

August 29, 2011

STATE OF ALABAMA,
LIMESTONE COUNTY,
CITY OF ATHENS.

The City Council of the City of Athens, Alabama met in regular session at the Athens Police Department Court Room, 951 Hobbs Street East in the said City on August 29, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Councilman Jimmy W. Gill, President of the Council. Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Councilmembers Harold Wales, Jimmy Gill, James Hickman and Mildred Caudle. Councilmember Mignon Bowers was absent. Mayor Marks was present and led the pledge of allegiance. John Hamilton, City Clerk, was present and recorded the minutes of the meeting. Jimmy Gill offered the invocation. The Chairperson stated that a quorum was present and that the meeting was open for transaction of business.

A public hearing was held to hear comments on a Dog Park.

The following spoke in favor of a Dog Park;

Kelly Range, 303 Brookwood, hopes the city and public helps to maintain the dog park.

Dr. John Hammons, 521 13th Street, local veterinarian, hoped signs would be posted that set rules at the park. He is also concerned about the sanitary conditions that would be needed.

Joy Whitt, 1215 West Market Street, spoke in favor of.

Tim Holcomb, 215 Walden Glenn Road, Madison, Alabama, is a councilman in Madison that helped get Madison a dog park. He said he is neutral about having a dog park. He said it has been a positive project for Madison.

Panda Carter, 220 Kellys Way, Harvest, inquired about what role the public would have as to "buying in" with the project. She is for the project.

Shelia Wilbanks, 507 Brookwood Drive East, asked who would repair fences at the park. Also, where would the water for the dogs come from? She asked if there would be specific hours for the park.

No one spoke against the Dog Park.

The public hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Caudle introduced the following resolution:

Appendix A

Resolution _____

Whereas, the City of Athens proposes to construct recreational resources at the Athens Dog Park to provide for the health and well being of the general public; and

Whereas, the City of Athens intends to make application to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs for grant assistance to develop a low impact recreational facility for dogs and dog owners to be able to exercise in a safe controlled environment from the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and

Whereas, said programs are limited to funding a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project costs estimated at \$40,000 which will be used to develop land consisting of approximately two acres.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED , that the City of Athens hold in reserve 60% of the proposed project cost for the purpose of matching Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event a grant is awarded, the City of Athens understands that it will assign assurances to comply with all Federal and State laws, rules and regulations.

The resolution failed due to the lack of a second motion.

Kelly Range said he thought signs were to be placed at city points of entry stating that texting while driving was illegal in Athens. He would like the signs to be installed.

Panda Carter, Friends of Athens Dog Pound, had concerns about the manner of management of Dr. Pitman. She thought the adoption fee of \$92 was too high and the facilities are not as sanitary as she would like.

Councilman Wales introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, ALABAMA to authorize the Public Works department to purchase an office vehicle from the Alabama State Surplus in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 to be funded from line item 519.83506.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Caudle and was unanimously carried.

* * *

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was, upon motion by Councilman Wales and second by Councilwoman Caudle, duly and properly adjourned.

/s/ Jimmy W. Gill
PRESIDENT, CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

/s/ John S. Hamilton
CITY CLERK