

SPECIAL SESSION

JANUARY 26, 2011

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 11:00 a.m. in the City of Athens Training Center/EOC, 622 S. Prairieville St. with the following members present, to-wit:

Randy Daniel, Mayor
Jerry Don Vaught
Carol Barton
Elaine Jenkins
Aubrey Jones

Pam Burton, City Administrator
Pam Watson, City Secretary
Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development
Conor Bateman, City Attorney

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

DISCUSS CURRENT ISSUES AND FUTURE PROJECTS

1. City Administrator Pam Burton presented and reviewed the implementation of the updated Nuisance Ordinance. She explained that the vehicle used by the Code Enforcement Officer is out of service due to the age of the vehicle, recommending that a new vehicle be purchased, which will also be driven by the Custodian on an as needed basis. The item will be discussed in the near future.
2. Councilmember Vaught expressed his concerns with the enforcement of the Substandard Ordinance, discussing a substandard property that has been vacant since 2008 and it being brought before the Substandard Commission this month. He expressed his feelings that the new Nuisance Ordinance needs to be a strong commitment to the City and he wants to see progress. Ms. Burton reviewed the process concerning Substandard issues. The Council discussed issues concerning the visibility of Substandard properties.
3. Ms. Burton discussed a policy concerning the release of liens that have been placed on property by the City for nuisance abatements. She reminded the Council that she follows their direction and they should take credit for their actions.

The City Council recessed for lunch at 11:46 a.m.

The City Council returned to Regular Session at 12:25 p.m.

4. Ms. Burton discussed the Special Election for the legal sale of beer and wine in the City of Athens that will be conducted by Henderson County on May 14, 2011. She explained that should the election pass, the Zoning Ordinance will need to be amended to include Districts that will allow for the sale of beer and wine, recommending that this be allowed in the Specific Use Provision-Commercial District. Ms. Burton stated that she has been informed by Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) that they will impose a \$120 permit fee to each applicant and the City of Athens will receive 50% of the permit fee. She explained that there is a possibility of additional City services being needed should the election pass.
5. Ms. Burton informed the Council that they may receive a request to consider a "No Smoking" Ordinance in the future.
6. Ms. Burton discussed the May 14, 2011 Election Day process, informing the Council that Henderson County has requested to conduct their Special Election for the legal sale of beer and wine at City Hall on Election Day. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that the City conduct Early Voting for the City of Athens General Election at City Hall and the City contract with Henderson County to conduct Election Day Voting for the City of Athens General Election at City

Hall, due to the fact that they will be in the same building and it will save the City money.

7. Ms. Burton informed the Council that she has submitted a written request to the Ginger Murchison Foundation for \$500,000 in funding for a proposed new Council Chambers. She stated that the City has \$200,000 reserved for the project and Brinkley Sargent Architects will be conducting a tour of City Hall on 2/01/11 at 10 a.m. to obtain information to prepare a preliminary drawing and cost estimate for the City to provide to the Foundation.

8. Ms. Burton informed the Council that Henderson County Fair Park Board is proposing Legislative action to authorize a 2% Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax for Henderson County and the County will be requesting a Resolution of support from the Council in the near future.

9. Ms. Burton informed the Council that Emanuel Glockzin is hiring a Traffic Engineer to conduct a traffic study on Barbara St. and the results will be provided to the City for consideration.

10. Ms. Burton discussed the Downtown Master Plan that was prepared by SEC Planning, LLC, asking the Council to review the Development Design Standards. Each Council Member will provide a name to Ms. Burton for appointment to the Downtown Revitalization Committee prior to Friday, 1/28/11.

11. Councilmember Vaught and Mayor Daniel discussed the possibility of selling City property known as Central Park to Trinity Valley Community College and purchasing other property for future use for a Police Facility. Ms. Burton explained that an election would be required to eliminate Central Park and the property would be sold to the highest bidder.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 14TH DAY OF MARCH, 2011.

Randy Daniel, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pam Watson, City Secretary