

SPECIAL SESSION

AUGUST 5, 2009

The City Council of the City of Athens met in Special Session on Wednesday, August 5, 2009, 8:30 a.m. at the City of Athens Training Center, 622 S. Prairieville St., Athens, Texas with the following members present, to-wit:

Randy Daniel, Mayor  
Jerry Don Vaught  
Carroll Maberry  
Elaine Jenkins  
Carol Barton

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

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Jenkins.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010

City Administrator Pam Burton presented a budget for a City Department of Tourism being funded by hotel/motel tax.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Vaught, seconded by Councilmember Maberry to cease funding to and eliminate Athens Visitor Initiative Program and create the City Department of Tourism, hiring one (1) employee in January/February 2010 and to distribute hotel/motel tax to all entities funded in fiscal year 2008-2009 at the same amounts, however, all funding in excess of the projected budget will go to the City Department of Tourism, with the entities being notified that all advertising will be funneled through the City of Athens Department of Tourism beginning 10/01/10. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Vaught, Maberry, Jenkins and Barton. Nays: Mayor Daniel.

A motion was made by Councilmember Maberry to provide \$50,000 in funding to the Cain Center from the General Fund. The motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Councilmember Vaught, seconded by Councilmember Barton to provide \$75,000 in funding to the Cain Center from the General Fund. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Vaught, Barton, Jenkins and Mayor Daniel. Nays: Councilmember Maberry.

Due to the City's current economic condition the Council discussed possible ways to increase sales tax, recommending that Athens Economic Development Corporation consider incentives for downtown development in the Central Business District, approve infrastructure improvements for new retail businesses and amend their bylaws to allow input from the Council concerning Board appointments.

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

David Hopkins, Director of Finance stated that the current tax rate is .48108 and effective tax rate is .468397, with the rollback tax rate being .518512. He stated that if the rollback rate is adopted, it would provide an additional \$232,000 in revenue.

A motion was made by Councilmember Barton, seconded by Councilmember Vaught to set the tax rate at .518512 on a future agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2009.

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Randy Daniel, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Pam Watson, City Secretary