

SPECIAL SESSION

DECEMBER 20, 2017

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, 5:00 p.m. followed by a Work Session 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:

Monte Montgomery, Mayor
Ed McCain, Mayor Pro-Tem
Toni Clay
Robert Gross

Gary Whittle, Interim City Manager
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

others present: Thanasis Kombos, Ryan Adams, Randy Williams, Michael Hannigan, Denise York, Jerry Vaught Sr., Boyd London, Lisa Denton, Adrianna Hinds, Lisa Montgomery, Tom & Lynn Leathem, Bob Morton, Deborah Deas, Todd Hutson, Greg Smith, Aaron Smith, Randy McIntyre and other interested citizens;

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Mayor Montgomery.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

Mayor Montgomery read aloud a letter from The Cain Foundation stating their willingness to commit \$2.5 million to be used for the rebuilding of the swimming pool as part of a commitment from the City of Athens for funding the remaining Cain Center refurbishment costs with construction to commence on or before June 30, 2018.

There was a round of applause.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

Todd Hutson, expressed concern with water issues in the LaJolla neighborhood.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE,
SECTION 551.074 (PUBLIC OFFICER; CLOSED MEETING) TO DISCUSS
THE APPOINTMENT TO ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, PLACE 2 TO FILL
UNEXPIRED TERM CREATED BY RESIGNATION

The City Council adjourned to Executive Session at 5:07 p.m.

The City Council returned to Special Session at 5:11 p.m.

CONSIDER ACTION RESULTING FROM DELIBERATIONS IN EXECUTIVE
SESSION PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION
551.074 (PUBLIC OFFICER; CLOSED MEETING) TO DISCUSS THE
APPOINTMENT TO ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, PLACE 2 TO FILL
UNEXPIRED TERM CREATED BY RESIGNATION

Mayor Montgomery stated Councilmember Joe Whatley resigned from the Athens City Council on 12/15/17.

A motion was made by Councilmember McCain, seconded by Councilwoman Clay to appoint Aaron Smith to fill the unexpired term to Athens City Council, Place 2. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith thanked the City Council and stated he looks forward to working with everyone.

ENTER INTO WORK SESSION

UPDATE ON WATER SYSTEM PRESSURE ISSUES

Randy Williams, Utilities Director, provided an operational update relating to low water pressure issues.

Discussion occurred relating to different aspects of the City's water pressure including time lines for remediation of the issue. Council requested that Staff move as quickly as possible to enter into an engineering agreement for construction of a booster pump to increase water pressure in the north east section of town. Staff stated they would attempt to obtain an agreement proposal from Garver Engineering by Friday, December 22, 2017 or consider other approved engineering firms. The City Council also directed Staff to treat this issue as a public health emergency.

Gary Whittle, Interim City Manager, asked the City Council to move to agenda item 8.

DISCUSS THE CAIN CENTER PROJECT COMPONENTS AND ASSOCIATED COST ESTIMATES

Mr. Whittle explained Staff has researched different scenarios and options for funding the Cain Center Project and its components. He stated the funding is from the 2017 Certificate of Obligations.

Thanasis Kombos, Assistant City Manager, reviewed different components for funding the Cain Center Project. He stated there are different routes the Council can move forward with and still allow for the 120 days of working capital in the Utility Fund.

Much discussion and deliberation regarding the components of the Cain Center Project occurred.

Boyd London, Hilltop Securities, addressed the penalty issue associated with not using the Certificates of Obligation in a timely manner.

Mayor Montgomery opened the floor for Public Comments.

Several citizens spoke regarding the Cain Center Project.

Additional discussion occurred regarding the possible funding opportunities for the Cain Center Project.

No action was taken.

DISCUSS AUDIO/VISUAL AND FURNISHING PACKAGE FOR THE TEXAN THEATER

Mr. Kombos explained programming of the facility, furnishings, fixtures and equipment was presented to the City Council on December 11, 2017.

Discussion occurred regarding equipping the Texan Theater and audio/visual and furnishings which included equipping the building or leaving it as an empty space and require those who wish to use the facility rent furnishings, fixtures, equipment and audio/visual.

Mr. Kombos stated that staff will begin fundraising efforts and solicit sponsorship from corporate private donations, grants and any and all opportunities.

Councilwoman Clay expressed concern that Council would task the staff with fundraising and fall short of the needed amount.

Mr. Kombos stated that staff will research preliminary recommendations for fund raising and the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for any rental companies for the competitive bidding process.

Mayor Montgomery suggested staff look at the possibility of a donation program and find used equipment.

Mayor Montgomery allowed Citizen Comments regarding the Texan Theater.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 22nd DAY OF JANUARY, 2018.

Monte Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary