

REGULAR SESSION

JULY 27, 2020

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Regular Session on Monday, July 27, 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:

Ed McCain, Mayor Pro Tem  
Toni Clay  
Robert Gross

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager  
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

Staff Present: Buddy Hill, Chief of Police; Tim Perry, Public Works Director; Joanie Ahlers, Economic Development Director; Val Franklin, Office Manager, Athens Economic Development

others present: Sytonia Freeman, Deborah Deas, Brent Muecke, Michael Hannigan, Wesley Hill

with the following members absent: Mayor Monte Montgomery and Councilmember Aaron Smith.

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

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Clay.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Brent Muecke, read the following statement:

Good afternoon Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, City Manager, City Council Members, City Secretary and Police Chief My name is Brent Muecke and I live at 5880 County Road 4518. LaRue, Texas.

First. I would like to thank the Council for allowing me to speak this afternoon. At the last meeting I once again expressed my concerns about safety concerns regarding the Kiwanis City Park. At the end of the meeting the Mayor mentioned that safety issues at the park need to be discussed. The Mayor has kept his word and it is an agenda item for the meeting this afternoon. I am a person that will keep going even when the situations get tough. It is all about keeping the issue alive and never give up. This America is great even if we are faced with uncertainly at this time.

I will be of help in any way possible to make the park safer for the children. There is no parent that wants to take their child to the emergency room for an injury. That is what safety is all about. Taking corrective action before a serious medical injury happens.

Back at the May 22, 2017, I spoke to Council about the use of water at the children's splash pad at a cost of over \$20,000 per month to the citizens of Athens. This was the amount that the City Manager reported to the paper. There is no filtration system and this is another issue that concerns me. Water is a precious gift from God and we need to use it in a responsible manner. Once again, I would like to thank the Mayor Pro Tem and Council for having safety issues discussed this evening.

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

There were no updates provided.

Mayor Pro Tem McCain announced the City Council would move to agenda items 10) Discuss, consider and take action, as necessary, concerning the approval of revisions to the City of Athens Covid-19 Small Business Support and Recovery Grant application and guidelines

**DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION, AS NECESSARY,  
CONCERNING THE APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO THE CITY OF  
ATHENS COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RECOVERY  
GRANT APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES**

Elizabeth Borstad, City Manager, explained that Athens Economic Development Corporation expended \$48,000 of the \$100,000 that was approved for the Small Business Support and Recovery Grant. She explained there was a request to remove the Payroll Protection Plan disqualification from the grant and reopen grant applications for businesses that were closed during the government shutdown.

Councilmember Gross stated he would like to see what the Federal Government will do with a second stimulus. He stated the Bill may include \$190,000,000.

Councilmember McCain agreed that the City should wait to and find out where the second stimulus package will fall and then move forward with the Athens Economic Development Board.

This item was tabled.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2020 REGULAR SESSION**
- b) CONSIDER APPROVING MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2020 SPECIAL SESSION**
- c) CONSIDER A RESOLUTION AWARDED BID TO CAPPS-CAPCO CONSTRUCTION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER IMPROVEMENTS ON PARK, PRAIRIEVILLE, AND E. CLINTON STREETS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CAPPS-CAPCO CONSTRUCTION**
- d) CONSIDER A RESOLUTION AWARDED BID TO REYNOLDS AND KAY FOR THE 2020 SEAL COAT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH REYNOLDS AND KAY, LLC.**
- e) CONSIDER A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SALE OR DISPOSAL OF SAID PROPERTY**

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

DISCUSS KIWANIS PARK SAFETY ISSUES

Ms. Borstad provided an update on the bridge project at Kiwanis Park. She stated the work is contracted with Tejas Contractors. She stated they are waiting for Tejas to install the bridge.

Discussion occurred

Mayor Pro Tem McCain stated the item will appear on the August 24, 2020 City Council agenda for an update.

DISCUSS FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING A REQUEST FROM HEATHER FOSSIS FOR APPROVAL OF THE CLOSURE AND ABANDONMENT OF THE FIRST STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY RUNNING NORTH AND SOUTH BETWEEN BLOCK 13 AND BLOCK 14 OF THE BISHOP HEIGHTS ADDITION, T. PARMER SURVEY A-782 AND RETAINING A 25' FEET WIDE WATER AND SEWER EASEMENT IN THE CENTER

This item was not discussed.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION, AS NECESSARY, CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DIRECT THE UTILITY BILLING DEPARTMENT TO RESUME THE STANDARD WATER CUT-OFF PROCESSES BEGINNING WITH THE AUGUST 2020 BILLING CYCLE

Ms. Borstad explained the Resolution is a proposal to resume the standard water cut-off processes beginning with the August 2020 billing cycle.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Clay, seconded by Councilmember Gross to approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to direct the Utility Billing Department to resume the standard water cut-off processes beginning with the August 2020 billing cycle. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 (PERSONNEL MATTERS; CLOSED MEETING); TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE:

a) CHIEF OF POLICE

The City Council convened in Executive Session at 5:46 p.m.

The City Council returned to Regular Session at 5:56 p.m.

CONSIDER ACTION RESULTING FROM DELIBERATIONS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 (PERSONNEL MATTERS; CLOSED MEETING); TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE:

a) CHIEF OF POLICE

A motion was made by Councilmember Gross, seconded by Councilwoman Clay authorizing the City Manager to enter into a retirement agreement with the Chief of Police. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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Ms. Borstad stated a Utility Fund Budget Work Session is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2020.

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Monte Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary