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# Morning Fax<sup>®</sup>

Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Athens, Tennessee

## Athens City Council Meets

The Athens City Council met in regular session last night. The main topic was a pay raise for all city employees. Following is a transcript of Mayor Steven Sherlin's comments on the discussion in an interview with Morning Fax reporter Mark Lefler: Mr. Mayor, a proposal was made to give employees an across the board or a percentage increase in pay. And what was the discussion on that? And what was the final decision? Well, if we back up just a little bit last July, the previous council for this year, this current budget year gave all employees a 5% raise when the new council was elected in November. There had been discussion to give the employees another 3% raise. The new council held off wanting to look at all employees pay hoping that that we could adjust their pay levels to a better pay structure. But it was going to require another compensation study which is due to be in our hands by around August or September of this year. And we can make a better judgment of those salary levels or pay levels. And, and so in March of this year, instead of giving 3% this council gave every employee an additional 5%. So they got 10% in less than a year. So now we're coming to the new budget for the new fiscal year and there was a proposal to give them 3% in this new budget. After looking at that, it was brought up, that we give a \$1500 increase across the board, everybody the same amount if it had been a 3% raise, the person on the lower level of the pay scale, say a 30,000 a year employee would have only received \$900. The person at 50,000 would have received \$1500 and the persons at 80,000 to 100,000 would have received somewhere between 2400 and 3300 a year. And so the guy on the bottom of the scale was only going to get 900. The guy on the top was going to get as much as 3300. So the council, approved tonight to give everybody the same amount, \$1500 across the board for the year, which was good for the guy at the bottom in the middle and somewhere toward the upper end. But then on the upper end, those folks still got a good raise, but it wasn't as much as 3%. And that may seem unfair, but it is, it is fair when you begin to think about dollar amounts, because you give a percentage amount. The guy on the top is getting a whole lot more, sometimes three times more than the guy on the lower end of the scale. So that was the reasoning behind giving an across the board raise to everybody that doesn't prohibit personal individual merit raises on percentages which can still take place and additional raises could still happen. We just don't know right now, but that's how that all transpired tonight.

## Community News You Can Use

✓ The City of Athens Parks and Recreation Department will hold the May 2023 dedication of the Veteran's Brick Walk at Veterans Memorial Park on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m. There will be 26 bricks dedicated during this ceremony to bring the total to four thousand, two hundred and forty (4,240). These bricks were purchased between August 2022 and February 2023. The names of each new veteran honored, with a brick placed in the walk, will be read aloud during the ceremony. Everyone is welcome to bring a lawn chair for seating and participate in honoring these veterans. Anyone who purchased a miniature replica brick may pick those up during the ceremony or at the Recreation office, located at 815 N. Jackson St, Athens, TN beginning on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bricks can be purchased for \$50 to be placed in the walkway and \$20 for a replica brick. For more information on purchasing a brick or the dedication, please call the Recreation Office at 744-2704 or email [recreation@athenstn.gov](mailto:recreation@athenstn.gov). For more information, please contact the Office of Parks & Recreation at (423) 744-2704.

◆ **HOPE FROM THE WELL:** This week on "Hope From the Well", the guests will be Women At The Well graduates Margaret Thompson and Jennifer Craig. Hope From the Well is heard each Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. on WYXI RADIO, AM-1390 & FM-94.5.

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## Obituaries

◆ **Frank Carpenter**, age 82, of Athens, passed away May 15<sup>th</sup> at his home. He grew up in New Hope, Alabama. He was a graduate of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa and a staunch supporter of the Crimson Tide. After working for the YMCA in Huntsville, Alabama, Frank came to Athens to direct and build the current YMCA. He then built and developed Athens Mini Storage Company and worked for Brown & Williamson Tobacco Company. He will be buried in Bethel Cemetery in New Hope, Alabama at a later date. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is in charge of arrangements.

### ◆ RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES:

The Internal Revenue Service is encouraging small businesses to take advantage of the numerous resources available on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov). The IRS is highlighting tax benefits and resources to help small businesses. Small business owners can use IRS.gov for a wide range of tax-related information resources for their enterprise. For more information featuring useful tax-related tools and resources to help small business owners, employers and self-employed individuals succeed, visit the [IRS.gov Small Business Week webpage](http://IRS.gov Small Business Week webpage)

## Today Is National.....Day

**TODAY IS:** World Telecommunication and Information Society Day; World Hypertension Day; National Idaho Day; National Graduation Tassel Day; National Walnut Day; National Cherry Cobbler Day; National Pack Rat Day; and Emergency Medical Services for Children Day (celebrated on Wednesday during the week of Emergency Medical Services Week, in mid May.)

### TUESDAY'S MARKET REPORT

Equities closed lower as markets reacted to underwhelming consumer-spending data as well as the looming debt-ceiling showdown. Small-cap stocks lagged. Energy, real estate, and industrials were among the weakest performers. Treasury yields were slightly higher. The 10-year yields moved back above 3.5%. At the closing bell, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 336.46 to 33,012.14. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was down 26.38 to 4,109.90, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 22.16 to 12,343.05.

We encourage you to e-mail community events, church news, or other items of interest for possible use in the Morning Fax. If you take a newsworthy photograph, send it to: [wyradio@gmail.com](mailto:wyradio@gmail.com)

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*Armfield Dance Academy's Annual Dance Recital is Sunday, May 21st at 2:30 pm at TWU Auditorium*