

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

January 9, 2020

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. City Recorder Nancy Parker and eight guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Schroeder swore in Katie Zmuda as Councilor for Position #3, to fill out the term of Carol Speed.

Business from the Public: **2017-18 Annual Audit:** Chris Cockburn from Cockburn & McClintock, LLC presented the 2018-19 city audit. He explained how the audit works, answered questions and commended the city on another clean audit.

Athena Chamber of Commerce: April McKenna reminded everyone the Chamber Banquet is February 21st at the Athena Baptist Church. Nominations for First Citizen and Business of the Year awards are available at City Hall, the post office and the bank.

Main Street Association (MSA): April Vorhauer-Flatt reported their next projects are the Clean Sweep and Adopt a Highway programs in the spring. She also mentioned the exciting things happening at the Gen Theatre and encouraged everyone to check it out and volunteer.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 12/12/19 regular meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Actionable Items:

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2020-01 Water Rates and 2020-02 Sewer Rates. There are no rate increases again this year. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Schroeder announce the following Councilor appointments. Police - Wayne Kostur; Fire - Gene Wright; Library - Katie Zmuda; Administration - Sally and Public Works/Parks & Rec - Pat Gibson.

Recorder Nancy presented information from GovPayNet, which is a payment processing company that would allow patron to use debit and credit cards to pay their city fees. She explained the consumer pays the fee, not the city. A typical fee for a \$90 water/sewer bill would be 2.65%, or \$2.39. there is a minimum \$1.00 fee. Other types of transactions such as Business, Dog, Cat or Livestock Licenses or court payments would be charged 4% of the transaction amount. If paying by phone there is an additional \$2.50 fee. After clarifying the public would be aware they were paying the fee, a motion was made and seconded to approve contracting with GovPayNet. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Schroeder issued a proclamation Commemorating Athena School Choice Week January 26 - February 1, 2020.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Code Enforcement contract with Umatilla County. There being no changes the motion carried 5-0. Councilor Thompson requested a report at each meeting showing enforcement activity. Nancy & Michelle will provide the report.

A motion was made to approved a business license for Juniper Construction, LLC, owned by Gabriel Juarez. Motion was seconded and approved 5-0.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: Reports on existing permits we given by each commissioner. There were no new permit requests.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: Librarian Kristin Williams submitted a written report, which showed statistics from November & December 2018 vs. 2019. She announced they had started a coding club and it has been very well received. Kristin also reported the High School Advanced Art Class will be painting a mural on the building in the spring.

Parks & Rec: Councilor Kostur asked about the 50 AMP service to be installed in the park. Nancy will check with Public Works and report at the next meeting.

Administration: City Hall will be closed January 20th to honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **February 13, 2020 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

Approved: Becky Schroeder, Mayor _____

Attested: Nancy Parker, MMC, City Recorder _____