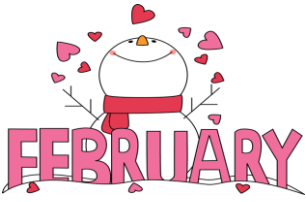


# ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER 2020



## CITY COUNCIL

**Rebecca Schroeder,**  
Mayor

**Wayne Kostur,**  
Comm of Police

**Gene Wright,**  
Comm of Fire Services

**Katie Zmuda,**  
Comm of Library

**Sally Thompson**  
Comm of Administration

**Pat Gibson,**  
Comm of Public Works

## CITY HALL HOURS

Monday – Friday  
8am – 5pm  
Closed all legal holidays

## CITY PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall 566-3862  
City Shop 566-0228  
Library 566-2470  
Emergency 911  
Non-Emergency  
Dispatch 541-966-3651

## February MEETINGS

**Library Board**  
Monday, 3rd @ 5:30pm

**Planning Commission**  
Wednesday, 12th @ 6:00pm

**City Council**  
Thursday, 13th @ 6:00pm

**Cemetery**  
Tuesday, 18th @ 5:00

## **DATE CHANGE!!!**

The Citizens and Business of the Year Banquet will be held

**FEBRUARY 28, 2020**

at the Athena Baptist Church at 6pm  
\*\*This is a change from February 21, 2020\*\*

Tickets are \$15 and will be sold at the door beginning at 5:30pm. The evening will have live auction items, a delicious meal and a local guest speaker.

Join the Chamber of Commerce as we celebrate and thank our past and present citizens and businesses that have contributed to the success of our community.

## **February Events at the Library.....**

There lots of things happening at the library in February! Check it out! As a reminder, the library will be closed on February 17 for President's Day.

February at the Library:

February 5:

Code Club 3:30 – 4:30

Teen Night 6:30 – 8:00

February 6: NO CRAFTERNOON

February 11: Adult Book Club 6:30 – 8:00 – Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

February 12: 3D Printing Class 3:30 – 4:30

February 13: Crafternoon 3:00 – 4:30

February 18: New Teen Book Group! 3:00 – 4:00

February 19:

Code Club 3:30 – 4:30

Teen Night 6:30 – 8:00

February 20: Crafternoon 3:00 – 4:30

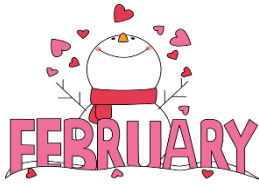
February 26: Code Club 3:30 – 4:30

February 27: Crafternoon 3:00 – 4:30

## RECYCLING CENTER

As most of you know, the City of Athena has recently lost its privilege of having the bottle and can recycle bin. This is due to residents using the recycle area for excess garbage that does not belong there. We are now in danger of losing the entire recycle center. This is a reminder to everyone that it is ALL of our responsibility to keep the recycle center clean and only deposit the correct items into the bins. Also, please remember that all boxes need to be broke down before they are thrown into the bin. If we all work together, we can save our recycle center.

**Happy  
Valentine's Day**



## ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER 2020

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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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 patrons 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



## ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER 2020

**Minutes Continued...**

**January 10, 2020**

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### East Umatilla County Ambulance Area Health District

#### Medic 400

January 7, 2020

(This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the full report, please see our website at [City of Athena.com](http://City of Athena.com))

The monthly meeting of the East Umatilla Fire & Rescue Committee was called to order at 6:31pm by President Matt Hoehna.

**Chief's Report:** Given by Chief Baty. Chief Baty presented the proof for the new town hall meeting informational flyer to be printed by the Intermountain ESD. Chief Baty states that he has been advised by George Dunkel, of SDAO, to leave the health district as-is, if the future included a health clinic. He advised that the fire district cannot, legally, run a health clinic. Other considerations include contracting with St. Anthony's or St. Mary's Medical Center for a health clinic, or other physician groups while still merging with the fire districts. Carol Kirk expressed concern about combining the health district with the fire districts. Matt Hoehna believes everything needs to be under one entity. After further discussion, a motion to approve the flyer for printing and mailing was made by C. Wernlund and seconded by R. Schroeder. **All voted in favor, none opposed, 6-** Rachelle will email Jennifer Blake at the IMESD to request printing begin this week.

Chief Baty held off on creating laminated cards for volunteers/staff to use as "talking points" when presented with questions by the public. M. Woolbright had requested these as a tool to use when approached by the public asking questions about the proposed merger or town hall meetings. Chief Baty will create these now that he knows what will be on the flyer.

George Murdock is willing to attend the Town Hall Meetings and advises that the commissioners are still in support of a new fire station as well as a new ambulance.

George Dunkel with SDAO will be here on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to answer questions at the Weston Fire Station at 5pm. Attendance is encouraged.

Budget preparations are underway. Chief Baty states that money spending has been under control and that equipment purchases have been made using grant monies awarded. Money has also been being spent on staffing.

Chief Baty reminded the board that if the votes don't pass the merger on the ballot, each entity will need to decide whether they want to continue with the current IGA or separate. If they separate, they will each need to create their own budgets. Wording in the IGA was reviewed for how termination of the agreement was stated.

**Business from the Board**

T. Case reminded the board that they must be on the May ballot to be voted in to their board positions if they would like to continue as members. He also presented discussion on the size of the board, should the merger pass, and proposed a seven-member board. He proposed to have one member from each of the four original entities and three at-large members. Rachelle will print off applications for the board members to fill out and turn in to the county

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4th, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Medic 400 District Office.



# ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER 2020

## CHAMBER NEWS

### Save the Date!

The 2020 Citizens and Business of the Year Banquet will be held on February 28, 2020 at the Athena Baptist Church at 6pm.

### License Reminder

All City Licenses, Business, Dog, and Livestock need to be paid before February 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid a price increase.

Before 15 <sup>th</sup>	After 15 <sup>th</sup>
Business – \$50.00	\$55.00
Livestock- \$30.00	\$35.00
Dog - \$12.00	\$15.00

### City Hall Closures

Athena City Hall, Public Works and Library will be closed February 17th for President’s Day.

Trivia Question...

Who was the first president to utter "We shall overcome" before a joint session of Congress?

- A. George Washington
- B. Lyndon B. Johnson
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. James Madison

Lyndon B Johnson

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**Ceud Mile Failt**  
(100,000 Welcomes)

# February 2020

## ATHENA NEWSLETTER

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Editors: Nancy Parker: [nancy@cityofathena.com](mailto:nancy@cityofathena.com) and Michelle Fox [michelle@cityofathena.com](mailto:michelle@cityofathena.com) reserve the right to edit for content and space. Original articles from this publication may be reprinted with proper acknowledgement.