

SPECIAL SESSION

MAY 1, 2013

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, 11:00 a.m. in the City of Athens Training Center, 622 S. 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
David Hopkins, Director of Finance

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Jenkins.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER CITY'S CURRENT AND PROPOSED PROJECTS

City Administrator Pam Burton explained that the City of Athens moved into the current City Hall building in 1996, with no improvements having been made since that date. She recommended that the Council consider replacing the carpet and some desks and chairs that are in desperate need of repair. She also informed the Council that the sign in front of City Hall is broken and does not conform to the existing Sign Ordinance. She provided cost estimates for various types of signs, with it being the consensus of the Council to pursue the purchase of an all metal sign with backlit LED lights at a cost of \$5,900. Ms. Burton stated that a budget adjustment would be brought back before the Council to allow for the purchase of these items.

Ms. Burton informed the Council that she met with Keep Athens Beautiful and Texas Department of Transportation concerning the use of KAB's \$168,000 Governor's Award being used toward state right-of-way improvements. She explained that they discussed utilizing the funds to possibly place bump-outs on the corners of the downtown square, as recommended in the Downtown Revitalization Plan, and the possibility of pursuing grants from Athens Economic Development Corporation and The Murchison Foundation to assist with the project.

Ms. Burton informed the Council that she has received feedback from some in attendance at the presentation by Matthew Felton with Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division concerning the possible extension of the runway at Athens Municipal Airport, with those expressing their feelings that this would not be a good use of funds. She stated that the Council will have to determine if they want to pursue a possible grant for the runway project extension. Mayor Vaught expressed his feelings that the project is not justified at this time.

Ms. Burton informed the Council that Allied Waste is requesting another five (5) year extension of their Contract for Solid Waste Collection & Disposal, explaining that they are trending toward a possible pilot program that will provide blue waste containers to all residents. After discussion, Councilmember Jones recommended publicizing the recycling program and the Aaron St. Collection Site.

Mayor Vaught discussed pursuing a possible Bond Issue for a new Police Station and Municipal Court Building. The Council also discussed pursuing a possible new Council Chambers to be located behind City Hall. Ms. Burton explained that the first step would be to authorize a Needs Assessment. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have Staff pursue a facilities project.

Mayor Vaught discussed issues concerning Athens Economic Development Corporation, stating that citizens are relying on the Council to assure that A.E.D.C. runs effectively and efficiently. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that Mayor Vaught and Mayor Pro Tem Barton request a meeting with A.E.D.C.'s Chairman and Vice Chairman to discuss possible concerns.

DISCUSS FRANCHISE REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Burton discussed the possibility of updating the Vehicle for Hire Ordinance to include more detailed requirements of the applicant.

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

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Watson, City Secretary