

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

February 8, 2018

Attendance: Mayor John Shafer called the regular meeting of the Athena City Council to order at 6:00 pm in the Miller Family Community Room. Roll was taken with Councilors Pat Gibson, LaVerne Mitchell, Carol Speed, and Rebecca Schroeder present. Chet Sater was excused. City Recorder Nancy Parker and four guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schafer led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public: Jennifer Spurgeon, Mayor of Weston, presented information on the Rural Broadband Capacity Grant they have applied for. They would like to partner with Adams, Athena and Weston; in addition to working with WTCH Link to extend fiber optics that will provide greater capacity and faster internet speeds. The grant is designed to assist rural communities extend access where broadband service is least likely to be commercially available, but where it can make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for people and businesses. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to write a letter of support. Jennifer will provide Nancy the necessary information.

Caledonian Games: Erik Lynde requested permission to use the park July 13-15 for the annual games, which council approved by consensus. He also requested permission to place a three-sided information kiosk in the park. After discussion, the Council asked Erik to explore placement and maintenance options of the kiosk with Public Works, then report back to council.

Athena Chamber of Commerce: The Citizen of the Year Banquet was a great success. The chamber is rebuilding and seeking new members. They would also like previous members to reactivate or renew.

Main Street Association: Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for May 5th. They are working with Delbert Durfee and Public Works on a park clean-up day. April Flatt announced they have received a \$5,000 grant for the PGG building and have adopted Highway 334 from Highway 11 through Athena's Main Street to Hunt Street.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 1/11/18 regular meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion passed 4-0.

Actionable/Discussion Items:

Reservoir Insurance: The insurance will cover both earthquake and floods, with a \$25,000 deductible. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to purchase the flood insurance.

Historical Preservation Ordinance: This ordinance was approved on 1/12/2012, but not included in the updated codified ordinances. Due to costs associated with and restriction on having building placed on the historic register, it was recommended the city rescind the ordinance. After discussion, it was moved to rescind Historical Preservation Ordinance 2.5. Motion was seconded and approved 4-0.

Wood Playground Structure: Kim, Kenneth and Nancy are recommending removing this structure at the park due to safety concerns and liability issues. It does not pass the safety checklist and would be very costly to repair. After viewing pictures of the structure and discussion, a motion was made to have Public Works remove the structure. Motion was seconded and carried 4-0.

Actionable/Discussion Items: continued

Union Contract Negotiations: Mayor Shafer asked for a volunteer to assist with negotiations for city employees who belong to the AFSCME Union. The contract expires 6/30/2018 and it is helpful to have negotiations complete before the budget is drafted. Pat volunteered to assist. John will schedule a meeting for March 6th if possible.

Resolution 2018-03 Joint Management Agreement: This agreement between the City of Athena, Umatilla County, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will allow work on the 3rd Street Bridge to proceed. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2018-03. Motion carried 4-0.

Livestock Permit: Wendy Raila applied for a livestock permit for 6 chickens. A motion was made to approve the permit, was seconded, and approved 4-0.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: The commission approved two permits. Bill Ezell is splitting the lot on Current Street, and Zachary Johnson is building a shop at 205 S 2nd Street.

Pool: Nancy has applied for an AWERE grant and a grant from The Ford Family Foundation. Once the weather warms up the painting will be completed. When the painting is finished the remainder of the fixtures can be installed, the concrete poured, and fencing installed.

Becky requested flyers for lifeguards be posted, with interviews scheduled the first week in April.

Old Business:

Water System: Brad Baird delivered additional manuals on Wednesday. Anderson Perry will be wrapping up the final paperwork in the next month.

New Business: None

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Administration: Nancy has been working on grants this past week while Michelle is on vacation. City Hall will be closed the 19th for President's Day, and Nancy will attend the CIS Conference February 28-March 2nd. There are two openings on the budget committee and Sally Thompson has reapplied. Announcements have been posted and citizens are encouraged to apply. Mayor Shafer will appoint from the applicants at the March 8th meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **March 8, 2018 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

Approved: John Shafer, Mayor _____

Attested: Nancy Parker, CMC, City Recorder _____