August 8, 2019

Attendance: Mayor Becky Schroeder called the regular meeting of the Athena City Council to order at 6:16pm in the Miller Family Community Room. Roll was taken with Councilors Pat Gibson, Sally Thompson and Gene Wright present. Councilors Wayne Kostur and Carol Speed were excused. City Recorder Nancy Parker, Librarian Kristin Williams and three guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public: 3rd Street Bridge Project: Michael Ward submitted information informing council Rod Anderson will be the General Contractor for the project. Work will begin September 3rd and is expected to last approximately 2 months. Third street will be closed to both vehicle and foot traffic during this time. Signage will be placed before the east and west exits into Athena so motorists will be aware of the road closure.

Athena Chamber of Commerce: Katie Zmuda reported Community Night Out was a great success. They garnered tips for next year and are looking forward to using them. They thanked the city for providing the porta potty for Tuesday Market and have contacted Doug's Septic about removing it, twice. October Fest will be October 5th from 10-5, and they asked permission to close Main Street between 3rd & 4th street. Permission was granted, pending ODOT approval.

Main Street Association (MSA): April Flatt announced they sold 140 meals in one hour and twenty minutes, so next year they will plan for more. It was a good money maker and they heard some great stories about the Stahl Building.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 7/11/19 regular meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Actionable Items: A motion was made and seconded to approve changing the number of Planning Commission members from seven to five in the Planning By-Laws. Motion was approved 3-0.

A motion was made, seconded and carried 2-1 to approve a livestock permit for William Thomas to have 5 chickens. Councilor Thompson voted no because she is concerned there are to many people requesting permits for chickens and felt a limit should be placed on the number of permits allowed.

Discussion was held on the proposed Umatilla County Tobacco Licensing Program. Councilors felt it would be another unnecessary governmental fee; there are currently laws in place about selling tobacco products to minors; and it would not address the real issue of underage smoking. A motion was made to not approve the program as submitted. Motion was seconded and passed 3-0.

Committee Reports:
Planning Commission: The meeting was cancelled, but inspection reports were submitted to Nancy.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Business from the Departments & Councilors:
Fire: Gene reported the East Umatilla Fire & Rescue is running nicely. They have been

instrumental in assisting with fires and minimizing existing ones.

Library: Librarian Kristin Williams shared that 101 kids participated in the Summer Reading Program. Each participant has a rocket, with an opportunity to earn up to 30 buttons to put on their rocket. Currently the highest button collector has 22, with three more opportunities to earn buttons. The final activities for the summer include the Perseid Meteor Shower at the cemetery @ 9pm on August 12th, the rocket launch at 2:00 pm at the high school parking lot on the 14th, and a final crafternoon on Thursday August 15th. Kristin presented the Library Board approved updated Library Policies for councilor reading and future approval. She reported total library visitors and all programs have seen a significant increase in the past year, and 79 new library card holders were added. Great Job Kristin!!!

Public Works: A written report was included in the packets. The well permit was finally approved on July 9th. Due to the difficulties with the well motor overheating and failing, all parties are working to get the well back online. The challenge for the City is to be very careful to make sure we keep the well pump under warranty. The City cannot just operate the well and potentially void the warranty. This represents a challenge as we need to get the well on line correctly and in accordance with the contract, but not risk the warranty. A meeting was held with Goodman & Mehlenbacher on Monday, July 29th, to discuss a solution. Considerable pressure was placed on them to do what is needed to get the well on line. The City pushed them to hire a different controls company to program in the protection needed so we can officially start up the well in a manner that will protect the well pump and motor and keep the warranty in place. The warranty extends another year past the startup of the new well pump and motor. Goodman & Mehlenbacher agreed to hire the new control system programming company to assist with getting the well on line in a manner that protects the warranty. Kenneth is coordinating with Goodman & Mehlenbacher.

Administration: A $5,000 pool donation was received from North West Grain Growers. Nancy reported the Athena Garden Club has purchased cigarette butt containers to be placed on Main Street. They will also purchase one for each entrance to the park (although smoking is not allowed in the park) and one for the Skate Park. Thank you, Garden Club!!

Councilors: Councilor Thompson suggested putting a Pet Waste Bag Dispenser in the park for citizens who walk their dogs in the park. Discussion was held on who would furnish the bags and empty the receptacle. More information will be provided at the September council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **September 12, 2019 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

Approved: Becky Schroeder, Mayor _____

Attested: Nancy Parker, CMC, City Recorder_____