

SPECIAL SESSION

APRIL 18, 2013

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Thursday, April 18, 2013, 2:00 p.m. in the County Meeting Room of the Henderson County Annex Building, 125 N. Prairieville St., with the following members present, to-wit:

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor
Carol Barton
Elaine Jenkins
Aubrey Jones
Monte Montgomery

Pam Burton, City Administrator
Pam Watson, City Secretary
Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development

others present: Matthew Felton, Richard Sanders, Ken Geeslin, Chris Weeks, David Stewart, Rich Flowers, Maurice Cox, Brian Malone, John Cain, Scotty Thomas and other interested citizens;

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

HEAR AND DISCUSS PRESENTATION BY MATTHEW FELTON, TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AVIATION DIVISION, REGARDING
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO ATHENS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Mayor Vaught opened the meeting and introduced Matthew Felton, Airport Facilities Planner with Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division.

Mr. Felton discussed previous conversations concerning the possible extension of the runway at Athens Municipal Airport. He explained that if the City decides to move forward with this project, it will extend the current runway from 3,988 ft. out to 5,000 ft.

Mr. Felton explained that the design criteria, trees, and safety area must be considered. He expressed his concerns with the Environmental Assessment that would be required, as well as numerous obstructions located to the South of the runway. He reviewed options consisting of either the purchase of land to the south of the existing runway and obtaining easements to remove the obstructions, or to allow the obstructions to remain an issue and part of the instrument approach would be lost.

Mr. Felton stated that this project would be funded with a 90/10 Federal Grant, and the runway extension must have justification to be funded. He stated that the benchmark is to see 500 operations that are impacted and will benefit from the extension. He explained that the first step would be to assure that the Airport is safe, with rehabilitation of the existing pavement being required at an estimated cost of \$1,170,000. He stated that the runway extension would have an estimated cost of \$3,611,000, for a total project cost of \$4,800,000.

Councilmember Montgomery asked if these numbers include the purchase of land and easements, with Mr. Felton stating that they do not.

David Stewart questioned the time frame for the project, with Mr. Felton stating that if justification was met, the project could begin in 1-2 months, the Environmental Assessment would take between 9-18 months, and Design would take another 9 months, with it being approximately 1½-2 years before construction would begin.

Mr. Stewart asked if land acquisition would be part of the 90/10 funding, with Mr. Felton stating that it would, if the extension justification was met.

Mayor Vaught stated that the City has a lot to consider, especially concerning the purchase of land, and Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division will be contacted after a decision has been made on the project.

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 10TH DAY OF JUNE, 2013.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Watson, City Secretary