

# ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER 2019

## SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

### Library Board

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm

### City Council

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm

### Cemetery

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30

## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS...

It's September and Library Programs are moving back in to full swing. Did you know that September is National Library Card Sign Up Month? Having a library card gives you access to resources and services that can open up the world! Stop by the library and get a card today!

### September Activities:

9/2: Library Closed for Labor Day

9/8: ALFA Board Meeting 4:00pm

9/9: Preschool Storytime Starts

again! 10:30am every Monday morning

9/10: Adult Book Club Discussion of Educated by Tara Westover

9/18: Teen Craft Night 6:30 – 8:00

9/19: Crafternoon 3:00 – 4:45

9/26: Crafternoon 3:00 – 4:45

Teen craft nights are for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older. Crafternoons are for kindergarten and up and younger kids are welcome with a helper! You can always check our Facebook page for information about activities and details about each week's craft.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge Closure Notice

Beginning next week citizens will see fencing placed and 3<sup>rd</sup> street marked for the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> street bridge replacement. This is a combined effort with the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Umatilla County, CTUIR Board of Trustees and the City of Athena. Rod Anderson is the General Contractor for the project. Work will begin September 3<sup>rd</sup> and is expected to last approximately 2 months. Third street from Hwy 11 past the bridge will be closed to both vehicle and foot traffic during this time. Please make other travel arrangements if you normally use 3<sup>rd</sup> street to enter or exit from Athena. Signage will be placed on Hwy 11 before the east and west exits into Athena so motorists are aware of the road closure and can adjust their routes. The project was scheduled for this time of year because water flows in Wildhorse Creek are low, and there would be minimum impact harvest vehicles. We appreciate your understanding and patience.



## 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 PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall 566-3862

City Shop 566-0228

Library 566-2470

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency

Dispatch 541-966-3651

## SWIMMING POOL NEWS

It's hard to believe that another summer has come and gone. Athena Swimming Pool is now closed for the season. Special thanks to our pool Manager, Colleen Bagdon, all the lifeguards, our own Public Works Department and City Hall people for all their hard work in providing another great season and great activity for our community. Until next summer!!

## August Yard of the Month Winner:

August's Yard of the Month goes to Dave and Connie Johnson on Currant Street!

The Johnson's will have the Yard of the Month sign on display in their beautiful yard through the month of August. They also received a gardening gift of new garden gloves and a ceramic flower pot! Congratulations Connie and Dave!

With the Athena Tuesday Market season ending in July, this was the last Yard of the Month of the year. Thank you to everyone who voted, this season's winners and to all the community members that help keep Athena looking beautiful! That's a wrap for the Chamber's Summer Events!

Thank you to the community for supporting and participating in the Tuesday Market, grabbing a Rootbeer Float at Hodaka Days, shopping at the Park during Caledonian Games and gathering on Main Street for Community Night Out!

**Fall Festival** is October 5<sup>th</sup>! The Chamber is looking forward to bringing another event to Main Street – there will be a Car Show, Local Vendors, Lunch at the Legion Hall, Pumpkin Patch and a Pie Baking Contest! We invite the community to come down and vote for your favorite car AND pie! If you are interested in participating as a vendor or would like to enter the Car Show or Pie Baking Contest contact the Chamber to reserve your spot! (Sorry, no cream or meringue pies are allowed in the Pie Baking Contest per the Health Department) [athenachamber@gmail.com](mailto:athenachamber@gmail.com) or Katie Zmuda 541-969-4810



THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

**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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge Project:** Michael Ward submitted information informing council Rod Anderson will be the General Contractor for the project. Work will begin September 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> from 10-5, and they asked permission to close Main Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 too 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 12<sup>th</sup>, the rocket launch at 2:00 pm at the high school parking lot on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and a final crafternoon on Thursday August 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### Minutes Cont -

**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.

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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.



Athena Caledonian Games extends our thanks to all volunteers, event leaders, Caledonian members, sponsors, advertisers, Guardians, donors and contestants for their continuing faith and support in Athena Caledonian Games, 2019. Pictured above is one of two impressive metal art projects installed in the city park by Brian Freels and sponsored by a grant from Umatilla County Cultural Coalition. A huge thanks for his fine work. Our thanks to the City of Athena for the support of the projects and the assistance of Athena City Crew.

East Umatilla County Ambulance Area Health District  
Medic 400**Minutes for August 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM  
EUCAAHD BOD Meeting**

- Call to Order: 1902 Members present: Chairman Wernlund, Carol Kirk, Chris Williams, Kim Herron, Admin. Mark Moore, Guest Chief Baty
- Swear in Officers: Kim Herron sworn in by Chairman Wernlund
- Approve agenda; Motion CK, 2<sup>nd</sup> KH pass 4/0
- Approve minutes from July 2019 meeting Motion CW, 2<sup>nd</sup> CK pass 4/0
- July 2019 Financial report and approval of bills to be paid. Motion to accept and pay, C Williams ask for a couple questions to be answered about the Financial report Rachele agreed to research and get back to the group.
- Public Comment: Wheatstock this Saturday and Helix community BBQ next weekend.

Old Business

- IGA Update By Chief Baty, things going well, service delivery has been great, still working on some minor HR, bookkeeping issues.
- GEMT – High cost of getting into program may not be cost effective, staff is looking into it.
- EMT Class : Resolution to authorize Administrator up to \$15000 for EMT scholarships Passed 4/0
- Bookkeeping Outsource: Progress being made
- High School classes: Have been given 26 Friday afternoon slots at High School to teach fire and EMS classes to High School classes

New Business

- Administrators Report
  - Have some new people interested in volunteering
  - New vehicles, may be able to place a QRT vehicle in Helix to help with initial responses

Business of the Board

None

Adjourn Meeting 0755Next Meeting 9/19/2019

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sept 2, 2019	Labor Day
Sept 3, 2019	First Day of School
Oct 5, 2019	2018 Fall Festival 10:00am - 3:00pm
Oct 8, 2019	Flu Shots available at City Hall at 9:00am
Oct 31, 2019	Truck or Treat Returns to Main Street 5:00-7:00

City Hall Closures  
Athena City Hall, Public Works and Library will be closed Monday, September 2nd in observation of Labor Day. City Hall will also be closed September 17-20 for training.