

REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 22, 2021

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Regular Session on Monday, February 22, 2021, 5:30 p.m. in the Derek D. Daniels Conference Room of the Athens Partnership Center, 201 West Corsicana St., Athens, Texas. This meeting was open to the public; however, seating was limited to maintain social distancing.

with the following members present to-wit:

Monte Montgomery, Mayor
Aaron Smith
Robert Gross
SyTanna Freeman

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

Staff Present: Mandie Quigg, Finance Director; Audrey Sloan, Director of Development Services; John Densmore, Chief of Police; Noemi Lopez, Administrative Clerk; Katie Birk, Tourism and Cultural Resources Coordinator;

others present: Rich Flowers, Deborah Deas, Stacy Hurst, Jennifer McCann

with the following member absent: Toni Clay

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

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Mayor Montgomery.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Jennifer McCann thanked the following City employees for their hard work during the weather event that caused a main break and required employees to work through the night:

Jeffrey McCann
Dean Burkhalter
Eric Davis
Mike Finney
Marion Klutts
Randy Williams

There was a round of applause.

Mayor Montgomery stated they were all heroes in our eyes.

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

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager, provided the following updates:

- Currently the City is still under a boil water notice
- Over 600 meters were turned off due to water leaks
- Staff received positive feedback, on Facebook on how everything was handled

Ms. Borstad thanked the following organizations for their assistance:

- Hope Springs Water for delivering water
- Rebecca Project and Sand Springs Church for providing food
- Katie Birk and Hannigan Media for continuous Facebook updates

- Frank Lunceford for bringing heaters out to the site
- Police and Fire, as they are always on call
- Disciples Crossing for providing shelter
- Street Employees for working non-stop

Mayor Montgomery thanked staff, Hope Springs Water, Oncor, Release Free Church for shelter and all the citizens for their positive input.

Councilwoman Freeman thanked Lance West, Fire Marshal for his assistance during the weather event.

Mayor Montgomery thanked Ms. Borstad for all her hard work. He stated she consistently provided updates to the Council. He stated, “last week was an orchestra and Ms. Borstad was the conductor and she did a great job”.

Councilmember Smith expressed appreciation on how the community came together last week during the weather event. He stated “love your neighbor” was seen in action all over the city.

Ms. Borstad stated the water bill due date was extended until February 22, 2021. She stated second notices will be mailed, however no penalties assessed. She stated if citizens have a leak or have used excessive water; leak adjustments can be made by providing a plumber invoice or purchase receipt for parts.

Ms. Borstad stated the Collection Site will be open on February 26, 2021, free of charge for storm related items.

She provided the following updates:

- Kiwanis Pancake Day on March 2nd
- Keep Athens Beautiful Garden Show at Fair Park on March 6th.
- Spring Clean-up date April 10, 2021

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2021 REGULAR SESSION
- b) CONSIDER A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HENDERSON COUNTY FOR RURAL FIRE PROTECTION
- c) CONSIDER A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO SUBMIT REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT AS IDENTIFIED BY FEMA’S PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SEVERE WINTER STORM EVENT FEMA-3554-EM
- d) JANUARY 2021 MONTHLY REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORT

Councilmember Gross requested agenda item a) Consider approving minutes of the February 8, 2021 Regular Session be removed from the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gross, seconded by Councilwoman Freeman, to approve Consent Agenda items: **b)** Consider a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Henderson County for Rural Fire Protection **c)** Consider a Resolution authorizing City Staff to submit requests for reimbursement as identified by FEMA's Public Assistance Program for Severe Winter Storm event FEMA-3554-EM **d)** January 2021 Monthly Revenue and Expense Report. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2021 REGULAR SESSION

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Freeman to approve minutes of the February 8, 2021 Regular Session. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor Montgomery, Councilmember Smith, Councilwoman Freeman, Nays: None Abstain: Councilmember Gross.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND TAKE ACTION, AS NECESSARY, CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE DISASTER DECLARATION ISSUED BY THE MAYOR ON FEBRUARY 15, 2021 IN RESPONSE TO THE SEVERE WEATHER EVENT

Ms. Borstad stated on February 15, 2021 following suit of the County; Mayor Montgomery issued a Disaster Declaration. She explained the Disaster Declaration is good for seven (7) days unless extended by the governing body of the City.

Ms. Borstad stated she is requesting Council to extend the Disaster Declaration until it is rescinded by the City Council.

Mayor Montgomery stated he favors extending the Disaster Declaration as some business entities may not know what their damages are and by extending the Declaration; business can still file damages. He stated the Disaster Declaration should remain in place until the city can overcome all obstacles related to the storm.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Smith to approve a Resolution extending the Disaster Declaration issued by the Mayor on February 15, 2021 in response to the Severe Weather Event. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF TOURISM WEBSITE

Katie Birk, Tourism and Cultural Resources Coordinator, presented the Tourism website and displayed the different attractions for visitors. Those attractions included wine tours, restaurants, and different activities to do in the area.

Councilmember Gross asked for the Country Club to be put on the Tourism Website since visitors can visit the Country Club and play golf.

CONSIDER FINAL READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING, IMPLEMENTING, AND INCLUDING THE CITY OF ATHENS ZONING ORDINANCE IN THE CODIFIED "CODE OF ORDINANCES, OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, TEXAS"

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary, read the caption of the Ordinance aloud.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gross seconded by Councilmember Smith to approve final reading of an Ordinance adopting, implementing, and including the City of Athens Zoning Ordinance in the Codified "Code of Ordinances, of the City of Athens"

After roll call vote, the motion passed with the following record vote:

Monte Montgomery, Mayor	Aye
Robert Gross, Councilmember	Aye
Aaron Smith, Councilmember	Aye
SyTanna Freeman, Councilwoman	Aye

Voted in favor of the motion	4
Voted against the motion	0
Motion carried	4-0

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA
ITEMS

Mayor Montgomery stated if there are any changes or upgrades needed for the city's water system, the item should be added to a future agenda.

Ms. Borstad stated a Work Session to discuss the Cain Center will appear on a future agenda.

Ms. Hambrick reviewed the following future agenda items:

- Councilwoman Freeman requested an item to discuss prohibiting the discharge of firearms in the city limits
- Councilwoman Clay requested an item to discuss Zoning Districts and maximum number of farm animals allowed
- Work Session to discuss Airport
- Councilmember Gross requested an item to discuss parking on N. Wofford

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 8TH DAY OF MARCH, 2021

Monte Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary