

SPECIAL SESSION

SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Wednesday, September 3, 2014, 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
Tres Winn
Joe Whatley

Pam Burton, City Administrator
Pam Watson, City Secretary
Conor Bateman, City Attorney

others present: Bonnie Hambrick, Glen Herriage, Gary Crecelius, Buddy Hill, John McQueary, David Hopkins, Haven Cox, Sherri Skeeters, Michael Hannigan, Corey Frentress, Tom Trimble, Rich Flowers and other interested citizens;

with the following member absent: Charles Elliott;

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.

CONFIRM APPOINTMENT OF CITY SECRETARY

Pam Burton explained that Bonnie Hambrick was selected as the new City Secretary and per City Charter, the City Secretary shall be appointed by the City Administrator with the approval of a majority vote of the full City Council. A motion was made by Councilmember Whatley, seconded by Councilmember Winn to approve the appointment of Bonnie Hambrick as City Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS;

A) DISCUSS SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

City Administrator Pam Burton explained that the second public hearing on the tax increase for fiscal year 2014-2015 will appear on the agenda Monday, September 8, 2014.

B) DISCUSS PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

Ms. Burton explained that the public hearing concerning the budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 will appear on the agenda Monday.

C) DISCUSS RATIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE REFLECTED IN THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

Ms. Burton explained that ratification of the property tax increase reflected in the budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 will appear on the agenda Monday.

D) DISCUSS FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

Ms. Burton explained that first reading of an Ordinance adopting the budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 will appear on the agenda Monday.

E) DISCUSS AMENDING TEXT OF ZONING ORDINANCE #O-12-01

Ms. Burton explained that the proposed draft Ordinance amending the text of the Zoning Ordinance to regulate fertilizer facilities in the City of Athens will appear on the agenda Monday, and if Council chooses to pursue the Ordinance it will go before the Zoning Commission and then be brought back before the Council for action.

City Attorney Conor Bateman reviewed the proposed draft of the Ordinance amendment which addresses hydrous ammonia and ammonium nitrate. After discussion, he informed the Council that any existing facilities would be grandfathered in.

F) DISCUSS FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE GRANTING ELECTRIC FRANCHISE WITH ONCOR ELECTRIC DELIVERY

Ms. Burton explained that staff is recommending renewal of the 20 year franchise with Oncor Electric Delivery, which includes a 4% franchise fee. The item will appear on the agenda Monday.

G) DISCUSS SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE REZONING OF LOT 55D, T. PARMER SURVEY FROM INDUSTRIAL TO COMMERCIAL, OWNED BY LUMBERJACK PARTNERS LLC (1220 S. PALESTINE ST.)

Gary Crecelius explained that second reading of an Ordinance rezoning the old Wulf Outdoor Sports property back to Commercial will appear on the agenda Monday.

H) DISCUSS FORMAL PRESENTATIONS BY EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRMS

Ms. Burton explained that the top 2 Candidates being considered for the Executive Search Firm in acquiring a new City Administrator are Ron Holifield and Chris Hartung, with both planning to be present and make formal presentations before the Council on Monday.

I) DISCUSS ANGELINA & NECHES RIVER AUTHORITY NECHES COMPOST FACILITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

Ms. Burton stated that the Angelina & Neches River Authority Neches Compost Facility (ANRANCF) budget went into effect September 1, 2014. She explained that the City is currently locked into this Contract and if the City should desire to opt out, it requires a 60 day notice prior to September 1, and would involve arbitration and Attorneys. Councilmember Whatley and Mayor Vaught expressed their desire to have meetings earlier next year to discuss the possibility of the City opting out of the contract. The ANRANCF budget for fiscal year 2015 will appear on the agenda Monday.

J) DISCUSS APPOINTMENT TO ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. Burton informed the Council that Morgan Jones has been recommended for appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustments and the item will appear on the agenda Monday.

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

There was no discussion and the meeting was adjourned.

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

Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Watson, City Secretary