

SPECIAL SESSION

JANUARY 7, 2015

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Annex with the following members present, to-wit:

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

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary
Conor Bateman, City Attorney

others present: Glen Herriage, Gary Crecelius, Buddy Hill, John McQueary, David Hopkins, Haven Cox, Sherri Skeeters, Tyler Hendrickson, Mary Kay Thomas, Jeffrey Enoch, Rich Flowers and other interested citizens;

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Montgomery.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER AUTHORIZING USE OF CENTRAL PARK ON
JANUARY 17, 2015 FOR STAGING OF EQUINE FOR 2015 MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR. PARADE, AS REQUESTED BY HENDERSON COUNTY BLACK
RODEO ASSOCIATION

Ms. Toni Johnson explained that the Henderson County Black Rodeo Association is requesting the use of Central Park on January 17, 2015 for the staging of the horses and a stage for the Solidarity Speakers for the 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. Ms. Johnson explained they have included a solidarity walk behind the parade. Ms. Johnson explained the Association is unable to use the stage at T.V.C.C. for the Solidarity Speakers. She stated that the Association will assume all responsibility of cleaning up after the horses and will also provide insurance for the event. A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Whatley to authorize use of Central Park on January 17, 2015 for the staging of Equine for the 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. Parade and a stage for the Solidarity Speakers contingent upon approval of insurance, as requested by Henderson County Black Rodeo Association. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS;

A) DISCUSS APPROVING CHANGE ORDER FOR CONTRACT #712020 FIRST
SEWER GRANT

Tyler Hendrickson with Velvin and Weeks stated that this is the close-out of a project that provided first time sewer service to 12 houses. He stated that the first time sewer service was provided in the area of Old Kaufman, and Magnolia Streets. He stated there were items in the project that were not needed and the project under ran by \$64,278 and this money is being returned to the City. Mary Kay Thomas with Amazing Grants, Inc. stated the project has been completed and all documentation has been submitted to the State and the City should receive funds in approximately 30 days. She stated it has been a pleasure working with the City. The item will appear on the agenda Monday, January 12, 2015.

B) DISCUSS AUTHORIZING TASK ORDER WITH VELVIN & WEEKS CONSULTING ENGINEERS TO DESIGN WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS ON S. PRAIRIEVILLE ST., PARK ST. AND CAYUGA DRIVE

Glen Herriage, Director of Utilities, explained that this Task Order is with the negotiated Velvin and Weeks normal standard rates to design water line improvements on S. Prairieville St., Park St. and Cayuga Drive. He stated Staff's recommendation is to authorize the Task Order. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

C) DISCUSS FUNDING OPTIONS FOR CAIN CENTER

Conor Bateman, City Attorney, explained Legislative options of introducing a Bill to increase funding options for the Cain Center. Mr. Bateman explained previous Rep. Gooden and current Representative Spitzer are familiar with the Cain Center and indicated an interest in assisting. He explained if the Legislators were to approve a new Bill for the City or Cities similar in size during the Legislative Session or future sessions; the City may have the option to impose more than seven (7) percent in Hotel/Motel tax. He explained if Council wants to see a Legislative option proceed; now is the time to get a Bill introduced.

Councilmember Montgomery stated he would like to see a study from surrounding hotels as one hotel is currently struggling and increasing the Hotel/Motel taxes could be an extra burden on the hotels.

Councilmember Winn stated he had one brief conversation with a hotel owner and he is totally against the tax increase as he is currently struggling.

Mayor Vaught stated he would like to see a meeting with the hotel owners to hear their view point on an increase in Hotel/Motel taxes.

After further discussion, the item will appear on the agenda Monday.

D) DISCUSS ACTION REGARDING HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

David Hopkins, Director of Finance, explained that the City has received two (2) payments from the Holiday Inn Express of the three (3) that were missing and they are now 1 month past due.

Conor Bateman reminded the Council of the remedies the City does have which include cutting off the utilities or shutting the hotel down if the Hotel/Motel taxes are not current. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

E) DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development explained that the terms of Charlie Tidmore and Sherri Robson are expiring from the Airport Advisory Board, with both members desiring reappointment. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

F) DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO PARKS BOARD

Gary Crecelius explained that the terms of Jay Eckert, Hugh Armstrong and Clyde Bowman, Sr. are expiring from the Parks Board, with each desiring reappointment.

Councilmember Elliott explained that Chris Tinsley has expressed interest in serving on the Parks Board. He stated that Mr. Tinsley wants to build 4 ball parks. Councilmember Elliott explained that this board is not meeting on a regular basis and a new member may generate new interest.

Gary Crecelius explained that he would contact Steve Grant to find out if he would voluntarily resign from the Parks Board.

Councilmember Winn stated the Parks Board should meet on a regular basis. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

G) DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO SUBSTANDARD BUILDING COMMISSION

Gary Crecelius explained that the terms of Will Traxson and Tilo Galvan are expiring from the Substandard Building Commission, with both members desiring reappointment. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

H) DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

Gary Crecelius explained that the terms of Todd Fowler, Thomas Faulk and Charles Morgan Jones are expiring from the Zoning Board of Adjustments, with each desiring reappointment. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

I) DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO ZONING COMMISSION BOARD

Gary Crecelius explained that the terms of Gail Chock and Tony Kalawe are expiring from the Zoning Commission Board with Mr. Kalawe desiring reappointment and Ms. Chock has termed out. He explained the Zoning Commission Board will need an appointment to this five member board. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

J) DISCUSS TRANSFER OF INSPECTION DEPARTMENT VEHICLE TO A.M.W.A.

Mr. Hopkins explained A.M.W.A. has taken over the Inspection function. He explained a vehicle was purchased which is a capital asset, and he is seeking authorization from the Council to transfer the title of the truck to A.M.W.A. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSENT AGENDA;

- A) DISCUSS APPROVING MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2014 SPECIAL SESSION, NOVEMBER 24, 2014, REGULAR SESSION, DECEMBER 3, 2014 SPECIAL SESSION, AND DECEMBER 8, 2014 REGULAR SESSION.

These items will appear on the Consent Agenda on Monday.

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

There was no discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS, DELIBERATIONS REGARDING TOP CANDIDATES FOR THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

The City Council adjourned to Executive Session.

The City Council returned to Special Session.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER ACTION RESULTING FROM DELIBERATIONS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION; SECTION 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS; REGARDING TOP CANDIDATES FOR CITY ADMINISTRATOR

No action was taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 4th DAY OF MARCH, 2015.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary