a statement from the Humane Society referencing the same objection. She stated that she would approve the request with the removal of animals being sold.

Ms. Burton reviewed the desire of the Council to consider the use of the City Parking Lot for Athens Farmers Market on the dates requested, with the exclusion of animals being sold, with Ms. Warren being in agreement.

The Council commended Ms. Warren and wished her much success with Athens Farmers Market. The item will appear on the agenda Monday, April 9, 2012.

**B) DISCUSS CLOSING A PORTION OF PRAIRIEVILLE ST. ON APRIL 21, 2012
FROM 5 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT, AS REQUESTED BY ATHENS CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

Sarah Hueber with Athens Chamber of Commerce explained that the 27th Annual PRCA Rodeo is approaching and they have teamed up with title sponsor Hayden Elder to host a VIP Sponsor Party on Saturday, April 21, 2012, with a street dance to follow on the west side of the Henderson County Courthouse. She stated that they are requesting the closure of this portion of Prairieville St. from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. and they have provided a certificate of liability insurance for the event.

After discussion, Councilmember Vaught suggested that Texas Department of Transportation be contacted concerning the road closure.

The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

**C) DISCUSS AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING REGULATIONS PROHIBITING
SMOKING**

Ms. Burton reviewed the most recent amendments to the Smoking Ordinance, with first reading of the Ordinance appearing on the agenda Monday. The Council commended City Attorney Conor Bateman for his continued dedication to the Ordinance.

**DISCUSS ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSENT AGENDA;
A) DISCUSS APPROVING MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2012 SPECIAL
SESSION AND MARCH 26, 2012 REGULAR SESSION**

This item will appear on the Consent Agenda Monday.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE,
SECTION 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS; DELIBERATION CONCERNING
EMPLOYMENT AND DUTIES OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE**

The City Council adjourned to Executive Session.

The City Council returned to Regular Session.

CONSIDER ACTION RESULTING FROM DELIBERATION IN EXECUTIVE
SESSION CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT AND DUTIES OF MUNICIPAL
COURT JUDGE

A motion was made by Councilmember Vaught, seconded by Councilmember Barton to authorize staff to proceed with reorganization of Municipal Court and advertise for part-time Municipal Court Judge. The motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO EXPRESS ITEMS OF CONCERN

There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 23RD DAY OF APRIL, 2012.

Randy Daniel, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Watson, City Secretary