

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

**January 10, 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, Librarian Kristin Williams, and nine guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Installation of new Council members:**

Mayor Schroeder administered the Oath of Office to new Council members Wayne Kostur, Carol Speed, Sally Thompson, and Gene Wright. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

**Business from the Public:**

**2017-18 Annual Audit:** Kylie McClintock from Cockburn & McClintock, LLC presented the 2017-18 city audit. She commended the city on another clean audit.

**East Umatilla County RFPD/ Helix Fire Department:** Chief Dave Baty reviewed the "Blue Mountain Fire Authority" proposal and answered questions. He made it clear this was the first draft and the council was only voting on accepting the proposal. Once all parties accept the proposal, a board will be formed to write the Intergovernmental Agreement. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal to support combining the four entities (East Umatilla County RFPD, Helix Rural fire Protection District, City of Athena Fire Department, and East Umatilla County Health District) under the "Blue Mountain Fire Authority". Motion carried 5-0, with councilors Gibson, Kostur, Speed, Thompson and Wright voting yes.

**Dog Ordinance:** Wayne Gilbert is a new Athena resident who has four dogs, which were involved in an altercation with another dog. He did not realize the city has an ordinance limiting the number of dogs permitted per household and requested a six-month variance. He and his wife are involved in a Wounded Warrior Project and expect to move by the end of June. A motion was made and seconded to approve the six-month variance for four dogs until June 30<sup>th</sup> on the conditions they are registered and licensed within two weeks, are on a leash anytime they are outside their yard, and any further incidents with other animals or humans will void the variance. Motion carried 5-0, with councilors Gibson, Kostur, Speed, Thompson and Wright voting in favor.

**Athena Chamber of Commerce:** April McKenna reminded everyone the Citizen of the Year banquet will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Athena Christian Church. Nomination forms are available at City Hall and the Post Office. Gene Wright will take pictures.

**Main Street Association:** Brenda Vorhauer reported the tree lighting ceremony had the largest attendance to date. On a sad note, someone stole the lights off the tree. They are continuing to apply for grants for the Stahl Building, and their next project will be Main Street Clean-Up in the spring.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 12/13/18 regular meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 5-0 with Councilors Gibson, Kostur, Speed, Thompson, and Wright voting to approve.

**Actionable Items: Resolutions:** A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2019-01 Water Rates, and 2019-02 Sewer Rates as published. Motion carried 5-0 with Councilors Gibson, Kostur, Speed, Thompson, and Wright voting in favor.

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**Mayor Schroeder appointed** Christy Duncan to a four-year term on the Planning Commission. **By majority, the Council appointed** Sally Thompson as Council President.

**Mayor Schroeder announced Councilor assignments** as follows: Wayne Kostur - Parks & Recreation; Gene Wright - Fire; Carol Speed - Public Works; Pat Gibson - Library, and Sally Thompson - Administration. As Councilor liaison over administration, Sally Thompson will be added to all bank accounts, and LaVerne Mitchell will be removed as an authorized signer. Becky will be the liaison to the Police and Code Enforcement.

**Committee Reports:**

**Planning Commission:** The January meeting was cancelled.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Nancy reviewed the Code of Conduct and Job Description with the councilors. The booklet "Local Government - the Basics" was distributed and sections 1-5 will be reviewed in February.

**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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 January 21<sup>st</sup> for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Jerry Baker will take pictures of the new councilors after the meeting tonight. Nancy will attend the Small Cities meeting in Irrigon on 1/16. Gene and Sally volunteered to attend also.

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

Approved: Becky Schroeder, Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Attested: Nancy Parker, CMC, City Recorder \_\_\_\_\_