

# ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER 2019



## CITY COUNCIL

**Rebecca Schroeder,**

**Mayor**

**Wayne Kostur,**

Comm of Parks

**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

Closed all legal holidays

## CITY PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall 566-3862

City Shop 566-0228

Library 566-2470

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency

Dispatch 541-966-3651

## February MEETINGS

### Library Board

Monday, 4th @ 5:30pm

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, 13th @ 6:00pm

### City Council

Thursday, 14th @ 6:00pm

### Cemetery

Tuesday, 19th @ 5:00



## MAINSTREET ASSOCIATION

Athena Mainstreet Association would like to thank everyone who volunteered and attended the annual Lighting Ceremony on December 2, 2018. Unfortunately, there seems to be a Grinch in our small town. The strings of lights were stolen off of the community tree on Main Street, what a shame. Nevertheless, we look forward to celebrating with community next year.

## **February Events at the Library.....**

February is FANTASTIC at Athena Public Library!

February 1 is World Read Aloud Day and we're celebrating by reading aloud! Did you know that reading aloud to kids puts them almost a year ahead of kids who don't get daily read aloud time? Reading aloud is also a great way to spend your family time: 66% of kids ages 6-11 say that reading aloud together is fun! On February 1 stop by the library for fun read aloud time, we'll read a book or a passage from a book every half hour all day!

Thursday Crafternoons continue every week at 3:00. This month we're making a DIY Journal, a special Valentine's Day craft, decorative yarn wrapped letters and handprint fish puppets. This is fun for all ages!

Athena Library Friends Association is having its quarterly meeting at the library on Sunday, February 10 at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to join and hear about how ALFA supports the library!

Don't forget, we have Storytime every Monday at 10:30am. We'd love you to bring your little ones for singing, movement, stories and fun.

February is National Library Lovers Month. A new book on our shelves might be the perfect way to celebration. It's called The Library Book by Susan Orlean. It's about a terrible fire that destroyed the LA Central Library in 1984 but it's also a love letter to libraries and librarians. Come check it out!

## RECYCLING CENTER

As most of you know, the City of Athena has recently lost its privilege of having the bottle and can recycle bin. This is due to residents using the recycle area for excess garbage that does not belong there. We are now in danger of losing the entire recycle center. This is a reminder to everyone that it is ALL of our responsibility to keep the recycle center clean and only deposit the correct items into the bins. Also, please remember that all boxes need to be broke down before they are thrown into the bin. If we all work together, we can save our recycle center.

## **City of Athena Budget Committee**

The Athena City Council is seeking two citizens to serve a three-year term on the Athena Budget Committee. If you are interested, please submit letters of interest to The City of Athena by 5:00 pm April 11, 2019. If you have any questions or for more information, please call City Hall at 541-566-3862.



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### 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.

**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.



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### 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.

### East Umatilla County Ambulance Area Health District Medic 400

#### January 2019 News

The last monthly meeting was held at the District office in Athena, Oregon on January 17, 2019. Present were Carol Kirk, Treasurer, Elizabeth McIntyre, Secretary, Director Chris Williams, Director Katie Brewer and Chairman Chrys Wernlund.

The Special Districts Association of Oregon Conference is coming up in February and Carol Kirk, Chrys Wernlund and Mark Moore from the District will be attending.

EUCRFPD Chief Dave Baty was present to share the progress of the work being done to form a Fire Authority and draft an IGA between the East Umatilla County Ambulance Area Health District, the Helix Rural Fire Protection District, the East Umatilla County Rural Fire Protection District and the City of Athena. There will be more information as talks move forward to create a Fire Authority combining the four entities to improve service and response times.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on February 21, 2019 at the District office starting at 7:00 p.m.

The District had 268 calls for service in 2018.

Paula Babb and Traci King would like to once again thank everybody who supported the can and bottle drive. It was a huge success with money being given to both the City of Athena Pool and The Athena Garden Club. While it has been fun, we are unable to continue this bottle drive fundraiser at this time. Again, we say "Many Thanks." Be watching for details on the Chicken Fettucine Bake Dinner this spring.

THANK  
YOU'S

The family of George Vorhauer would like to express our gratitude to those who reached out during our time of great loss and sadness. Thanks for your words of kindness and love, the cards, all of the wonderful food, and help with George's Memorial Service, and luncheon. You are forever in our hearts. Thank you,  
Brenda Vorhauer and Family



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## CHAMBER NEWS

### Save the Date!

The 2019 Citizens and Business of the Year Banquet will be held on February 18, 2019 at the Athena Christian Church at 6pm.

### License Reminder

All City Licenses, Business, Dog, and Livestock need to be paid before February 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid a price increase.

Before 15 <sup>th</sup>	After 15 <sup>th</sup>
Business – \$50.00	\$55.00
Livestock- \$30.00	\$35.00
Dog - \$12.00	\$15.00

### City Hall Closures

Athena City Hall, Public Works and Library will be closed February 21st for President’s Day.

### Trivia Question...

Which President was the first to live in the White House?

- A. George Washington
- B. John Adams
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. James Madison

B. John Adams

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**Ceud Mile Failt**  
(100,000 Welcomes)

# February 2019

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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