

HE 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 1<sup>st</sup>, a crew will arrive at 9:00 am on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 6<sup>th</sup> and they will be working with the Athena Christian Church.

**Main Street Association:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Clean Sweep will be on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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 crafternoons 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.

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

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