

REGULAR SESSION

MARCH 23, 2015

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Regular Session on Monday, March 23, 2015, 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Annex with the following members present, to-wit:

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor
Monte Montgomery, Mayor Pro-Tem
Charles Elliott
Joe Whatley
Tres Winn

David Hopkins, Interim City Administrator
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary
Conor Bateman, City Attorney

others present: Glen Herriage, Gary Crecelius, John McQueary, Buddy Hill, Haven Cox, Sherri Skeeters, Corey Frentress, Michael Hannigan, Rich Flowers, Greg Mason, Angela Wagoner and other interested citizens;

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Montgomery.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ANNEXATION OF 30.00 ACRES LOCATED IN THE DANIEL HARRISON SURVEY, ABSTRACT 279, (650 SOUTH EAST LOOP 7)

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development explained that the owner is requesting annexation and this is the first required public hearing. There was no discussion and the public hearing was closed.

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ANNEXATION OF 296.142 ACRES LOCATED IN THE WILLIAM TRIMMER SURVEY, ABSTRACT 758, MARY ANN PICKETT SURVEY, ABSTRACT 628 AND NELSON BOX SURVEY, ABSTRACT 58 (1271 COUNTY ROAD 450)

Gary Crecelius explained that the owner is requesting annexation and this is the first required public hearing. There was no discussion and the public hearing was closed.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER FORMATION OF AN AIRPORT PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE ATHENS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Mayor Vaught explained that Steve Grant has requested the formation of a separate planning committee for the Athens Municipal Airport. He explained the committee would consist of the Mayor, one (1) councilmember, County Judge Richard Sanders, two (2) county commissioners and other citizens. The committee will aide in future improvement plans for the Athens Municipal Airport. The Mayor asked Councilmember Elliott if he was willing to serve on this committee.

A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Montgomery to approve the formation of an Airport Planning Committee for the Athens Municipal Airport. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ATHENS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S BUSINESS ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY ATHENS SCREEN PRINTING

David Hopkins, Interim City Administrator explained Athens Screen Printing has purchased the building at 112 N. Palestine and is seeking a Business Assistance Grant to do sign work, painting and door replacement. Mr. Hopkins explained the grant is \$10,000 and the A.E.D.C. Board has approved the application.

A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Elliott to approve Athens Economic Development Corporation's Business Assistance Grant Program application submitted by Athens Screen Printing. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AWARDDING BID FOR CAPITAL LEASE PROGRAM TO PURCHASE FIVE (5) POLICE PACKAGE VEHICLES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT

David Hopkins, explained that three (3) bids were received for a capital lease program to purchase the five (5) police package vehicles and related equipment, recommending the bid be awarded to low bidder, Commerce Bank Shares of St. Louis, MO at an interest rate of 1.72%.

A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Winn to award bid for capital lease program to Commerce Bank Shares for the purchase of five (5) police package vehicles and related equipment. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING STAFF TO APPLY FOR THE 2015 AND 2016 TXDOT TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (TAP) GRANT.

Mayor Vaught explained he received a letter from Rep. Stuart Spitzer regarding the 2015 and 2016 TxDOT Transportation Alternative Program Grant for pedestrian safety. The grant has \$52 million for the program and requires a 20% match from the City. Mayor Vaught explained due to time constraints and meeting the May 4, 2015 deadline, this year the City will look at the bump-outs for the four corners of the court house. The City will gather prices for constructing sidewalks on both sides of East Tyler Street, a bicycle trail and walking trail in 2016.

A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Winn authorizing staff to apply for the 2015 and 2016 TxDot Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA;

- A) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2015 SPECIAL SESSION; MARCH 4, 2015 (1) SPECIAL SESSION, MARCH 4, 2015 (2) SPECIAL SESSION; AND MARCH 9, 2015 REGULAR SESSION

A motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Whatley to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO EXPRESS ITEMS OF CONCERN RELATING TO THE CITY OF ATHENS

Robert Sullivan, East Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse asked the City to consider its policy in terms of tobacco and City parks, specifically, electronic cigarettes.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 13th DAY OF APRIL 2015.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary