

## REGULAR SESSION

February 11, 2016

The Airport Advisory Board of the City of Athens, Texas met in Regular Session on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in Derek D. Daniels Conference Room of the Athens Partnership Center, 201 W. Corsicana St., Athens, Texas with the following members present, to wit:

Steve Grant

Larry Babb

John Cain

Philip Rodriguez, City Manager

Thanasis Kombos, Community Development Manager

others presents: Blake Wilson, Wayne Addkison, Phil Becker, and other interested citizens;

with the following members absent: Sheri Robson, Charlie Tidmore;

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

**CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2016, SPECIAL SESSION.**

A motion was made by Member Babb, seconded by Member Cain approving the minutes of the January 14, 2016 Special Session. The motion carried unanimously.

### UPDATE ON AIRPORT MASTER PLAN.

Thanasis Kombos, Community Development Manager, stated that there was one major change to the contract. There was some specific language regarding the 5, 10, and 20 year projected plan for the airport, incorporating a 5,000, 6,500, and 7,500 feet runway. All the changes were sent to TxDot and approved. TxDot decided the plan itself was going to cost more than originally anticipated. Originally the agreement would be 10% of the project at \$15,000 for a \$150,000 price tag. The cost has now risen to \$185,000, so now the 10% fee has risen to \$18,500. The check was made today, and it has been processed through the grant department through TxDot. The contract is currently awaiting a signature from Garver.

Member Grant asked how soon they will start, with Mr. Kombos stating he is waiting to hear back from Robert Jackson saying that Garver has signed the contract. He is anticipating that it will be pretty quick.

Member Grant asked if the timeframe was still six (6) to nine (9) months, with Mr. Kombos stating the project timeframe was still six (6) to nine (9) months.

Member Grant stated that his understanding was that Garver was not going to go too in-depth of the economic feasibility study on the Master Plan.

Mr. Kombos stated that there is going to be an economic feasibility component to the Master Plan, but it is going to be pretty high level and will be a necessary component to the wider Master Plan. As far as an in-depth economic feasibility study, that is not something that will be incorporated in the Master Plan.

Phil Becker asked if the document would address the short-term 5 year, 5,000 feet runway versus the longer 10 year, 6,500 feet runway.

Mr. Kombos stated that Staff elected to insert this language once explicitly in the contract. Staff did not want to over emphasize this with TxDot. It was incorporated in the scope of work, and to his knowledge it will be included in the Master Plan.

Mr. Grant stated that he preferred to look sooner at the economic impact of additional runway footage. If we decide to go into the public sector more than what initially was described, we may want to look at the impact.

Mr. Kombos stated that the Airport Board could definitely have those conversations, but at the moment he stated they should proceed with working on the Master Plan, but as that process finishes up the board could talk about what an economic feasibility would look like. Based upon the board determination, if it is a critical component to grow the airport, and it is a document to demonstrate the overall impact that this will have for the greater Athens area and other businesses and private citizens.

Member Babb stated that it is critical to know the economic impact.

Mr. Kombos stated that he could bring the Financial Statement for the board to look at.

Member Grant stated that he wanted to make sure that the documents that the Board has, and that Phil Becker has is what got sent to TxDot and Garver.

Phil Becker stated that the insurance companies have a runway length of up to 5,000 feet if they have 5,001 feet then it is stated at greater than 5,000 feet.

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

There was no discussion.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S UPDATE

Mr. Kombos stated that the City completed some drainage work around the T-Hangars. A culvert was installed, and also a drainage area was dug out around the hangars.

Mr. Kombos stated that he spoke with an arborist and is awaiting a quote from him on the cost of the tree abatement. Staff has signed permission to abate the trees from the majority of the surrounding property owners. One of the owners that we do not have permission from yet is an out of town owner. He is hoping to come to terms with them on the trees on their lot. This is in relation to the letter that was received from the FAA. Staff is wanting to respond by taking corrective action so there is no liability as we proceed with the Master Plan.

Mr. Kombos stated that the City was approached by Jim Hudson and Rick Peterson about entering into a land lease. There are four (4) lots that were dedicated to be developed for hangars. They approached the City to utilize two (2) of those four (4) hangers to develop a hangar. There is no other use for those lots besides developing hangars. They will bring water and electric to the lots.

Mr. Kombos stated that he and Mr. Rodriguez will be attending the TxDot Aviation Conference next month. This coincides with the next scheduled meeting, so the Board will need to make a decision of either canceling the meeting and waiting until April to meet, or calling a Special Session.

Member Grant stated that unless something is pressing every other month is fine to have a meeting. If something comes up a special call meeting will be fine.

Philip Rodriguez, City Manager, asked if there was any Board hesitation to the hangars that were going to be developed.

Member Grant stated that he just wanted to make sure that developing the hangars would not interfere with the Master Plan process. He further stated that they needed to look at a uniform and set price to be fair and transparent.

#### ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

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PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 17th DAY OF MARCH, 2016.

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Steve Grant, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary