

SPECIAL SESSION

MAY 20, 2019

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Monday, May 20, 2019, 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Annex, 501 N. Pinkerton St, Athens, Texas with the following members present, to-wit:

Monte Montgomery, Mayor  
Ed McCain, Mayor Pro Tem  
Robert Gross  
Toni Clay  
Aaron Smith

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager  
Bonnie Hambrick, Secretary  
Blake Armstrong, City Attorney

others present: Buddy Hill, Jennifer Robertson, Mandie Quigg, Scott Coultas, John Karamanos, Randy Jones, Kevin and Jeaneane Lilly, Rich Flowers, Michael Hannigan, Bob and Carol Morton, Jess Laird, Dede Germany, Berta Winn, Deborah Deas, Maurice Cox, Tres Winn, Lisa Montgomery, Chris Tinsley;

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Aaron Smith.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

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

Mayor Montgomery announced the following:

- City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2019 in observance of Memorial Day

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager, announced the following:

- Kiwanis Club organizing Kiwanis Family Fun night Friday, June 7, 2019 from 5 pm to 7 pm @ Kiwanis Park in partnership with Republic Services and the City of Athens

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

John Karamanos, owner of HVAC Manufacturing, addressed the City Council's decision to not approve Athens Economic Development Corporation's recommendation regarding financing for additional manufacturing space for HVAC Manufacturing.

Scott Coultas, Operations Manager of HVAC Manufacturing, expressed disappointment regarding the City Council's decision to not approve Athens Economic Development Corporation's recommendation regarding financing for additional manufacturing space for HVAC Manufacturing.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) CONSIDER A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF TYLER STREET AND PRAIRIEVILLE STREET FOR ATHENS OLD FIDDLERS REUNION AND CONTEST AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF TEXAS FOR THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF STATE HIGHWAYS

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

DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION, AS NECESSARY CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW MEMBER TO THE ATHENS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jess Laird, stated his concern with the City's apparent move to take control of the Athens Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors as well as additional concerns regarding the appointment of a new member, and structure, and organization of Athens Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Laird asked the City Council to delay any decisions today and for the City Council to hold Joint Meetings with Athens Economic Development Corporation to determine the future strategic direction of the economic development of the city.

John Trent, stated the by-laws of the Athens Economic Development Corporation are flexible enough to allow for the board member living outside the city limits to continue serving until his term expires in September.

Discussion occurred regarding the residency of Athens Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors. There was also discussion regarding allowing the Athens Economic Development Corporation to bring forth a nomination to the City Council for an appointment to the Athens Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Gross to appoint Councilmember Ed McCain as a member to the Athens Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

Councilmember Smith stated he would like to give the economic development corporation a chance to self-govern.

The item died due to the lack of a second.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION, AS DESIRED, REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE STRUCTURE, ORGANIZATION, AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ATHENS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Tres Winn asked if the Athens Economic Development Corporation's Executive Director Contract had an expiration date with the Mayor stating yes the contract expired in January.

Maurice Cox spoke in favor of the current structure of the Athens Economic Development Corporation.

John Trent stated Athens Economic Development Corporation has authority under the by-laws to enter into a contract with Executive Director, Lisa Denton. He cited a list of cities that do provide severance packages for their Executive Director.

Discussion occurred regarding severance package.

Councilmember Gross asked if the Council could convene in Executive Session.

Blake Armstrong, City Attorney, explained under Texas Local Government Code 551.071 the City Council can convene in Executive Session to receive legal consultation from the City Attorney.

The City Council adjourned to Executive Session at 4:24 p.m.

The City Council returned to Special Session at 4:52 p.m.

Mayor Montgomery stated the City Council has consulted with the City Attorney on issues. He stated he opposes a severance within the Executive Director's contract. He stated the following additional concerns

- The direction of the Athens Economic Development Corporation
- Communication
- Requested information from Athens Economic Development Corporation
- Economic Development Board of directors living outside the city limits

Councilmember Gross stated he also opposes the severance within the Executive Director's contract.

Councilmember Gross stated he wanted to go on record as saying the Council has said repeatedly commended Athens Economic Development Corporation with its retention of projects. He stated the issue is with the new companies coming in from the economic development corporation's marketing efforts. He further stated the City Council may want to research spending the money in a different manner for infrastructure for future companies. He also stated there is a lack of communication.

Councilmember Smith stated he opposes severance within the Executive Directors contract. He stated the communication is very important and the flow of information has to be more readily available.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Gross, seconded by Councilmember McCain, that the current contract minus any severance portion, between Athens Economic Development Board of Directors and the Executive Director, Lisa Denton expires, or the current Economic Development Corporation Executive Director ceases employment with the Athens Economic Development Board, the Executive Director position will become a City employee reporting to the City Manager. The motion carried unanimously.

#### MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Gross requested an update on the Collection Site.

#### ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2019.

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Monte Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary