

SPECIAL SESSION

AUGUST 12, 2014

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Tuesday, August 12, 2014, 8:30 a.m. in the City of Athens Training Center, 622 S. Prairieville St. with the following members present, to-wit:

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

Pam Burton, City Administrator
Pam Watson, City Secretary
David Hopkins, Director of Finance

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Montgomery.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

City Administrator Pam Burton explained the purpose and use of Hotel/Motel Tax. David Hopkins, Director of Finance, explained the estimated revenue of Hotel/Motel Tax.

Sherri Skeeters, Director of Tourism, presented the proposed budget for the Tourism Department and provided the Council with an overview of her experience in tourism. She discussed accomplishments in the Tourism Department, including advertising, promotional videos, press releases, Texas Highways Magazine, Good Morning Texas, Day Tripper and social media.

She informed the Council that the proposed budget has \$110,652 allocated for advertising.

Councilmember Montgomery expressed his feelings that Ms. Skeeters has got Athens out there and he is very pleased.

After discussion, Mayor Vaught explained that the creation of the Tourism Department has allowed the Hotel/Motel Tax funds to be used in the manner for which they were intended.

Ms. Skeeters exited the room.

Police Chief Buddy Hill entered the room and provided an overview of the Athens Police Department. He reviewed the proposed budgets for the Animal Control Department, Police Administration Department, Investigation (CID) Department (including two (2) new vehicles), Patrol Department (including eight (8) new vehicles), and Support Services Department.

The Council discussed the Fleet Vehicle Rotation Program.

After discussion, Chief Hill exited the room.

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development, reviewed the proposed budgets for the Municipal Building Department, Public Health & Safety Department (including one (1) new vehicle), Building Inspection Department, Parks Department, and Airport Department.

Mayor Vaught discussed the Public Health & Safety Department and questioned the fining of repeat offenders, with Mr. Crecelius explaining that tickets are written when needed. Mayor Vaught expressed his desire for the City to pursue the cleaning up of various areas.

The City Council adjourned for lunch.
The City Council reconvened to Special Session.

City Secretary Pam Watson reviewed the proposed budgets for the City Secretary Department, Municipal Court Department, and Utility Billing Department.

David Hopkins, Director of Finance, reviewed the proposed budget for the Finance Department.

Fire Chief John McQueary entered the room, provided an overview of the Fire Department and reviewed the proposed budget for the Fire Department (including Incentive Pay for State Inspector Certifications and one (1) new Command Vehicle).

There was discussion concerning a pay scale adjustment for the Fire Department.

After discussion, Chief McQueary exited the room.

Glen Herriage, Director of Utilities, entered the room and provided the proposed budgets for Streets Department (including \$500,000 Street Program and one (1) new dump truck), Garage Department, Utility Administration Department (including temporary draftsman becoming a permanent position), Water Production Department, Line Maintenance Department, and Wastewater Treatment Department (including the Angelina & Neches River Authority Compost Facility Contract).

The Council discussed budgetary issues resulting from the Athens Municipal Water Authority dispute. The Council also discussed the possibility of no longer adding fluoride to the water system.

The Council discussed the engineering and failing condition of Wood Street due to improper compaction.

The Council reviewed the financial status of the budget, as presented, and discussed possible areas for reducing the budget.

VOTE TO PLACE PROPOSAL TO ADOPT SPECIFIC TAX RATE ON FUTURE
AGENDA

No action was taken.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 22ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2014.

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Watson, City Secretary