

SPECIAL SESSION

APRIL 8, 2015

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Wednesday, April 8, 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

Philip Rodriguez, City Administrator
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

others present: David Hopkins, Glen Herriage, Gary Crecelius, Buddy Hill, John McQueary, Haven Cox, Sherri Skeeters, Corey Frentress, Steve Grant, Phil Becker, Chris Tinsley, Toni Johnson, Charlie Tidmore, Bill Clark, Jay Eckert and 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.

Mayor Vaught welcomed Philip Rodriguez as the newly appointed City Administrator.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No action was taken.

HEAR UPDATE FROM PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

Chris Tinsley, Chairman of Parks Board, stated the task of the Parks Board was to present a master plan in phases to the City Council of what improvements are needed for all City parks. He explained the Parks Board had several meetings and the consensus of the board was to outline for the Council a Phase 1 which is doable now and Phase 2 would be over the course of five (5) to ten years.

He further explained the immediate needs for city parks as follows:

Coleman Park - construction of two-sided concession stand between baseball and soccer fields and the removal of current concession stand at baseball section to be replaced with open gazebo.

Cain Park - brick dugouts, backstops and netting to match TVCC's field at the existing location, field surface repair needs to be raised and properly slope the playing fields and dirt work to repair existing drainage problems surrounding the concession stand.

Central Park - Mr. Tinsley stated that citizens have requested a dog park and the board feels that Central Park could be the location. It would require installation of chain link enclosure with shade and a water source.

Mr. Tinsley suggested the mechanism used to fund the improvements is to request proposals from firms to design improvements to the city parks.

Mayor Vaught stated the Parks Board did a fine job investigating and researching the improvements that are needed.

Councilmember Elliott asked City Administrator Philip Rodriguez if he had familiarity with seeking a request for proposals for improvements with Mr. Rodriguez explaining that a request for proposal can be done. The source of funding will be discussed at a later time.

HEAR UPDATE FROM AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Steve Grant, Airport Advisory Board Member, presented an update on Airport projects. He explained there was a public hearing on April 2, 2015 regarding the letter of interest submitted to TxDot regarding a federal aid grant for Master Plan Update and it is moving forward. He stated TxDot is expecting approval on April 30, 2015 for a Master Plan for the full Airport facility. He explained there was a lengthy meeting with TxDot on how to proceed in terms of the grant process in general and how to select consultants and what their roles will be. He further stated the Airport Advisory Board is hoping to have grant and consultant in place by the end of August. He explained the selection of the consultant is key to forming cost basis and then putting together the business plan. He further explained that the funds the City committed to are due at the end of July. He stated in the general Master Plan they want to preserve as much infrastructure that is currently at the airport for the new air field.

Phil Becker stated it was a cordial meeting with TxDot and he is anxious to press ahead.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS;

- A) DISCUSS SECOND PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ANNEXATION OF 30.00 ACRES LOCATED IN THE DANIEL HARRISON SURVEY, ABSTRACT 279, (650 SOUTH EAST LOOP 7)

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development, explained that the property is in the process of being annexed at the request of the property owner and the second required public hearing will appear on the agenda Monday, April 13, 2015.

- B) DISCUSS SECOND PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING ANNEXATION OF 296.142 ACRES LOCATED IN THE WILLIAM TRIMMER SURVEY, ABSTRACT 758, MARY ANN PICKETT SURVEY, ABSTRACT 628, AND NELSON BOX SURVEY, ABSTRACT 58 (1271 COUNTY ROAD 4500)

Gary Crecelius explained that the property is in the process of being annexed at the request of the property owner and the second required public hearing will appear on the agenda Monday.

- C) DISCUSS AUTHORIZING USE OF CENTRAL PARK ON JUNE 19, 2015 FOR STAGING OF EQUINE FOR THE 2015 JUNETEENTH FESTIVITIES AND PARADE, AS REQUESTED BY HENDERSON COUNTY BLACK RODEO ASSOCIATION

Toni Johnson explained that the Henderson County Black Rodeo Association (HCBRA) is requesting the use of Central Park on June 19, 2015 for the staging of the equine for the 2015 Annual Juneteenth Festivities and Parade. She stated that the Association wants to use Central Park for a Jazz and Blues Concert from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Ms. Johnson explained that she wanted the event located in a central area so no one would feel uncomfortable.

Councilmember Elliott asked if the music would be played at Central Park from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Mayor Vaught asked if the Association had considered having the event downtown. He stated that HCBRA could set up as the Fiddlers Reunion is set-up.

Chief Hill explained that a request to close the streets must be submitted to TxDot.

After discussion, HCBRA, will request use of Central Park on June 19, 2015 for staging of equine for 2015 Juneteenth Parade and request closure of portions of Prairieville St. and Tyler St. for post parade festivities. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

D) DISCUSS AUTHORIZING OUTDOOR BURN ORDINANCE VARIANCE, AS REQUESTED BY JANE JOSLIN/ROELLEN GIN COMPANY, INC. (2860 F.M. 2495)

John McQueary, Fire Chief, explained that Ms. Joslin is requesting a variance to the Outdoor Burn Ordinance to allow for another one (1) year burn permit due to the large amount of acreage that needs clearing. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

E) DISCUSS LETTER OF INTEREST TO TXDOT AVIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING ADDITIONAL T-HANGARS AT ATHENS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Gary Crecelius explained that the Airport Advisory Board has discussed the possibility of building additional T-Hangars at the airport. He explained the current facility has 12 T-hangars and has remained full since completion in 2008 and there is a waiting list. The Airport Advisory Board felt we should express interest to TxDot to build additional T-Hangars.

Mr. Tidmore explained having additional T-Hangars would bring people to Athens because they would like the airport. This will generate economic activity.

Mayor Vaught asked how many additional T-Hangars should be built; with Mr. Tidmore explaining 12-20 additional T-Hangars should be built. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

F) DISCUSS FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE REPEALING PREVIOUS ORDINANCES RELATED TO RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES AND BULK WATER.

David Hopkins, Finance Director, explained the he has worked with the City Attorney and it is time to repeal old ordinances for water and sewer fees and charges and residential and commercial water and wastewater rates and bulk water rates and establish a new ordinance. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

G) DISCUSS FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE INCREASING RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES AND BULK WATER

David Hopkins explained that this Ordinance will authorize an increase in residential and commercial water and wastewater rates and bulk water rates.

Councilmember Whatley stated that Citizens are asking if the rate increase could be stepped in over a two (2) year period.

After discussion, an ordinance to increase residential and commercial water and wastewater rates and bulk water rates will appear on the agenda Monday.

H) DISCUSS AWARDED BID FOR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR FOR RETRO-FITTING OF PARKING LOT LIGHTS AT COLEMAN PARK

Mr. Crecelius informed the Council that two (2) bids for retro-fitting of parking lot lights at Coleman Park were received. United Pump Supply and Godwin Electric did not meet the minimum specifications. The low bidder did not meet specifications, therefore, he is recommending that all bids be rejected and staff be authorized to re-advertise. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

I) DISCUSS RECEIVING AND APPROVING THE ANNUAL HENDERSON
COUNTY 9-1-1 COMMUNICATION DISTRICT'S BUDGET

Chief Buddy Hill explained that the Health and Safety Code 772.309 states the 9-1-1 District shall submit their annual budget to participating jurisdictions for review and approval. He explained that the Henderson County 9-1-1 District has submitted their fiscal year 2014-2015 budget to the City for approval. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

J) DISCUSS CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE, FREQUENCY AND
FORMAT OF MEETINGS

Philip Rodriguez, City Administrator, discussed the City Council meeting schedule, frequency and format of meetings. Mr. Rodriguez explained that a restructure and consolidation of meetings would improve the quality of work output. He expressed that the City could incorporate Proclamations into meetings to allow for community engagement. He shared an example of how future agendas would look by incorporating the work session into the regular session.

It was the consensus of the Council that Wednesday workshops would no longer be held and beginning May 2015 the City Council will meet the 2nd and 4th Monday nights of each month with the option to call a special meeting if needed.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSENT AGENDA;
A) DISCUSS APPROVING MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2015 SPECIAL
SESSION, AND MARCH 23, 2015 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

Bill Clark, 605 Red Bud Circle, Athens, Texas, addressed Council regarding concerns of dirty water at his residence.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA
CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Mr. Rodriguez expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work for the City of Athens and thanked the Council for their vote of confidence. He explained he has met a lot of Citizens in the community and hopes to continue to engage the community. He informed the Council that he would like to conduct a Council Vision and Planning Session to gather the Council's vision for the City of Athens and start creating strategy maps. He stated that he would like to include the department heads in the planning session.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 27TH DAY OF APRIL, 2015.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary