

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

**July 11, 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, Sally Thompson and Gene Wright present. Carol Speed was excused. City Recorder Nancy Parker, Librarian Kristin Williams and eight guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Business from the Public: Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan** attended and discussed the legal issues associated with the property at 341 W Garfield. He explained how adopting a Public Nuisance/Crime Property ordinance, similar to the one Grants Pass uses, would benefit both the Sheriff Department and the city. He reminded everyone to be diligent in reporting any and all crimes or suspicious activity. If you see something...say something!! Chris McBean asked questions about a neighborhood watch program, which Sheriff Rowan answered.

**Byron Wysocki approached the council about a franchise agreement with W-Tech Link.** He briefly explained the technology they use, and agreed to send a franchise agreement to the City Recorder for discussion at the August meeting.

**Athena Chamber of Commerce:** Katie Zmuda announced Kim & Judy Clark were the Yard of the Month winners. ACC held a mini Tuesday Market in the park during Caledonian Games, and reminded everyone of the Community Night Out and Street Dance, on August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6-10 pm.

**Main Street Association (MSA):** April Flatt told about the historical articles and photos that were on display in the park during Caledonian Games. She encouraged everyone to stop by the Stahl Building during Community Night Out, and shared they would be serving food at the VFW Hall.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 6/13/19 regular meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**Actionable Items:** Council members discussed the Public Nuisance/Crime Property ordinance, similar to the one Grants Pass uses and referenced by Sheriff Rowan. Everyone agreed it was a good ordinance; they would like to see the City use reasonable judgement, not overreach, but enforce the policies we have. Council recommended submitting the proposed ordinance to the League of Oregon Cities attorney for review.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 2019-06 Authorizing City Participation in the League of Oregon Cities Free Legal Advice Program for an additional two years.

**Committee Reports:**

**Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission accepted Christina McBean's resignation. In response to Council's discussion on whether they should receive a stipend when meetings are cancelled, they felt that because they plan for meetings, and have no control over when meetings are cancelled, discontinuing the stipend would be unfair to them as council members are not penalized when they miss a meeting. They liked the idea of having a five-member commission rather than the current seven.

Councilors agreed a five-member Commission would be acceptable. Nancy will redo the By-Laws and present them at the next Council meeting.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Business from the Departments & Councilors:**

**Library:** Librarian Kristin Williams shared that 83 kids are participating in the Summer Reading Program, with 67% going beyond the program parameters. Way to go kids!! The library was open on Saturday of Caledonian Games, with very little attendance. She will revisit this practice next year. Kristin also reported she had moved the bench to the front of the building as requested and is seeing increased usage. On 7/19 the library is hosting a showing of the moon landing, and the library will participate in the Caledonian parade - in a Space Shuttle! Very creative!

**Parks & Rec:** Councilor Kostur reported the second session of swim lessons are in progress, and the pool is doing fine. He would like to have a conversation about what we want our "parks" to look like; specifically, is the Ballpark a park or a ballfield? He proposed meeting with all parties involved in the ballpark, and reworking the current agreement.

Nancy will look into the cost of ordering Smoker's Receptacles (cigarette butt containers) for the park and in front of City Hall.

**Fire:** East Umatilla Fire & Rescue (EUFR) became official on July 1, 2019.

**Administration:** Auditors will be here July 22-26<sup>th</sup>. The bridge project is tentatively scheduled to begin the first week of September. Rod Anderson Construction is the contractor. A meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks for all parties involved.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **August 8, 2019 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

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

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