

REGULAR SESSION

AUGUST 8, 2016

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Regular Session on Monday, August 8, 2016, 5:30 p.m. 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:

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor
Tres Winn, Mayor Pro-Tem
Monte Montgomery
Ed McCain
Joe Whatley

Philip Rodriguez, City Manager
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

others present: Buddy Hill, Thanasis Kombos, Lawrence Cutrone, John McQueary, Barbara Holly, Sandi Pulley, Marty Coursey, Marion Klutts, Cassy Day, Danene Gallagher, Garrett Hope, Chris Tinsley, Tom and Lynn Leatham, Tara Rigsby, Bob and Carol Morton, Lisa Denton, Kristeen Jacobson, Cody Robson, Carol Morton, Michael Hannigan, Steve Barksdale, Will Traxson, Cliff Bomer, Eric Graham, Mario Davis, Corey Rodriguez, Rich Flowers, Paula Winter and other interested citizens;

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Eric Graham.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 25, 2016 REGULAR SESSION
- b) CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 27, 2016 SPECIAL SESSION
- c) CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 28, 2016 SPECIAL SESSION
- d) CONSIDER FINAL READING OF AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING SARABJIT K. AVAIRA (SINGH) FOR SITE PLAN APPROVAL FOR LAND ZONED PLANNED DEVELOPMENT RETAIL AT LOT 1, BLOCK 1 MCDONALD ADDITION LOCATED ONE LOT EAST OF 414 EAST TYLER STREET OWNED BY SARABJIT K. AVAIRA

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary, read the Ordinance aloud. A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Montgomery to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

1. Ms. Paula Winter stated she has a vested interest in the Cain Center as she is a member of the Henderson County Master Garden Association. Ms. Winter's stated their annual event is scheduled for March 31, 2017, and she wanted to know the plans for the use of the Cain Center.

Philip Rodriguez, City Manager explained that the City Council could not respond during Citizens Comments; however as a staff member he could respond. Mr. Rodriguez further stated the City is in discussions with the Cain Center Board regarding the transition. He stated as decisions are made the public would be made aware.

2. Ms. Casey Day stated the Gun Barrel Quilters Guild Show is scheduled for April 2017 and the Cain Center is the biggest venue to hold an event. She stated she would appreciate any information as soon as it is available.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND
CONSIDER CALLING FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUST 22, 2016 FOR
PROPOSED BUDGET

Mr. Rodriguez presented the proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017. He reviewed the following funds:

- General Fund
- Utility Fund
- Debit Service Fund
- Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund
- Airport Fund
- Airport Grant Fund

There was discussion concerning departments proposed budgets.

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the Step & Grade for Fiscal Year 2017. He stated that 2017 would be the last year the City utilizes a Step & Grade. He stated going forward the City would reward its best performers.

Mr. Rodriguez informed the Council there are 135.5 FTE positions funded in Fiscal Year 2017.

The highlights of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017 are as follows:

- Budgeted Financial Reserve (savings) equal to 60 days operating expenses, or \$1,790,434 for second year in a row
- Addition of up to 6 new police officers and all accompanying equipment and vehicles needed
- \$200,000 to upgrade the Emergency Warning System
- Improvements to O.D. Baggett Park and Cain Park Softball Fields
- No new debit added in the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget
- Implementation of a New Equipment Replacement Program
- Key Fleet Replacements across the organization including a new Fire Brush Truck
- Aggressive Strategy for Capital Improvements in Water and Wastewater to address 33+ State Violations from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) stemming back 6+ years
- Addition of new, crucial positions in several departments including Wastewater, Municipal Court, Utility Billing, Information Technology and Facilities Maintenance
- Additional funding for Henderson County Library
- Significant Street Maintenance Program

Mayor Vaught stated he has served on the City Council for nine (9) years and this year's proposed budget is outstanding and incredible. He stated the small tax increase is necessary for the City to continue providing the services. He further stated that adding up to six (6) new officers is desperately needed.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the City Council has given staff direction to work with the Cain Center to bring the Cain Center on as a City Facility beginning in January. He stated the project has been discussed as a group as to how it could be funded. Mr. Rodriguez stated the City could borrow approximately \$8,000,000 (eight million dollars) without negatively impacting the tax rate.

He further stated the City is committed to making sure there is space for the public to meet and spaces for people to recreate.

Mr. Rodriguez also stated the pool has been a bit of an "Albatross" for the Cain Center, and the Cain Center is in need of a lot of repairs.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the park as it exists today, will improve and the disc golf and trails, will be made better.

Mayor Vaught stated a new police station is desperately needed.

Mayor Vaught stated this is the right thing to do for the citizens, the Cain Center and for the future of Athens.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Winn to call for a Public Hearing on August 22, 2016 for proposed budget. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PROPOSED TAX RATE THAT WILL RESULT IN ADDITIONAL REVENUES OF \$237,509 AS OUTLINED IN SECTION 26.05(D) STATE OF TEXAS TAX CODE; AND SETTING THE DATES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED TAX RATE

Marty Coursey, Director of Finance explained this Resolution would adopt the proposed tax rate of \$0.685221 and set the dates of the public hearings for Monday, August 22, 2016 and Monday, August 29, 2016.

A motion was made by Councilmember McCain, seconded by Councilmember Winn approving a Resolution adopting a proposed tax rate that will result in additional revenues of \$237,509 as outlined in Section 26.05(d) State of Texas Tax Code; and setting the dates for public hearings for Monday August 22 and Monday August 29 at 5:30 to discuss the proposed tax rate.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Councilmembers Voting For: Mayor Vaught, Councilmember Winn, Councilmember McCain, Councilmember Montgomery and Councilmember Whatley

Councilmembers Voting Against: None

Abstaining from Vote: None

Councilmembers Absent: None

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO ENGAGE BKD CPAS AND ADVISORS TO PROVIDE FORENSIC ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR THE CITY

Mr. Rodriguez stated this will allow the City Attorney to engage BKD to perform any and all forensic accounting services for the City directly.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember McCain, seconded by Councilmember Winn to approve the authorization of the City Attorney to engage BKD CPAs and Advisors to provide forensic accounting services for the City. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER REAPPOINTMENTS TO TOURISM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ms. Hambrick informed the Council the terms of Brad Smiley/Place 2 and Toni Clay/ Place 4 expire on July 31, 2016 from the Tourism Advisory Council. She stated both desire Reappointment to the Tourism Advisory Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Montgomery to reappointment Brad Smiley/Place 2 and Toni Clay/ Place 4 to the Tourism Advisory Council. The motion carried unanimously,

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO SUBSTANDARD BUILDING COMMISSION

Ms. Hambrick informed the Council that Ms. Tere Lawyer resigned from the Substandard Building Commission leaving a vacancy. She stated that Mr. Garrett Hope has expressed interest in serving on this Commission.

A motion was made by Councilmember McCain, seconded by Councilmember Winn to appoint Mr. Garrett Hope to the Substandard Building Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING STAFF TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE REMEDIATION OF THE PRIMARY CLARIFIER AND CLARIGESTER AT THE WEST WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Lawrence Cutrone, Director of Public Works explained that the Clarigester was in need of remediation of solids from the digester portion of the unit and the primary clarifier was in need of remediation of the broken rake arm mechanism.

He stated staff is seeking authorization to advertise for bids for the remediation of the primary clarifier and clarigester at the West Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember McCain, authorizing staff to advertise for bids for the remediation of the primary clarifier and clarigester at the West Wastewater Treatment Plant. The motion carried unanimously.

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

There was no discussion.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 22nd DAY OF AUGUST, 2016.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary