

SPECIAL SESSION

SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 5:30 p.m. in the Derek D. Daniels Conference Room of the Athens Partnership Center, 201 W. Corsicana St., Athens, Texas 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 Manager  
Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary

others present: David Hopkins, Gary Crecelius, Buddy Hill, Sherri Skeeters, John McQueary, Haven Cox, Lynn & Tom Leathem, Tyler Hendrickson, Mary Nicholson, 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 FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET

Philip Rodriguez, City Manager, stated he is providing the Council with a current proposed budget and he would bring a more comprehensive budget proposal on September 14, 2015. He explained the general fund did change as a result of funding to the Cain Center. Mr. Rodriguez also informed the Council that Gordon Mayer, Interim Director of Public Works, is asking that \$55,000 from the Water /Sewer 2004 Bond Projects be earmarked this year for the reconditioning of the ground storage tanks.

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed various line items within the budget.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the second public hearing on the tax increase is set for Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> as well as a public hearing on the budget.

Mayor Vaught stated he was informed that the Henderson County Museum mailed a letter requesting funds. He stated the first letter was not received and they sent a second letter and he wanted the Council to be aware of their request.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he spoke with two (2) of the Henderson County Museum Board Members as the letter stated the Museum has facility needs and he asked them to state the specific needs. Mr. Rodriguez stated if the Council chooses to fund this organization it would come in the form of a budget amendment.

DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO ATHENS HOUSING AUTHORITY

Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary, stated the terms of Cassie Ashford, Nancy Spencer and Joey Baggett are expiring from the Housing Authority Board with all three being eligible for reappointment. She explained the Housing Authority is recommending the reappointment of the three members and the item will appear on the agenda for Monday, September 14, 2015.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER REQUEST FROM TRINITY VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (TVCC) TO RENAME THE TVCC SOFTBALL FIELD AT CAIN PARK

Ms. Mary Nicholson, Vice President Institutional Advancement, at Trinity Valley Community College explained that TVCC has the desire to rename the TVCC Softball Field at Cain Park the W.P. “Rip” Drumgoole Field at Cain Park” in honor of W.P. “Rip” Drumgoole who was a long time resident of Athens and Henderson County. Ms. Nicholson stated that Mr. Drumgoole served faithfully both the students of HCJC/TVCC. She stated TVCC Board of Trustees would like to place a bronze plaque with the likeness of Dr. Drumgoole on the backstop facing the concession stand and also place a sign below the scoreboard with “W.P. “Rip” Drumgoole Field at Cain Park” on it. The unveiling would occur on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> during TVCC’s Homecoming events.

A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Montgomery to approve the request from Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC) to rename the TVCC Softball Field at Cain Park to the W.P. “Rip” Drumgoole Field at Cain Park” in honor of W.P. “Rip” Drumgoole. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR LH3

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development, explained LH3 is a hangar at the airport that was built in 1998 by Mr. Bromley. He stated Mr. Bromley no longer has use for it and it was Council’s directive to seek proposals from the public for the leasing of the LH3. Mr. Crecelius stated three (3) proposals were received: Jim Hudson, Edwin Torbett, and Athens Jet Center.

Mr. Crecelius stated the Airport Advisory Board recommended accepting the proposal from Athens Jet Center for LH3 for a five (5) year lease with the option for five (5) more years at \$325.00 per month.

Councilmember Elliott stated the second five year lease should be subject to any rate increases.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Whatley to accept the proposal from Athens Jet Center to lease LH3 for a five (5) year lease with the option for five (5) more years at \$325.00 per month with the 2<sup>nd</sup> five year lease being subject to any rate increases. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER EXECUTING AGREEMENT WITH TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR 2016 ROUTINE AIRPORT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (RAMP) GRANT

Mr. Crecelius explained that this is a 50/50 matching grant with Texas Department of Transportation for maintenance at Athens Municipal Airport. A motion was made by Councilmember Elliott, seconded by Councilmember Montgomery. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A) PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.072  
(DELIBERATION REGARDING THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE OR  
VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY) – OLD HENDERSON COUNTY HOSPITAL

The City Council adjourned to Executive Session at 5:54 p.m.

The City Council returned to Special Session at 6:19 p.m.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER ACTION RESULTING FROM DELIBERATIONS IN  
EXECUTIVE SESSION  
A) OLD HENDERSON COUNTY HOSPITAL

Councilmember Montgomery stated it is a shame that we are at this point with this piece of property. There was a group that showed interest in the old hospital and made an effort to turn it around and it just didn't come through. He stated it is now time to act and take action with the property.

Councilmember Whatley stated the Citizens want it torn down.

Councilmember Elliott stated this would be an expensive project for the City, and he hopes the Citizens understand why we are doing it as it is for the betterment of Athens.

Mayor Vaught stated the City is pursuing the right steps to get the facility demolished.

A motion was made by Councilmember Winn, seconded by Councilmember Whatley, authorizing the City Manager to execute the conveyance of the old hospital property through special warranty deed and property transfer letter from Opportunity Holding LLC. The motion carried unanimously.

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

There was no discussion.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015.

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Jerry D. Vaught, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Bonnie Hambrick, City Secretary