

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

**December 12, 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, and Gene Wright present. Councilor Sally Thompson was excused. City Recorder Nancy Parker and six guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Business from the Public:**

**Athena Chamber of Commerce:** Katie Zmuda reported the Chamber Banquet will be February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Athena Baptist Church. Nomination forms for First Citizens are available at City Hall, the post office and bank. The Athena Bazaar had 46 vendors and was well attended. Katie also reminded everyone to participate in the Christmas Light Contest Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm.

**Main Street Association (MSA):** April Flatt reported they made over \$800 at the Athena Bazaar, and will donate it to the Stahl Building. The holiday lighting ceremony was very successful, with over 100 people in attendance. April was also pleased to announce MSA had raised over \$2,000 in local donations. Thank you everyone!

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 11/14/19 regular meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**Actionable Items:** **Stacie Richmond-Owens and Katie Zmuda** submitted letters of interest for Council Position #3, being vacated by Carol Speed's resignation. Katie was asked to give a brief history of herself and why she would like to serve on Council. Stacie was unable to attend the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to elect Katie Zmuda to Position #3. The motion carried 4-0. Katie's term will run January 9<sup>th</sup> through December 31, 2022.

**Mayor Schroeder appointed Lloyd Shank** to fill the expiring term on the Planning Commission, effective 1/7, 2020. Due to a change in the Planning Commission By-Laws, only one of the two positions will be filled. The Mayor thanked Dyann Swanson for her interest and past service on the Commission.

**A motion was made and seconded** to approve a photography business license for Stacie Richmond-Owens called Shot in the Dark. Motion was approved 4-0.

**A motion was also made and seconded** to approve a business license for Randy Hickman, DBA Hickman's Egg, who is selling eggs. Motion carried 4-0.

**City Recorder Nancy** presented proposed changes to the Business License Application, stating they were to clarify business descriptions and make code enforcement more effective. She explained to the council and attendees these suggestions were at the request of the Code Enforcement Officer, and why the changes would benefit the City. She also said the office was updating the business files and this would be an opportune time because license renewals will be mailed out next week. A motion was made to approve the changes, seconded and passed 4-0.

**Committee Reports:**

**Planning Commission:** The meeting was cancelled because there were no new permit requests. Commissioner reports were submitted to Nancy orally and via email.

**Old Business:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge project is almost complete. A final meeting was held to discuss any concerns by all parties involved. There is still minor work to be completed, such as planting (in the spring), handrails installed when they arrive, etc. Everyone at the meeting expressed satisfaction with the project and thanked Rod Anderson Construction for doing such a good job.

**New Business:** Mayor Schroeder and Councilor Wright presented information on East Umatilla Fire & Rescue's proposal to form a taxing district. They stated the current IGA (Inter-Governmental Agreement) is working well and all the communities are benefiting. They would like to make this a permanent agreement and propose putting it on the May ballot. A discussion was held on how funding is allocated for a taxing district, and possible savings on homeowner insurance due to ISO scores being lowered. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to allow EUFR to move forward.

**Business from the Departments & Councilors:**

**Library:** Librarian Kristin Williams submitted a written report, which showed statistics from 2018 vs. 2019 and gave an update on the Umatilla County Special Library District distribution review process. She announced the Holiday Lighting with Main Street Association was a success for everyone and they plan to partner again next year.

**Administration:** City Hall will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> for Christmas. Michelle completed the Management Review for the audit, which should be presented to the city in January. City hall is exploring an option that would allow customers to use their debit cards. The customer would pay the fees, with no cost to the city. More information will be presented at the January meeting.

**Councilor Speed:** Carol expressed concern about rumors regarding her position when the contract with the Umatilla County Sherriff Office was being considered. She read excerpts from the minutes of 10/9/14, 10/29/14, and 11/20/14. She wanted it noted that she was the one who proposed a Town Hall meeting, expressed concerns about contracting with the Sherriff, but ultimately voted in favor of the contract because that is what the overwhelming majority of the citizens wanted. After discussion and clarification of the events, Carol thanked the council and citizens for her opportunity to serve since June 2008. She stated she has learned a lot about herself and the city through this process.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **January 9, 2020 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

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

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