

MINUTES OF MEETING, ATHENS CITY COUNCIL, DECEMBER 20, 2011

The Athens City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Buttram presiding. The invocation was given by Council Member Davis; and upon roll call, the following members were present:

Davis, Jackson, Pelley, Perkinson, Buttram

The following decisions were made and ordered made a part of the records of the Athens City Council.

- 1 -  
MINUTES

The Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of November 15, 2011 was submitted and approved by unanimous consent.

- 2 -  
COMMUNICATIONS

The Boy Scouts of Troop #118 working towards completion of the "Citizenship in the Community" merit badge attended the December 2011 City Council meeting. Mayor Buttram presented each scout with a certificate acknowledging his attendance at the meeting.

PRESENTATION OF VIVID AWARD

Council Member Davis presented the *Very Important Volunteer Individual Award* for December 2011 to Patsy Duckworth for her outstanding support of this community.

- 3 -

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Buttram acknowledged receipt of letters of appreciation for services performed by City staff.

- 4 -  
PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

AUDIENCE

Mayor Buttram opened the meeting for petitions and requests from the audience. There were no petitions or requests presented at this time.

- 5 -  
REPORTS

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Brad Harris, Finance Director, presented the Finance Department Report for the month of November 2011. After brief comments, the report was accepted as presented.

- 6 -

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Chuck Ziegler presented the Police Department Report for the month of November 2011. After brief comments, the report was accepted as presented.

- 7 -

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Jim Dyer presented the Fire Department Report for the month of November 2011. After brief comments, the report was accepted as presented.

- 8 -

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Buttram advised that the following items were discussed during the recent work session and are presented as a part of the Consent Agenda. The recording clerk read the items into the record:

- a.) Approve City of Athens Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2011/12 dated November 30, 2011;
- b.) Accept bid (Bid No. 1554 dated December 6, 2011) as submitted by Cleveland Ready Mix (CRM) for concrete ready mix;
- c.) Appoint Sally Page to fill vacancy on Athens Housing Authority, term expires March 6, 2014;
- d.) Appoint Grady Williams to fill vacancy on Historic Preservation Commission, term expires October 1, 2016.

**On motion by Vice Mayor Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Davis, the Consent Agenda as stated above was approved by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: Davis, Jackson, Pelley, Perkinson, Buttram**  
**NAYS: None**

- 9 -

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY OF ATHENS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-40**

**“A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR THE CITY OF ATHENS, TENNESSEE.”**

The caption of the above-described Resolution was read by the recording clerk. Mr. Brad Harris stated that a change had been made to the Debt Management Policy since the City Council had reviewed it at the December Work Session. A revised copy of the policy had been placed in the council folders. The only change was to the section on Variable Rate Debt that appears on page 8 of the policy. After reviewing the policy, it was felt that this section was too restrictive. Mr. Harris noted that the TML Bond Fund estimated that the City has saved approximately \$7,500,000 as a result of the variable interest rate. Council Member Jackson cautioned against having too much variable rate debt, and noted that a blend of fixed and variable debt was desirable. **Motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Jackson, to approve Resolution No. 2011-40 as presented.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

**AYES: Davis, Jackson, Pelley, Perkinson, Buttram**  
**NAYS: None**

- 10 -

CONSIDERATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY WRITE-OFFS

Mr. Harris gave a brief explanation of personal property taxes. He stated that in talking with the Property Assessor and checking current business licenses it was found that a number of businesses no longer exist and owners are now deceased or cannot be found. **A motion was made by Vice Mayor Perkinson, seconded by Council Member Jackson, to approve request to write-off personal property taxes as detailed in the memorandum from Brad Harris, Finance Director dated December 5, 2011.** Upon roll call, the motion was approved by the following vote:

**AYES: Davis, Jackson, Pelley, Perkinson, Buttram**  
**NAYS: None**

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CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) FOR AN URBAN WATERS SMALL GRANT

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-41**

“A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDING FOR A GRANT FROM THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) URBAN WATERS PROGRAM FOR A COMMUNITY GARDEN/GREENHOUSE.”

The caption of the above-described Resolution was read by the recording clerk. **Motion was made by Council Member Pelley, seconded by Council Member Davis, to approve Resolution No. 2011-41 as presented.** Upon roll call, the resolution was approved by the following vote:

**AYES: Davis, Jackson, Pelley, Perkinson, Buttram**  
**NAYS: None**

- 12 -

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Moore presented the Manager's Report. He reviewed the progress of current city projects/meetings scheduled during the months of December and January. After brief comments, the report was accepted.

- 13 -

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

  
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R. HAL BUTTRAM, Mayor

  
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MITCHELL B. MOORE, City Manager