

SPECIAL SESSION

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 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
Toni Clay, Mayor Pro-Tem
Robert Gross
SyTanna Freeman

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

Staff Present: Rodney Williams, Interim Chief of Police; Russell Marshall, Fire Chief; Mandie Quigg, Director of Finance; Derek Whiteley, Director of Information Technology; Katie Birk, Tourism and Cultural Resources Coordinator;

others present: Judge Wade McKinney, Sheriff Botie Hillhouse, Chief Deputy Kevin Halbert, Michael Hannigan, Deborah Deas, Pastor Victorio Rockmore, Kathy Givens, Mary Brown, Symone Brown, Arrecia Green, Tabitha Peters, Emmi Page, Pastor Ernest Freeman, Audranette Tilley, JW and Cheryl Lambright, Rene Smith, Kathy Means, and Rich Flowers.

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

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Pastor Victorio Rockmore.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

There was no discussion.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION, AS NECESSARY, CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION CANVASSING ELECTION RETURNS OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 CITY OF ATHENS GENERAL ELECTION

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary, explained the item is to canvass results from the November 3, 2020 General Election for the purpose of electing one (1) Councilmember place 2, one (1) Councilmember place 3, and one (1) Councilmember place 4. The Early Voting Ballot Board convened on Wednesday, November 11, 2020.

With the following election results:

Aaron “Bubba” Smith City Council Place 2 - 3,323 votes

SyTanna “Sytonia Freeman” City Council Place 3	1829 votes to
Former Councilmember Ed McCain	1722
Robert Gross City Council Place 4	3,185 votes

She stated the Resolution declares election results and the numbers will be recorded in the City of Athens Election Register.

A motion was made by Councilmember Gross, seconded by Councilwoman Clay to approve a Resolution canvassing election returns of the November 3, 2020 City of Athens General Election. The motion carried unanimously.

OATH OF OFFICE AND THE CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION TO RE-ELECTED COUNCILMEMBER PLACE 2, AARON SMITH

Ms. Hambrick administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Council Member, Place 2 – Aaron Smith and issued the Certificate of Election.

OATH OF OFFICE AND THE CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION TO NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEMBER PLACE 3, SYTANNA FREEMAN

Ms. Hambrick administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Council Member, Place 3 – SyTanna Freeman and issued the Certificate of Election.

OATH OF OFFICE AND THE CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION TO RE-ELECTED COUNCILMEMBER PLACE 4, ROBERT GROSS

Ms. Hambrick administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Council Member, Place 4 – Robert Gross and issued the Certificate of Election.

The City Council recessed at 5:37 p.m.

The City Council returned to Special Session at 5:54 p.m.

Mayor Montgomery recognized Judge Wade McKinney, Sheriff Botie Hillhouse and Chief Deputy Kevin Halbert for being in attendance.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Councilmember Smith recommended Councilwoman Clay to serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Freeman to elect Councilwoman Clay to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion carried unanimously.

ENTER INTO WORK SESSION

The City Council entered work session.

DISCUSS DISPATCH RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager, explained the dispatch radio communications system was discussed during the budget work session. She stated staff has obtained firm pricing for the system.

Rodney Williams, Interim Chief of Police, presented the Pricing summary for the L3Harris Symphony Dispatch Consoles, Warranty, and Maintenance fees as follows:

-Console Pricing-

Project Total is for two (2) consoles will be \$192,808.67

Options for one (1) additional console will be \$48,216.23

Total for the three (3) consoles will be \$241,024.90

-Warranty & Maintenance Pricing-

Options for 1st year fees will be \$14,368.00

Options for 2nd – 5th year fees will be \$75,768.00 (Approximately \$18,942.00 per year)

Total for Warranty & Maintenance Fees will be \$90,136.00

Pricing summary for SuddenLink Fiber Connection fees (IT Director Derek Whiteley obtained this quote)

-Construction Cost-

\$20,000

-Monthly Maintenance Cost-

\$350.00

Pricing summary for JTS Microwave Back-up Connection fees (IT Director Derek Whiteley obtained this quote)

-Total Cost-

\$14,136.76

Throughout the presentations, discussion occurred regarding the pricing, connection link, coverage area and the maintenance agreement.

Ms. Borstad stated the item will appear on a future agenda in the form of a budget amendment.

DISCUSS PUBLIC FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Ms. Borstad explained the item is to discuss public funding applications. She stated during the budget process the intent was to have the grant programs funded the economic development corporation. She explained the entities previously funded through the city could not be funded through the EDC.

She stated the intent is for Council to provide direction to staff regarding a set dollar amount for funding the applications.

Councilwoman Clay expressed a desire to fund the Library at \$15,000.

Councilmember Smith expressed concern with funding applications for events that have already occurred.

Discussion occurred regarding the amounts requested and setting a specific dollar amount to fund.

Ms. Borstad stated the item will appear on the next agenda.

DISCUSS PUBLIC EVENTS EITHER SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF ATHENS OR INSIDE A CITY OWNED FACILITY WITH REGARDS TO THE COVID - 19 PANDEMIC

Ms. Borstad explained there are several city sponsored events approaching and she wanted to bring the item before the Council for discussion due to the COVID numbers increasing daily

Katie Birk, Tourism and Cultural Resources Coordinator presented the December Events:

December 5, 2020: Christmas Parade is currently planned to go on as normal.

December 31, 2020: New Year's Eve Concert at The Texan with Wesley Pruitt Band. This event is not advertised currently and she is thinking about how we could modify it.

Non-City Sponsored Events at The Texan

December 5, 2020: Yuletide Market hosted by Keep Athens Beautiful: Currently scheduled to happen inside The Texan from 12 -5pm.

After much discussion and vetting it was the consensus that the New Years' Eve Concert at The Texan would be canceled.

The annual Christmas Parade will appear on the 11/23/20 agenda to add restrictions that consists of the following: no float to attendee contact, post a disclaimer on the event stating that anyone who attends knows the risks associated with attending the parade. and a requirement for masks to be worn.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 23rd DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

Monte Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary