

SPECIAL SESSION

AUGUST 5, 2015

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Tuesday, August 5, 2015, 8:30 a.m. in the City of Athens Training Center, 622 S. Prairieville St. with the following members present, to-wit:

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

Philip Rodriguez, City Administrator
David Hopkins, Finance Director
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

DISCUSS/CONSIDER FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGETS
AND PROGRAMS, STRATEGIES, VISION AND GOALS

The invocation was given by Councilmember Montgomery

Philip Rodriguez, City Manager opened the meeting with summarizing the proposed budgets from various departments that were presented on Tuesday, August 4, 2015.

The City Council adjourned for break at 9:25 a.m.

The City Council reconvened to Special Session at 9:37 a.m.

Mr. Rodriguez explained that he is not recommending a tax rate increase for FY 2016 and would be presenting to Council the adoption of a tax rate of .645140/\$100 to appear on a future agenda with their direction.

Mr. Rodriguez informed the Council that Keep Athens Beautiful is requesting that the City continue their funding, and to consider increasing it if at all possible. David Hopkins explained that current funding to KAB is in the amount of \$10,000, with \$7,500 being allotted for mowing costs and \$2,500 being allotted for office space and communications. He explained that this is the same amount that the City has provided in the past. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to increase funding to Keep Athens Beautiful in the amount of \$5,000 with total funding for Fiscal Year 2016 at \$15,000.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Clint W. Murchison Henderson County Memorial Library has requested continued funding from the City of Athens as well. David Hopkins explained that current funding to the Library is in the amount of \$12,000. It was the consensus of the Council to continue funding in the amount of \$12,000 to the Clint W. Murchison Henderson County Memorial Library.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the City should consider continuing funding to the Henderson County Humane Society in the amount of \$52,000. It was the consensus of the City Council to continue funding support to the Henderson County Humane Society at the same rate.

The Council discussed the Cain Center and their need for additional funding in order to remain operational. Councilmember Montgomery stated that he believed it was the responsibility of the City to maintain the walls and the roof of the Cain Center. Councilmember Elliott stated that he

could support funding the same amount or more if it was earmarked for repairs to the exterior of the building. Mayor Vaught recommended that \$130,000 be earmarked to the Cain Center with the rule that it be used only for upkeep and maintenance of the building. No consensus was reached to that recommendation. Mr. Rodriguez asked the Council if they would like him to invite the Cain Center, Inc. to meet with the Council to see if there were any changes in what they were doing or in their budget. Mayor Vaught stated that he wanted the Council to make a decision so that the City could let the Cain Center know what funding they would have or not.

After much discussion it was the shared consensus of Mayor Vaught, Councilmember Montgomery, Councilmember Whatley, Councilmember Elliott, and Councilmember Winn that the previous annual allocation to the Cain Center in allocation of approximately \$60,000 for water, wastewater and insurance will remain, however the \$130,000 will be repurposed for immediate Core Service needs in the City of Athens instead.

The City Council adjourned for lunch at 11:30 a.m.
The City Council reconvened to Special Session at 12:12 p.m.

Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Hopkins reviewed the 2004 Water/Waste Water Bonds Fund.

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed all department budgets.

Mr. Rodriguez explained the need for a Charter Review Committee, stating the City Attorney, Blake Armstrong should oversee the committee when the time comes.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER PLACING PROPOSED SPECIFIC TAX RATE, TAX RATE
ADOPTION AND ALL RELATED MATTERS ON FUTURE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Winn to place a proposal to adopt the tax rate of .645140 on a future agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 10th day of August, 2015.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary