

# CITY OF ATHENA

## NEWSLETTER

---



## THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

**February 8, 2024**

**Attendance:** Mayor Schroeder called the regular meeting of the Athena City Council to order at 6:04 pm. Roll was taken with Councilors Sally Thompson, Katie Zmuda, Wayne Kostur (via zoom), and John Manderscheid being present. Councilor Wright was excused due to illness. City Recorder, Michelle Fox, and 1 guest were also present. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Business from the Public:**

Kylie McClintock from Cockburn & McClintock reviewed the financial audit for 2022-2023.

AMA - Katie Zmuda reported for AMA. The Citizen of the Year banquet will be held Friday, April 5, 2024. Katie extended an invitation for all councilors and city employees to attend.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 1/11/24 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 4-0.

**Actionable Items:** Loren Stroud submitted a letter to the council asking permission to keep Main Street and a section of Third Street closed after the Caledonian Games parade so it could be used for the car show. They intend to move the show from the park to Main Street this year. Third Street will be used for any overflow vehicles in the show. A motion was made and seconded to approve the request to keep Main

## MARCH MEETINGS

---

### LIBRARY BOARD

Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm @ Library

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm @ City Hall

### CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm @ City Hall

### CEMETERY

Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm @ City Hall

### CITY HALL HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm  
City Hall: 541-566-3862  
City Shop: 541-566-0228  
Library: 541-566-2470  
Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergency: 541-966-3651

Street and a portion of Third Street closed for the car show after the Caledonian Games parade. Motion carried 4-0.

## **Committee Reports**

**Planning Commission:** Meeting was cancelled for February

**New Business:** A letter from Karen Hedine, CEO of the YMCA in Walla Walla, was reviewed. In the letter, Karen explained that due to the lifeguard shortage throughout the State, the YMCA may or may not be able to support the Athena City Pool this summer. A discussion about the difficulty to find and hire lifeguards was discussed. A notice has been posted on the reader board at City Hall, and flyers will be posted around town and at the High School to see if we can generate some interest in lifeguarding. Unfortunately, without lifeguards, the city pool will be forced to stay closed this summer.

**Old Business:** Code Enforcement - Mayor Schroeder updated the council on the Code Enforcement meeting that was held with the County Planning Department, the Umatilla County Sheriff's Department and representatives from the City of Athena. After council discussion, it was agreed to have the County Planning Department revise a new, one year contract, for council review at the next meeting.

## **Business from the Departments & Councilors:**

**Library:** The State Library Director will attend meeting next month. The library had 1002 visitors in January.

**Parks & Rec:** None

**Public Works:** Nothing new to report

**Fire:** They have started their Inter Facility Transfers

**Sheriff:** The sheriff's report is in packet.

**Administration:** Michelle will be gone February 18-29.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **March 14, 2024 @ 6:00 pm.**

## **CITY COUNCIL**

Rebecca Schroeder, Mayor

Wayne Kostur,  
Commissioner of Police

Gene Wright,  
Commissioner of Public  
Works

Katie Zmuda,  
Commissioner of Library

Sally Thompson,  
Commissioner of  
Administration

John Manderscheid,  
Commissioner of Fire Services



Please remember you **MUST**  
**BREAK DOWN YOUR**  
**BOXES AND PUT THEM**  
**IN THE RECYCLE**  
**BIN!!!**

Recycling Reminders:

**Absolutely no garbage**  
**Absolutely no milk jugs**  
**Absolutely no garbage left**  
**around the bin**  
**Absolutely no packing**  
**materials including plastic,**  
**shredded paper, and**  
**Styrofoam.**



**UMATILLA  
COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S  
REPORT FOR THE  
CITY OF ATHENA  
Total Calls for  
Service/Incidents  
(January 2024):**

**122**



City of Athena is in dire need of lifeguards for summer 2024. Without lifeguards, the city will have no choice but to close the pool for the summer.

The YMCA has been providing lifeguards from Walla Walla but there is a shortage of lifeguards everywhere and having local youth serve the pool would be wonderful! We invite any interested students and adults to contact City of Athena or the Walla Walla YMCA to apply. To qualify for Red Cross lifeguard training, which the Y offers, a pre-test is required. (The Y will provide transport if needed) This test includes:

- students must be able to swim 6 laps of the 25 meter pool,
- dive to the bottom of the 10' depth, and
- tread water with feet only for 2 minutes

Lifeguard training is then scheduled over a weekend and is about 20 hours for certification. Being a lifeguard means kids are guaranteed summer jobs anywhere!

In addition to lifeguards the City of Athena is looking for a Pool Manager. A Pool Manager will manage lifeguards, maintain pool cleanliness, safety and customer satisfaction. If you are interested in the pool management position, please contact the City of Athena directly.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER**

March has arrived and Spring will soon be knocking on the door! The flowers and trees will be blooming and lawns everywhere will be growing wild. When you are outside mowing lawns, pulling weeds and raking everything up, please **DO NOT** forget the alley way behind your home. It is so important to **NOT** let grass and weeds grow tall and dry out in alley ways as they present a tremendous fire danger! Keep these areas trimmed and free of grass and weeds for everyone's safety.

Code Enforcement would like to remind everyone about the presence of inoperable and/or unlicensed vehicles on your property. According to the definition of solid waste in the city ordinances, vehicles that are inoperable and/or unlicensed constitute a code violation for your property. If you have such a vehicle and don't have the title in hand, please call Code Enforcement @ (541)278-6300 for assistance. If the inoperable and/or unlicensed vehicle is valued at \$500 or less and should be dismantled, we can provide you with a Junk Slip Form 272 that will help you get rid of it!

Don't forget our "COMMUNITY CARES" program! There are folks in our city that need help with cleaning up their yards and good communities take care of each other! If you have a few spare hours and some equipment, please sign up to help your neighbors! Call City Hall or Code Enforcement to sign up, there is need right now for your assistance.

**HAPPY MARCH TO YOU!!!**

Daylight saving time will begin  
at 2:00 AM on  
Sunday, March 10



OUR HOURS  
ARE  
CHANGING

## NEW CITY HALL SUMMER HOURS

**CITY HALL WILL  
BE CLOSED ON  
FRIDAYS  
MAY-  
SEPTEMBER**

### ATHENA CITY HALL

302 E. Current St.  
PO Box 686  
Athena, OR 97813  
Phone: 541 566-3862  
Fax: 541 566-2781  
E-mail: [cityhall@cityofathena.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofathena.com)

Monday: 12:00pm-6:00pm  
Tuesday: 11:00am-5:00pm  
Wednesday: 11:00am-6:00pm  
Thursday: 11:00am-5:00pm  
Friday: 11:00am-5:00pm

# MARCH

MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH



**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

Spring is near! If you are considering a garden make sure you stop by the Library to check out our new free seed library! We have lots of books available to help you plan your garden so you can grow nutritious produce at home!					1	2
3	4	5 Story time 10:30am	6	7	8 Teen Game Night 5:00pm	9
10	11	12 Story time 10:30am	13	14 Game Makers Club 3:30pm	15	16
17 	18 Library Board 6:00pm	19 Story time 10:30am	20	21 Game Makers Club 3:30pm	22	23
24	25 Book Club 6:30pm	26 Story time 10:30am	27	28 Game Makers Club 3:30pm	29	30



The Library will be hosting a new program called the Game Makers Club, led by our Library Board member Curtis. There are 10 spots available, registration required. First round is 8 weeks, meeting at 3:30pm every Thursday. Ages 13-18. Contact the Library to sign up.

Athena Public Library

Pick up a copy of our current book club pick, *The Boys in the Boat* and join us for discussion at our next meeting on the 25th!

Teens, join us for a fun filled game night at the Library on the 8th.  
Hang out and enjoy pizza, drinks, and games with friends!

## March 2024 Newsletter

“Ceud Mile Failt”  
(100,000 Welcomes)



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Editors: Michelle Fox: [michelle@cityofathena.com](mailto:michelle@cityofathena.com) and Karrah King: [karrah@cityofathena.com](mailto:karrah@cityofathena.com) reserve the right to edit for content and space.  
Original articles from this publication may be reprinted with proper acknowledgment