

ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2019

CITY COUNCIL

Rebecca Schroeder,
Mayor

Wayne Kostur

Parks & Recreation

Gene Wright,

Comm. of Fire Services

Carol Speed,

Comm. of Public Works

Sally Thompson,

Comm. of Administration

Pat Gibson

Comm. of Library

CITY HALL HOURS

Monday – Friday
8am - 5pm

(open during lunch)

Closed
all legal holidays

CITY PHONE

NUMBERS

City Hall 566-3862

City Shop 566-0228

Library 566-2470

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency Sheriff
Dispatch 541-966-3651

MARCH MEETINGS

All meetings are at City Hall unless
otherwise indicated.

Library Board

Monday, 4th @ 5:30 pm

Planning Commission

Wednesday, 13th @ 6:00 pm

City Council Meeting

Thursday, 14th @ 6:00 pm

Cemetery Meeting

Tuesday, 19th @ 5:00 pm

BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

ROB MCLEAN - Has been a citizen of Athena most of his life. He graduated from WMHS and serves as an elder at his church. Rob is a devoted parent and grandparent as well as a noted photographer. Rob volunteers his time teaching photography at the HS. Rob volunteers endless hours taking photos of local student and community events which he posts on-line and shares with our community.

LARRY NYE - Has called Athena home for nearly four decades. All his children graduated from WMHS. Larry has served on the board of trustees for the Athena Christian Church, led youth groups, volunteered with Senior meals, has served as Mayor of Athena, served on the City Budget Committee, Athena City Council, and the Gem Theater Restoration Project. Larry also serves on the Sunset Housing Board. Larry and his wife Jean both regularly visit and volunteer at local retirement homes.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

ATHENA AUTO PARTS - Owners TJ Fox and Brad Thul received honors for business of the year. Athena Auto Parts is one of the biggest supporters of Athena Community events. Customer service is second to none, with the business opening on closed days and after hours when a customer needs a part. They understand how important it is to keep resources local. When the only hardware and household supply source closed, they picked up the slack keeping some of the needed items in stock and are willing to special order needed merchandise. Athena Auto Parts is known to be the hub of social networking also. These guys know everyone!

ATHENA BUDGET

COMMITTEE

The Athena City Council is seeking two citizens to serve a three year term on the Athena Budget Committee. If interested, please submit a letter of interest to Athena City Hall by 5:00 pm March 7th. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 541-566-3862

YOUTH CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

The accomplishments and talents of these two young people are impressive, both academically and in scope of community service.

ASHLEY SWAFFORD - Is a Senior at WMHS with a 3.62 GPA. She is very active in FFA and has attended State Convention the past two years. Ashley volunteers with the canned food drives and assists in the concession stands at home games. She is also active in WM Honors Band and Pepe Band. She is a class officer and is the manager of the tennie team. She has volunteered for several other school and community activities including Athena Fall Festival, Elementary Science Nights, Blue Mountain Humane Society, Gem Theater, Elks Lodge Kids Christmas, Veterans Troops Boxes, Veteran's Christmas Bags, Veteran's Christmas Dinners, and Abby's Closet. This young lady is looking forward to studying Zoology.

MATTHEW SHAFER - Is a Senior at WMHS with a 3.98 GPA. He is a member of the Honor Society and currently serves as President. "If you are looking for a volunteer, he is the first person to raise his hand", said Principal Shell. He is a member of Link Crew which is a group of upper-classmen that help freshman with transitioning to HS. He has volunteered for Elementary Science Night, after school Kids Konnections, Athena Fall Festival, Summer Lunch Program and has co-chaired a district wide food drive. He is a 4-H junior leader, and is the catch-all helper for his 4-H Leader. The past two summers he has job shadowed and volunteered at a veterinary clinic, which has been a great influence on his career of studying veterinary science.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD

DRIVE

Hosted by Weston-
McEwen National Honor
Society

MARCH 4, 2019

9:30-2:30

**Weston McEwen HS
Gymnasium**

If you are interested in
donating or have any
questions, please call 541

-379-1875

Highlights of the Athena City Council Meeting**February 14, 2019**

Attendance: Mayor Becky Schroeder 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 Wayne Kostur, Sally Thompson, and Gene Wright present. Councilors Pat Gibson and Carol Speed were excused. City Recorder Nancy Parker, Librarian Kristin Williams, and sixteen guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public:

Athena Chamber of Commerce: Christina McBean reminded everyone the Citizen of the Year banquet will be held on Monday, February 18th at 6:00 pm at the Athena Christian Church. Tickets are \$15 at the door and Gene Wright will be taking pictures.

Hodaka Days: Dave Devorac, with the Hodaka Club, asked permission for use of the park for the annual Hodaka Days Celebration. Dates are June 27-30. Dave also requested permission to have a 30 amp/110-volt outlet installed on the power pole behind the pavilion in the park. The Public Works Department will check into this. A motion was made and seconded to allow the outlet be installed if feasible. Motion was approved 3-0 with councilors Kostur, Thompson and Wright voting in favor.

Blue Mountain Fire Authority: Fire Chief, Dave Baty is in need of two councilors to be on the Board. Gene Wright and Becky Schroeder will fill those positions. Gene Wright will be the liaison for the council.

Residence Complaint: Several citizens voiced complaints and concerns regarding a resident who is breaking several ordinances and asked the council what could be done to rectify the situation. Officer Hayes from the Umatilla County Sheriff's office was in attendance to answer questions regarding situations at this residence that could possibly be public safety issues.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 1/10/19 regular meeting, the financial statements, and bills. [Motion carried 3-0](#) with Councilors Kostur, Thompson, and Wright voting to approve.

Actionable Items: Price Computers submitted a proposal to reconstruct the city website and enhance city email capabilities, which would include assigning each councilor a city email address. Nancy presented information from the League of Oregon Cities attorney Patti Chapman on why this would be beneficial to the city, especially concerning Public Records Laws. After discussion, a motion was made to approve the website upgrade and email enhancements. The motion was seconded and approved 3-0 with Councilors Kostur, Thompson, and Wright voting in favor.

A business license application was received from Interior Logic Group Property Services. A motion was made to approve the Business License. The motion was seconded and approved 3-0 with Councilors Kostur, Thompson, and Wright voting in favor.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: The commission approved a change for Marty & Gina Ray's from wood to a metal carport.

MINUTES CONT....

Livestock: Jamey & Samantha Harley @ 203 E Jefferson have a sick horse in their yard, and are requesting permission for a variance to allow them to keep the horse there until it is well. The request was accompanied by a letter from their veterinarian explaining the illness and that the horse needed constant monitoring for approximately two weeks. A motion was made and seconded to approve the variance for 30 days. They will need to come back to the next meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business: Nancy reviewed the booklet "Local Government - the Basics" with the councilors.

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: Librarian Kristin Williams completed the annual Statistical report, with all programs showing an increase in services. She has submitted a grant to expand the craft programs, specifically the teen craft nights. She is working on another grant and planning the Summer Reading Program; which will honor the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. Exciting events are being planned, including nighttime star watching and a rocket science class. Very exciting!!

Administration: City offices will be closed February 18th in honor of President's Day.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **March 14, 2019 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

The minutes are subject to council approval, any corrections or additions will appear in the next newsletter.

Weston-McEwen Baseball Schedule

March 12	Joseph	3:30	DH
March 21	@ Tri-Cities Prep HS	3:30	
March 23	@ Central Linn	1:00	DH
March 26	@ Riverside HS	10:30	
April 2	@ Union HS	4:00	
April 6	Pilot Rock	11:00	DH
April 9	Union	4:00	
April 13	@ Grant Union HS	11:00	DH
April 20	Heppner	11:00	DH
April 23	WW Valley Academy	TBD	
April 29	@McLoughlin HS	4:00	
May 4	@ Stanfield	11:00	DH
May 11	Sherman County	11:00	DH
May 14	@ Dufur HS	11:00	DH

LIBRARY NEWS

It's March and Spring is coming (we hope)! We have lots of fun things happening at the library this month! Every Thursday from 3:00 – 4:45 we host our regular Crafternoons. This month we'll be doing crafts around a St. Patrick's Day/luck theme!

March 12 – 6:30pm – We're starting up a book club for adults! No book for this meeting, we'll just be talking about our expectations for the group and picking up the book for the April meeting.

March 20 – 6:30pm – It's Mr. Roger's Birthday! Celebrate with a viewing of the 2018 documentary, *Won't You Be My Neighbor*. This film is rated PG-13 and has a running time of 1 hour 35 minutes.

March 27 – 3:00 – 5:00 – Spring Break Builder's Club. We'll have our Keva Planks, Legos and cardboard boxes available for engineering fun!

March 29 – 2:00 – 4:00 – Spring Break Movie Showing. We'll be showing the 2018 film *Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse*. This film is rated PG and has a running time of 1 hour 56 minutes.

Great news! We just got word that we received a grant from the Umatilla County Cultural Coalition that will help us start up Teen Craft Nights. Stay tuned for more information about these fun nights for teens that we hope to start up in April. Also, did you know that great things are available at the library even when we don't have a program going on? You can check out books and movies, check your email or do online research, put a puzzle together, play on the x-box or Wii, sit in front of our fire and visit with friends or find a quiet(ish) spot to read. Stop by and see us, you might be surprised at all the great things available at your library!

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CITY OF ATHENA

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NEWSLETTER

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