

REGULAR SESSION

MAY 9, 2022

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Regular Session on Monday, May 9, 2022, 5:30 p.m. in the Civic Hall, Room 216 of the Cain Center 915 S. Palestine Street, Athens, Texas.

with the following members present to-wit:

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

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

Staff Present: John Densmore, Chief of Police; Mandie Quigg, Finance Director; Audrey Sloan, Director of Development Services; Noemi Lopez, Administrative Clerk; Randy Williams, Utilities Director; Chris Baker, Cain Center Director; Whitney Warren, Tourism and Events Coordinator; Lt. Roger Keith; Lt. Billy Westover.

Others present: Sheriff Botie Hillhouse, District Attorney Jenny Palmer, Sheila Davis, Deborah Deas, Rich Flowers, Tommie Thomas, Jacqueline Barker, Debra Wilson, Lakita Hadnot, Jose Rivera-Rocha, Deryl D. Eves, and other interested citizens.

with the following member absent: Mark Carroll.

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

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Mayor Clay.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Tommie Thomas asked the City Council to make Athens a Sanctuary City for the Unborn.

Mayor Clay stated the City Council would move to agenda item 6) Proclamation – Motorcycle Safety and Awareness

PROCLAMATION – MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Mayor Clay proclaimed the month of May as “Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month.”

Mayor Clay stated the City Council would move to agenda item 5) Proclamation – Peace Officers Memorial Day.

PROCLAMATION – PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mayor Clay proclaimed May 15, 2022, as: “PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY” and May 16-20, 2022, as: “ATHENS POLICE WEEK”.

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

Whitney Warren, Tourism and Events Coordinator, announced the following events:

THE TEXAN

- May 13th - Brandon Rhyder & Dakota Ritter
- May 27th and 28th - Old Fiddlers Reunion Contest

CAIN CENTER

- May 17th - Farm & Ranch Tour

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2022, REGULAR SESSION
- b) FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET CALENDAR

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

RESOLUTIONS

- a) DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND TAKE ACTION, AS NECESSARY, CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE HENDERSON COUNTY CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE

District Attorney Jenny Palmer and Sheriff Botie Hillhouse explained Henderson County District Attorney's Office and the Henderson County Sheriff's office are forming the first ever task force in Henderson County completely dedicated to crimes against children. The task force will be responsible for investigating and enforcing all crimes against children in Henderson County and participating municipalities

A motion was made by Councilmember Gross, seconded by Councilwoman Freeman to approve a Resolution supporting the Henderson County Crimes Against Children Task Force. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A REQUEST FROM THOMAS RIVERA FOR APPROVAL OF A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR MANUFACTURED HOME USE IN A SINGLE-FAMILY – 5 ZONING DISTRICT FOR LOT 7H, BLOCK 109 OF ATHENS ORIGINAL TOWN, B. C. WALTERS SURVEY, ABSTRACT 797; LOCATED AT 495 EDMONSON ST. OWNER: JOSE RIVERA-ROCHA

Audrey Sloan, Director of Development Services, presented the item. She stated this property is east of N Palestine and is adjacent to the North Athens Cemetery. The property is currently vacant, and the property owner is requesting to install a manufactured home. This requires a SUP to be approved by council. She stated the current zoning and majority of surrounding zoning is Single-Family – 5. The future land use map designates it as Low Density Residential. Letters of approval were sent to the eight surrounding property owners and no responses were returned.

Mayor Clay opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments.

The Public Hearing was closed.

DISCUSS FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING A REQUEST FROM THOMAS RIVERA FOR APPROVAL OF A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR MANUFACTURED HOME USE IN A SINGLE-FAMILY – 5 ZONING DISTRICT FOR LOT 7H, BLOCK 109 OF ATHENS ORIGINAL TOWN, B. C. WALTERS SURVEY, ABSTRACT 797; LOCATED AT 495 EDMONSON ST. OWNER: JOSE RIVERA-ROCHA

Noemi Lopez, Administrative Clerk, read the caption of the Ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A REQUEST FROM CRYSTAL DAMRON FOR APPROVAL OF A ZONING CHANGE FROM MULTI-FAMILY – 5 TO COMMERCIAL FOR LOT 1C, BLOCK 73 OF ATHENS ORIGINAL TOWN, T. PARMER SURVEY, ABSTRACT 782; LOCATED AT 500 VALLE VISTA DR. OWNER: 500 VALLE VISTA LLC

Ms. Sloan stated this property is located north of Athens Country Club on Valle Vista, formerly the location of Green Oaks Health and Rehabilitation Center which has been vacant for a few years. The property owners are proposing to use the existing building for storage units and the footprint will be the existing building. The current zoning of the property is Multi-Family-5. The future land use map designates it as Low Density Residential. Letters of notification were sent to the surrounding property owners within 200 ft and no responses were returned. The Planning and Zoning commission recommended approval of zoning change to Planned Development this would allow for storage units rather than a zoning change to Commercial. This would limit the potential uses on the property rather than opening a host of different uses in the future. the owners are looking into building more units in the future but as of right now they are only requesting a zoning change.

Mayor Clay opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments.

The Public Hearing was closed.

DISCUSS FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING A REQUEST FROM CRYSTAL DAMRON FOR APPROVAL OF A ZONING CHANGE FROM MULTI-FAMILY – 5 TO COMMERCIAL FOR LOT 1C, BLOCK 73 OF ATHENS ORIGINAL TOWN, T. PARMER SURVEY, ABSTRACT 782; LOCATED AT 500 VALLE VISTA DR. OWNER: 500 VALLE VISTA LLC

Mayor Clay stated she would like to see the change to Planned Development.

Councilmember Smith asked property owners if it would be a problem coming back to council for approval if any changes want to be made, with property owners stating it would not be a problem.

Ms. Lopez read the caption of the Ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A REQUEST FROM BILLY ROBINSON FOR APPROVAL OF A SITE PLAN FOR OFFICE AND AUTO STORAGE USE LOCATED IN THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT – 2 ZONING DISTRICT FOR TRACT 99, C. M. WALTERS SURVEY, ABSTRACT 800; LOCATED AT 3001 NW LOOP 7. OWNER: ROBINSON CONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LLC

Ms. Sloan stated this property is located on the western edge of the city limits on the loop just North of Hwy 31. The property is currently vacant, the owner is proposing to develop the property for an office and tow yard for his business. The current zoning is Planned Development – 2 and the Future Land Use Map designates the property for Commercial use. Letters of notification were sent to five surrounding properties and no responses were returned.

During the Planning and Zoning meeting, it was discussed that TxDOT has issued a permit for one drive approach. The owner is in the process of coordinating with TxDOT and updating the site plan to show one drive approach rather than two.

The project will be developed in phases. The first phase will include the installation of a temporary office building and with a wall sign. The temporary structure will be replaced by a larger, permanent, steel structure during phase two. A metal screening fencing will be erected along the property lines.

The Planning and Zoning Commission did vote to recommend approval of the site plan with the stipulation that it is amended to reflect the drive approach as approved by TxDOT.

Mayor Clay opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments.

The Public Hearing was closed.

DISCUSS FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING `A REQUEST FROM BILLY ROBINSON FOR APPROVAL OF A SITE PLAN FOR OFFICE AND AUTO STORAGE USE LOCATED IN THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT – 2 ZONING DISTRICT FOR TRACT 99, C. M. WALTERS SURVEY, ABSTRACT 800; LOCATED AT 3001 NW LOOP 7. OWNER: ROBINSON CONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LLC

Councilmember Smith asked for clarification on which phase the fence would be built with Ms. Sloan stating that it would be done in the first phase.

Discussion occurred regarding the timeline on the temporary office. The property owners were not present to discuss.

Ms. Lopez read the caption of the Ordinance.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Lopez announced the following future agenda items:

- Recap of 2021/22
- Total cost of the Cain Center Project
- Discuss guidance for 380 Agreements

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 23rd DAY OF MAY 2022.

Toni Clay, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary