



ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER APRIL



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)

CITY PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall 566-3862

City Shop 566-0228

Library 566-2470

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency

Sheriff Dispatch

541-966-3651

VACANT POSITIONS

The City of Athena has one vacant 2.5 -year position open on the Planning Commission.

The City of Athena has two vacant 3 -year positions for the Livestock Commission.

If you are interested on sitting on either of these commissions, please submit a letter to Athena City Hall by April 10, 2019.

APRIL MEETINGS

All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Livestock Commission

Tuesday, 2nd @ 5:30 pm

Library Board

Monday, 1st @ 5:30 pm

Planning Commission

Wednesday, 10th @ 6:00 pm

City Council Meeting

Thursday, 11th @ 6:00pm

Cemetery Meeting

Tuesday, 16th @ 5:00 pm

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2019

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: Athena City Park

All local children up through the 5th grade are welcome to join in the Easter egg hunting! Hope to see you there!

LIBRARY NEWS

It's hard to believe that April is already here. Spring Break is over and the school year is in the downward swing. We're getting plans ready for a fun Summer Reading Program this year. Details will be available at the library by the end of the month but here's a sneak preview: we're going to SPACE! Stay tuned for more information.

This month we are cancelling Crafternoon on Thursday, April 4 but we will be back to the regular Thursday at 3:00 schedule for the rest of the month.

April 7-13 is National Library Week. We have fun contests to celebrate all week with prizes sponsored by ALFA. Stop by the library and guess how many items are in our collection, participate in the Book-face Photo Contest on our Facebook page, add a note to the display in the library telling others why you think Libraries=Strong Communities. Who knows, we may even have a few other fun things up our sleeves!

April 9 is our monthly book club reading. This month we're discussing Pachinko by Min Jin Lee. We will also be handing out copies of the May book. Everyone is welcome to join us!

This month we learned that we received a grant from Umatilla County Cultural Coalition to start up Teen Craft Nights. These craft nights will be open to kids who have finished 6th grade and older. We are planning to start up soon but we aren't sure yet what evening would be best. Do you have kids in this age range? Stop by, call or email the library to give input on what day would be best!

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Thank you to everyone who attended Athena Chamber of Commerce banquet and congratulations once again to our award recipients! A special thank you to the 2019 Table Sponsors: Bank of Eastern Oregon, Senator Bill Hansell, Representative Greg Barreto, Umatilla County Commissioners. Thank you to Delbert Durfee and the Athena Christian Church for sharing their banquet room and hosting this year's dinner. And also a big thank you to Tom Insko, Eastern Oregon University President for traveling and being the evening's guest speaker.

ANNUAL YARD SALE

Spring is coming and with it brings our Annual Yard Sale Day. Always the third weekend in May. This year it falls on Saturday May 18th. As always the advertising for this event is done for you! The maps of sales will also again be provided however you have to give us your address if you want your sale included. Please give your address to either City Hall or Bee's Knees by Wednesday May 15th. This event is open to anyone who wants to have a sale. Sales will be advertised to run from 8:00-3:00. In previous years this event brought a lot of people to our town. If you are needing to declutter, this is the time. Save the date and mark your calendars now!! Saturday May 18th.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL*

March 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 Pat Gibson, Wayne Kostur, Carol Speed, Sally Thompson, and Gene Wright present. City Recorder Nancy Parker and ten guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public: Code Enforcement Officer Ben Carleton discussed the abatement procedure for the property at 341 W Garfield. Notices will be mailed to all parties on 3/20/19, as well as posted on the front door of the property. The owners and/or occupants have 10 days to appeal in writing. After 10 days Ben will revisit the property to assess progress and take additional pictures. If the property has not been cleaned up by April 1st, a crew will arrive at 9:00 am on April 2nd. The city will charge the owner to pay for the abatement.

Blue Mountain Fire Authority: Fire Chief Dave Baty reported the consolidation process is moving forward. The committee is working on budgets and meeting weekly.

Eastern Oregon Telecom: Joe Franell, CEO of Eastern Oregon Telecom (EOT) approached the Council about negotiating a franchise with the City. EOT would construct the fiber to the home (FTTH) network in City owned right of way. The cost of this program over the first year is estimated at \$15,000. EOT proposed the franchise fee generated by their use of public right of way be set aside for use in paying for the digital transformation program. If the franchise fee is approved, EOT will cover the upfront costs associated with the program, including community trainings, and submit receipts as funds become available from the set aside. They would start with existing aerial coverage, then go underground. Speeds would be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps or more upload, which is greater than FCC requirements of 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload. The franchise would be functionally similar to the City's existing telecommunications franchise. After numerous questions and good discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the franchise and to set aside the franchise fees for two years to pay for the cost of the system. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

June Mazzei expressed concern about the amount of taxes she pays, how those funds are allocated to the city, and the way city roads were maintained during the recent snow storms.

Athena Chamber of Commerce: Eighty-five people attended the Citizen of the Year banquet. The committee is debriefing and looking at ways to improve for next year. The annual park cleanup will be April 6th and they will be working with the Athena Christian Church.

Main Street Association: The 4th Annual Clean Sweep will be on May 4th, the same day as Humbert's free dump day. The association requested the city again provide \$200 for the community lunch. A motion was made, seconded, and approved 5-0 to fund the lunch.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2/14/19 regular meeting, the financial statements, and bills. [Motion carried unanimously.](#)

Actionable Items: Mayor Schroeder appointed Michelle Fox as the budget officer.

Letters of interest for the Budget Committee were received from Terry Reynolds, Lori Kennedy and Dusty Pickard. Mayor Schroeder reappointed Terry Reynolds to a 3-year term, appointed Lori Kennedy to a 3-year term, and appointed Dusty Pickard to complete Sally Thompson's term which expires on 12/31/2020.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved 5-0 to adopt the Budget Calendar.

A motion was made and seconded to approve a business license for Pendleton Painting and Drywall, owned by Mike Russell. Motion carried 5-0.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: The February meeting was cancelled. A new member is needed for the Planning Commission. Signs requesting letters of interest will be posted.

Livestock: Jamey & Samantha Harley @ 203 E Jefferson reported their horse is doing much better. The veterinarian will be there tomorrow (3/15) and if approved the horse will be moved back to the pasture out of town.

Mayor Schroeder reappointed Duane Hetterly to the Livestock Commission. Two additional members are needed and notifications seeking letters of interest will be posted.



3-14-2019 Minutes Continued

Old Business: A complaint has been received about the dogs at 437 E Lincoln not being on a leash at all times when they are outside. Nancy will contact the Gilberts and remind them of the conditions of the variance they received, and also inquire as to how the moving plans are coming.

New Business: None

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Administration: City Hall will close at noon on April 9th to allow Michelle & Nancy to attend training in Pendleton from 1-4 pm. Nancy has been invited to make a presentation at the high school on Schools to Careers on Friday March 15th.

Parks & Rec: Ads have been placed seeking lifeguards for the pool. Public Works will give Wayne information on the requested increased power source at the pavilion.

Fire: The latest Chief's reports were included in the packets.

Library: Great things are happening at the library! They hosted 56 kids for craft afternoons last week, are transitioning the History Room to a Teen Room, and are getting ready for the Summer Reading program. A grant was received from Umatilla County Cultural Coalition, and the Library District is dispersing an additional \$5,700 to the Athena Library. Great job Kristin!!

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **April 11, 2019 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

*Minutes are subject to council approval, any corrections or additions will appear in the next newsletter *

East Umatilla County Health District

March 2019 Report

The March Board of Directors meeting was held on the 21st at the District office located in Athena, Oregon. Board members in attendance were Chairman Chrys Wernlund, Treasurer Carol Kirk, Secretary Elizabeth McIntyre and Director Chris Williams. Absent was Director Katie Brewer. Also present were District Administrator Mark Moore, EURFPD Chief Dave Baty, Athena Fire Chief John Reitz and Rachelle Roggero, RN.

The first meeting of the proposed fire authority was held on Monday, March 18 and the Health District office. Six of the eight fire authority committee members were present. A name for the proposed fire authority was unanimously approved. The name of the fire authority will be East Umatilla Fire & Rescue. This committee will be laying the ground work on how the fire authority will be organized and run.

The Health District Building is undergoing a remodel of the back apartment. There will be two new sleeping rooms added along with a new bathroom, kitchen and commons area.

The filing deadline for Director candidates as March 21. Four of the five Directorships are up for election. One current candidate did not file to run again so there will be no candidate filed for position #5. Anyone wishing to run as a write-in is welcome.

The District has responded to 49 calls for service since January 1, 2019. The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2019, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

A mailer was sent out with the dates for the public meeting on the formation of the fire authority so be sure and check the dates for meetings nearest you.

GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club is ready to fill the Main Street Boxes with flowers again this year. To help with costs they are hosting a Chicken Fettuccine Dinner on Monday April 15th. This will take place at the Athena Legion Hall from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Cost of \$7.50 (adults) and \$5.00 (child) includes Chicken Fettuccine Bake, Bread, Salad, Drink and Dessert. Or a family of four (2 adults and 2 children) is only \$20.00. If you are not able to make it, remember we offer this dinner to go also! With your help Main Street will again be bright and colorful. Hope to see you at dinner and we always appreciate the community support.

Sincerely, The Athena Garden Club

SAVE THE DATES

APRIL 6 - PARK CLEAN -UP	8:30 am
APRIL 15 - CHICKEN FETTUCCINE BAKE	5:00 pm
APRIL 20 - EASTER EGG HUNT	10:00 am
MAY 18 - CITY WIDE YARD SALE	8:00 am
JUNE 4 - TUESDAY MARKET BEGINS	4:00 pm

Tuesday Market

Beginning this year, the Athena Tuesday Market will be held every Tuesday in JUNE -JULY.

June 4, 11, 18, 25

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

This new schedule will give the Chamber board the opportunity to focus on coordinating and improving other annual Chamber events as well as continuing to participate in Athena's Hodaka and Caledonian weekends!

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 (100,000 Welcomes)

APRIL 2019

NEWSLETTER

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