

SPECIAL SESSION

AUGUST 2, 2022

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the Civic Hall, Room 216 of the Cain Center 915 S. Palestine Street, Athens, Texas, and immediately following convened in a Budget Work Session with the following members present to-wit:

Toni Clay, Mayor
Aaron Smith, Mayor Pro Tem
Robert Gross
SyTanna Freeman
Mark Carroll

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

Staff Present: John Densmore, Chief of Police; Mandie Quigg, Finance Director; Randy Williams, Utilities Director; Chris Baker, Cain Center Director; Sissy Geddie, HR Manager/Civil Service Director.

Others present: Michael Hannigan, Debra Wilson, Bryan Barker, Linda Smith, Lacey Lowry, Deborah Deas, Pastor Erik Graham, Mistie Sharp, Gene Keenon, James Murphy, Kit Carson, Shirley Snowden, Derrell Snowden, Melanie Wallace, Will Smith, Attorney Daniel Hunt, Donald Carroll, Tommie Thomas, Mistie Sharp, Armileigh Peavler, Janna Moore, Summer Matthews, Rosemary Marsh, Jeff Marsh, Sam Walzel, Melanie Wallace, Joe Dillahunty, Ashley Leenerts, Jared Madrazo, Tarah Day, McKenzie Brown, Katherine Hefley, Aaron Stricklin, Marie Daniela Garcia, Rachel Lamb, Clint Stutts, Frankie Smith, Larry McFadden, Abigail D'Agosta, Karina Morels, Barbara Raleigh, Jim Raleigh, Ben Lader, C.A. Middleton, Cody Kohlman, Brian Hughes, and other interested citizens.

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

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Mayor Toni Clay.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

The following spoke in favor of an Ordinance declaring Athens a Sanctuary City for the unborn:

1. Donald Carroll, 5180 CR 3811, Athens, Texas 75752
2. Tommie Thomas, 415 ML King Jr. Blvd, Athens, Texas 75751
3. Mistie Sharp, 600 Ravenwood Dr, Athens, Texas 75751
4. Armileigh Peavler, 8456 CR 4714, LaRue, Texas 75770
5. Janna Moore, 1035 N. Park, Lindale, Texas
6. Summer Matthews, 8456 CR 4117, LaRue, Texas 75770
7. Rosemary Marsh, 19149 CR 4108, Lindale, Texas
8. Jeff Marsh, 19149 CR 4108, Lindale Texas
9. Sam Walzel, 1359 FM 860, Palestine, Texas 75803
10. Melanie Wallace, Lindale, Texas
11. Joe Dillahunty, 20 Lumbeth Circle, Texarkana, Texas

12. Ashley Leenerts, 11217 Blackmoor Dr., Austin, Texas
13. Jared Madrazo, 3198 Little Red Rd, Athens, Texas 75752
14. Tarah Day, 753 Southwood Dr., Athens, Texas 75751
15. McKenzie Brown, 4720 FM 753 Athens, Texas 75751
16. Katherine Hefley, 103 B Louise Lane, Athens, Texas 75751
17. Aaron Stricklin, 514 Ravenwood Dr, Athens, Texas
18. Marie Daniela Garcia, 7363 Land Grant Trail
19. Rachel Lamb, 1305 Kessler Dr, Plano, Texas
20. Clint Stutts, 5906 CR 1219 Malakoff, Texas 75148
21. Frankie Smith, 309 Laird Lane, Athens, Texas 75751
22. Larry McFadden, 20451 CR 4118, Lindale, Texas
23. Abigail D'Agosta, 1090 Bells Chapel Rd, Waxahachie, Texas
24. Karina Morels, 421 W Scott, Athens, Texas 75751
25. Barbara Raleigh, 144 Red Bluff Loop, Mabank, Texas
26. Jim Raleigh, 144 Red Bluff Loop, Mabank, Texas
27. Ben Lader, 124 Hideaway Circle, Trinidad, Texas
28. C.A. Middleton, 6970 CR 3715 Athens, Texas 75752
29. Cody Kohlman, 9741 St. Hwy 19 N., Athens, Texas 75752
30. Brian Hughes, 7804 FM 59, Athens, Texas 75751

Debra Wilson expressed her opposition to the proposed Ordinance declaring Athens a Sanctuary City for the unborn.

**MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND/OR CITY MANAGER UPDATES
INVOLVING COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ISSUES OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Chris Baker, Cain Center Director, announced the following events:

- Every Friday – Food Truck Fridays 6 pm to 10 pm at TVCC Parking Lot
- Every Saturday – Athens Farmers Market from 9 am to 12 pm at TVCC Parking Lot
- August 9th – Painting Class at the East Texas Arboretum
- August 10th – Chamber Luncheon at the Texan
- August 18th – Propagation Workshop at the East Texas Arboretum
- August 27th Adult Prom at the Cain Center

The City Council recessed at 6:51 p.m.

The City Council returned to Special Session at 6:55 p.m.

Lacey Lowry, 612 Valle Vista, Athens, Texas 75751 spoke in favor of an Ordinance declaring Athens a Sanctuary City for the unborn.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE JULY 22, 2022, BUDGET WORK SESSION**
- b) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE JULY 25, 2022, REGULAR SESSION**
- c) CONSIDER CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN TRENT TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

A motion was made by Councilmember Gross, seconded by Councilwoman Freeman to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

- a) DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND TAKE ACTION, AS NECESSARY, CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION SELECTING THE NEXT STEP AS OUTLINED IN THE CHARTER WITH REGARDS TO CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE BY PETITION OUTLAWING ABORTION DECLARING ATHENS A SANCTUARY CITY FOR THE UNBORN**

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager, explained the next steps as outlined in the Charter.

The City Council shall either:

- (a) Pass the initiated ordinance without amendment within thirty (30) days after the date of certification to the city council; or
- (b) Submit said initiated ordinance without amendments to a vote of those qualified to vote in city elections in a regular or special election to be held within ninety (90) days after the date of the certification to the city council; or
- (c) At such election submit to a vote of those persons qualified to vote in city elections said initiated ordinance without amendment and an alternative ordinance on the same subject proposed by the city council.

Councilmember Smith stated he agrees with the purpose but expressed concern with the tactics and mechanisms used in pursuit of the petition. Councilmember Smith said Athens is a great place. There are compassionate people in Athens. He further stated that when you have conversations and disagree, at the end of the day; he will still love you.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gross, seconded by Mayor Clay to select option b) Submit said initiated ordinance without amendments to a vote of those qualified to vote in city elections in a regular or special election as the next step as outlined in the Charter with regards to Citizen's Initiative by Petition outlawing abortion declaring Athens a Sanctuary City for the Unborn. The motion carried unanimously.

- b) DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND TAKE ACTION, AS NECESSARY, CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE RENEWAL OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND ATHENS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM**

Mayor Clay stated the item was being tabled.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND TAKE ACTION, AS NECESSARY, CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION FOR BUDGET AND TAX RATE HEARINGS AND PLACING PROPOSED SPECIFIC TAX RATE, TAX RATE ADOPTION, AND ALL RELATED MATTERS ON FUTURE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Mandie Quigg, Finance Director, presented the following:

- Tax Rate Analysis
- FY 2023 Current Tax Rate

Ms. Quigg stated there is a reduction of more than seven cents (\$0.079221) compared to the previous year.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gross, seconded by Councilwoman Freeman that the City Council meet in the Civic Hall of the Cain Center located at 915 S. Palestine Street Athens, Texas 75751 to conduct the Public Hearing for the City of Athens, Texas Budget at the Regular City Council Meeting held on August 22nd, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., and the City Council meet in the Civic Hall of the Cain Center located at 915 S. Palestine Street Athens, Texas 75751 to conduct the Public Hearing for the City of Athens, Texas Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.566000 per \$100 valuation at the Regular City Council Meeting held on September 12th, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Clay stated both budget and tax rate will be adopted at the September 12th, 2022, Regular City Council meeting.

The City Council recessed at 7:17 p.m.

ENTER INTO BUDGET WORK SESSION

The City Council entered into the Budget Work Session at 7:25 p.m.

DISCUSSED FISCAL YEAR 2023 CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Ms. Borstad stated that Gene Keenon and James Murphey were present from Republic Services.

Mr. Keenon presented the CPI increase requested by Republic Services for residential and commercial customers. Discussion occurred.

The City Council; discussed the 2023 City Manager's proposed budget including the following:

- Personnel
- Paying cash to purchase two (2) new police vehicles

Ms. Borstad stated that the School Resource Officer Agreement (SRO) will appear on the City Council's August 8th agenda.

Ms. Quigg reviewed the City of Athens Cash and Investments as of June 30, 2022.

The City Council discussed the Utility Fund.

Ms. Borstad explained a utility rate increase will occur on October 1, 2022, and a Fee Ordinance will come back to the City Council.

The City Council discussed the Capital/Supplemental Overview worksheet for Utilities Fund.

The City Council discussed the Cain Center Fund and methods to increase the membership.

Discussion occurred regarding the current membership tracking software. Staff received direction to look for an alternative software system.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 8th DAY OF AUGUST 2022.

Toni Clay, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary