

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

December 13, 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, Chet Sater, Becky Schroeder, and Carol Speed present. City Recorder Nancy Parker, Librarian Kristin Williams, Assistant Recorder Michelle Fox, and eight guests were also in attendance. Mayor Shafer led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public:

Athena Caledonian Games: Sue Friese requested permission to apply for a grant to design and place metal art work over the bridge leading to the park, and one to hang on the pavilion. A motion was made and seconded, with Councilors Gibson, Mitchell, Sater, Schroeder, and Speed voting to approve. Motion carried 5-0. Sue also requested permission to use the park for the Games July 13th & 14th. A motion was made and seconded to approve, with Councilors Gibson, Mitchell, Sater, Schroeder, and Speed voting to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Code Enforcement: Ben Carlson introduced himself as the code enforcement officer. He explained the process he will be using, and verified Council would like a soft approach for the initial contact. Ben is willing to work with folks as long as progress is being made. He also explained the citation process, including all tickets going to Circuit Court in Pendleton. Councilor Speed asked for a monthly report on the number of contacts made and progress on each. Everyone agreed it will be a slow process for the first six-twelve months. The main goal is to work with residents and get properties cleaned up.

Athena Chamber of Commerce: Christine McBean announced the Citizen of the Year banquet will be held on February 18th at 6:00 pm at the Athena Christian Church. Please mark your calendars.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 11/8/18 regular meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 5-0 with Councilors Gibson, Mitchell, Sater, Schroeder, and Speed voting to approve.

Actionable Items:

Fire Chief John Reitz was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a letter to Council detailing his concerns and listing the reasons he supports an Inter-Governmental Agreement for joining forces of the Athena Volunteer Fire department with the Helix Fire Department, East Umatilla County Fire District, and the East Umatilla County Health District. A motion was made and seconded to move forward with the Fire District Merger. Motion carried 5-0 with Councilors Gibson, Mitchell, Sater, Schroeder, and Speed voting to approve.

A Business license renewal and modification was received from Humbert Tires, due to additional services they are now providing. A motion was made and seconded to approve the business license for Humbert Tires. Motion carried 5-0 with Councilors Gibson, Mitchell, Sater, Schroeder, and Speed voting to approve.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: Chris McBean reported a building permit was approved for A-W School District to add additions to both sides of the storage shed on the football field.

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Old Business: Water Improvement Project: Brad Baird discussed the 1-year Warranty Inspection that was completed in September, the corrective work on Well No. 5, and the Water Management and Conservation Plan. The items on the inspection list needing attention were Well No. 5 and some paint work on the reservoir. The painting will occur in the spring after the weather warms up. The well motor burned up, and the pump was most likely damaged by running backward for about four weeks in 2017. Both the motor and pump have been replaced. Once flushing of the well is complete samples will be tested, and when approved the well will be put back in service. The City now has an additional one-year warranty on the new well pump. Brad also highlighted the Water Management and Conservation Plan; then detailed the eight - ten measures the city is required to implement. After lengthy discussion and clarification, a motion was made and seconded to submit the Conservation Plan to the State and County for approval. Motion carried 5-0 with Councilors Gibson, Mitchell, Sater, Schroeder, and Speed voting to approve.

New Business:

Due to his election as Umatilla County Commissioner, Mayor John Shafer submitted his resignation as Mayor. A motion was made and seconded to accept Mayor Shafer's resignation. Motion carried 5-0 with Councilors Gibson, Mitchell, Sater, Schroeder, and Speed voting to approve. As Mayor, Becky (aka Rebecca Schroeder) is an authorized signer on all bank accounts and official city paperwork. John Shafer is to be removed as a signer. Mayor Shafer was thanked for his years of service to the city, both as Councilor and Mayor. He will be missed. Per the City charter, Council President Becky Schroeder accept and was installed as Mayor to finish Mayor Shafer's term. Continuing to following the City Charter, the Council by majority appointed Chet Sater as Council President.

Also, under Charter direction, the Council, by majority, needed to appoint a resident to complete Becky Schroeder's term. Four letters of interest were received. Gene Wright and Christy Duncan both attended the meeting, gave a short personal history, and stated why they were interested in serving on City Council. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Gene Wright to fill the remainder of Becky Schroeder's term of office, which expires 12/31,2020. Motion carried 4-0 with Councilors Gibson, Mitchell, Sater, and Speed voting to approve.

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Fire: Continuing to work on the IGA for consolidation.

Library: Will be closed December 24th & 25th, close at 4:00pm on the 31st, and closed January 1st.

Administration: Nancy met with auditors today to wrap up the audit, which will be presented at the January meeting.

City Hall and Public Works will be closed December 24th & 25th, 31st and January 1st.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **January 10, 2019 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

Approved: Becky Schroeder, Mayor _____

Attested: Nancy Parker, CMC, City Recorder _____