

## WORK SESSION

MARCH 15, 2021

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Work Session on Monday, March 15, 2021, 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  
Toni Clay, Mayor Pro Tem  
Aaron Smith  
Robert Gross  
SyTanna Freeman

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager  
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

Staff Present: Mandie Quigg, Finance Director; Audrey Sloan, Director of Development Services; John Densmore, Chief of Police; Katie Birk, Tourism and Cultural Resources Coordinator; Tim Perry, Public Works Director; Derek Whiteley, Director of Information Technology; Sissy Geddie, HR Manager

others present: Rich Flowers, Deborah Deas, Michael Hannigan, Freddie and Wanda Paul, Heather Fossis, Steven Blakemore, Chris Baker, Bob and Carol Morton

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

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Monte Montgomery.

Mayor Montgomery stated the City Council would move to agenda item 4) Discuss prohibiting the discharge of firearms in the city limits

### DISCUSS PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS IN THE CITY LIMITS

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager, explained several citizens expressed concern regarding the discharge of firearms in the Northside of town.

Audrey Sloan, Director of Development Services, explained the City's current Ordinance prohibits the discharge of any gun, pistol or firearm of any kind, including air rifles or pistols, or compressed air or gas operated pellet or dart guns or pistols, in, on, along or across any public street, alley, park, schoolground or any public lands within the city. She further stated the current Ordinance addresses public property, however, it does not address the discharge of firearms on private property.

Ms. Sloan explained staff looked at surrounding cities for policies regarding the discharge of firearms and those cities had a prohibition of the discharge of firearms within the city limits that applied to both public and private property.

After much discussion, and vetting it was recommended that staff make modifications and revisions to the Ordinance to address target shooting, sports shooting, and repetitive firing, on private property regardless of acreage.

Councilmember Gross also stated the property owner with the gun range should be contacted and made aware.

Mayor Montgomery stated the City Council would move back to agenda item 2) Discuss Cain Center Operating Budget including Personnel, Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment.

#### DISCUSS CAIN CENTER OPERATING BUDGET INCLUDING PERSONNEL, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT

Ms. Borstad explained that a committee was formed called the “Cain Center Committee” that is meeting each Friday to discuss the Cain Center Project.

She stated that Council needed to look at purchases that would be made outside the construction project, such as Wi-Fi equipment, gym equipment, furniture and fixtures, software, and computers.

Ms. Borstad presented the Cain Center FF&E Funding list. There was discussion regarding the Wi-Fi Equipment, Gym Equipment, Membership Fees, and room rental rates.

After much discussion and vetting the following recommendations were made:

- Add additional equipment for cardio (treadmills)
- Add stair steppers
- Examine the possibility of a bus to transport from the North and West side of the city to the Cain Center
- Annual membership \$585.00 for nine (9) months if paid in advance, will receive three (3) months free
- Membership fees for residents vs. nonresidents
- Research sand volleyball
- Compare the membership fees with the City of Mineola

#### DISCUSS POSSIBLE LOCATION OF NEW POLICE FACILITY

Ms. Borstad explained discussion has occurred regarding the location of the new Police Facility. She provided the following major thoroughfare locations:

- 3.82 acres located on W Corsicana St.
- 4.68 located on E Tyler St & N Wofford St.
- 3.63 located on E Tyler St & N Faulk St.
- 3.21 Existing location on N. Pinkerton

There was discussion regarding the locations.

Ms. Borstad stated nine (9) firms responded to the request for qualification for Architectural and Engineering Service for a New Police Department Facility. She stated the selected firm will assist in providing recommendations for a location and renderings.

After discussing the four (4) locations several Councilmembers stated they would like to see the new police facility remain in its current location, however direction was provided to the City Manager to look at the commercial properties and their cost.

#### DISCUSS ZONING DISTRICTS AND MAXIMUM NUMBER OF FARM ANIMALS ALLOWED

Ms. Borstad stated staff received a request to review the Ordinance.

Ms. Sloan stated in the Code of Ordinances farm animals are addressed in two (2) locations: The Zoning Ordinance and in Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances. Ms. Sloan reviewed the Ordinance and Chapter, explaining what animals are allowed in the zoning districts. She presented the number and type of animal allowed by Zoning District.

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After discussion, the City Manager stated she and staff will review the current Ordinance to improve consistency, compliance, and enforcement.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2021

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Monte Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary