



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

APRIL MEETINGS

Library Board
Monday, 6th @ 6:00pm

Planning Commission
Cancelled

City Council
Thursday, 9th @ 6:00pm

Cemetery
Tuesday, 21st @ 5:00

CITY PARK SPRING SPRUCE UP

Saturday, April 4 at 9am. It's that time again to don the gloves and dust off the rakes. Great way to invest in your community. Come when you can and bring a rake. We will provide other tools and garbage bags. See you there. Contact: Delbert Durfee 541-969-2156

Reminder: City Wide Yard Sale Day, Saturday May 16th. With any luck we will be still holding our annual community yard sale. We provide advertising for this event. We will know more in the May Newsletter.

Events at the Library.....

The library is closed in response to Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-12 and we will reopen as soon as the order is lifted. In the mean time, you can still access library services! Check out our website (www.athenalibrary.weebly.com) for at home resources, links to digital book and audio book checkouts and access to the many databases the library offers. In addition, you can follow the library on Facebook for daily Storytimes and other fun content as well as up to the minute information about the library closure. Finally, please feel free to email the library (athenalibrary@cityofathena.com) or send a Facebook message if you have questions or need other help. I'm checking in often and will get back to you as soon as possible. I'm looking forward to things returning to normal and seeing your faces at the library again!

CALEDONIAN GAMES

Please guard and protect our Athena Caledonian Games' mission to "promote and perpetuate our Scottish traditions" with your \$50 Guardian donation. Checks may be sent to Athena Caledonian Games, P O Box 161, Athena, OR 97813 by May 30.

JOB OPPORTUNITY **ASSISTANT CITY RECORDER**

Duties are to assist the City Recorder. Skills required: Computer aptitude, accuracy, mathematical ability, problem solving, and basic secretarial skills. Two years of office administration experience preferred. Must be able to multi task and handle fast paced office setting. Competitive salary based on qualifications. Hours and benefits negotiable. Pick up application at City Hall and /or mail resume to POB 686, Athena, OR 97813.



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The Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Athena City Council

March 12, 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, Sally Thompson, Gene Wright and Katie Zmuda present. Councilor Wayne Kostur attended by phone. City Recorder Nancy Parker and two guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public:

Athena Chamber of Commerce: The Chamber Banquet was very successful. Bob Irvine & Vern Purcell were named First Citizens, and Wheatland Insurance received the Business of the Year award. Congratulations!! The Chamber is excited to announce they received a \$900 grant from the Umatilla County Cultural Coalition, to be used for the Community Night Out celebration. The Chamber and Main Street Association will merge in April.

Main Street Association (MSA): Council was reminded the Clean Sweep and Adopt a Highway dates are May 2nd, which is also free dump day.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2/13/20 regular meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Actionable Items:

A motion was made, seconded and carried 5-0 to adopt the Budget Calendar as presented.

Mayor Schroeder appointed Michelle Fox as the Budget Officer for the 2020-2021 budget year.

Mayor Schroeder appointed Jerry Baker and Chuck to additional three-year terms on the Budget Committee.

The Selection Committee for hiring the new City Recorder reviewed the internal applications and is pleased to recommend Michelle Fox, current Assistant City Recorder for the position of City Recorder/Treasurer. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to hire Michelle as the City Recorder after Nancy retires.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: Steve & Kim Curtis submitted permit application 2020-03 for a pre-built outbuilding at 136 E Darwin. The application was approved.

Dennis Olson withdrew permit 2020-02, and submitted permit 2002-04 to replace it, with Parcel 1995-35 to be split into three lots. The existing buildings and Diamond Eye property will remain Parcel 2, zoned Industrial. Parcel 1 & 3 would then be rezoned Residential. Nancy explained if the split is approved a public hearing would be held on May 13, just before the regular Planning Commission meeting. If there are no reasonable objections from neighboring property owners, the Commission could approve the split and rezone as requested. An ordinance change could then be approved by the Athena City Council at the May 14th meeting. Diamond Eye is not using the proposed lots for their business, nor do they see a need in the future. Due to the limited number of available lots to build on in Athena, and the



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desire of the Planning Commission to promote growth in the city, the permit request was approved.

Old Business: Panels have been ordered to complete the bridge project. They should arrive in 6-8 weeks.

New Business: None

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: Librarian Kristin Williams reported the security cameras have been installed; beginning in May the Library Board will meet the 3rd Monday of the month; and she presented a revised Emergencies & Safety Policy adopted by the Library Board. After review and discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adopt the policy. Kristin presented the statistical report for January and February 2018, 2019 & 2020. She stated due to the Corona virus, all library programs have been cancelled until April 1st. Councilor Wright would like Kristin to check into backup lights for the library interior in case of a power failure.

Parks & Rec: Notices were posted that we are accepting applications for pool Lifeguards.

Fire: EURFD is going forward with flyers, signs and public meeting to inform the public about the upcoming election.

At 6:27 Mayor Schroeder paused the regular meeting to move to Executive Session: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) - Labor Negotiations.

The regular meeting was reconvened at 6:38, where a motion was made and seconded to approve the City Recorder contract for Michelle Fox, beginning 7/1/2020. Motion was approved 5-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **April 9, 2020 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

EAST UMATILLA COUNTY AMBULANCE AREA HEALTH DISTRICT

Medic 400

The monthly meeting of the East Umatilla Fire & Rescue Committee was called to order at 6:33pm by President Matt Hoehna. Roll was called and members present were Matt Hoehna, Carol Kirk, Chrys Wernlund, Gene Wright, Chris Williams and Terry Case. Members present from the public were Mark Moore, Dave Baty, Rachelle Roggiro, and bookkeeper JoAnn McKern.

There were no comments from the public.

Report on Town Hall Meetings

Chief Baty is pleased that board members, staff and volunteers are attending these meetings and is pleased with everyone responding to calls and stepping up to the plate. Chief Baty states that the meetings are not robustly attended but we are disseminating information as best as we can. FAQs are now six pages long. G. Wright suggested posting the FAQs in all four post offices. C. Williams suggested having the PIO post it on Facebook/Athena Weston News/Helix/Adams. Chief Baty will check with attorneys to see if we're allowed to do that and advised that Paul Chalmers will be attending the 3/11 and 4/8 meetings. C. Williams suggested strategically placing yards signs for voting. This costs money.

Chief's Report: Given by Chief Baty.

35 calls for service in the month of February 2020. 26 Medical assists, 0 fires, 3 MVAs, 3 False alarms, 2 Mutual aids, 1 cancel.

Chief Baty expressed concern over paying workers comp through SDIS. He believes we can get a better deal elsewhere.

Business from the Board

None

C. Wernlund moved to adjourn the meeting and T. Case seconded the motion. All voted in favor, MH, CK, CW, GW, CW, TC (6-0), none opposed. The Meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th, 2020 at 6:30pm at the Medic 400 District Office.



Congratulations to the recipients of the 2020 Athena Citizens and Business of the Year!

Citizens of the Year

Vernon Purcell – Vernon can be seen supporting his family at sporting events, helping a neighbor move furniture or bring a friend some dinner when they are unable to go get it themselves.

Bob Irvine- Bob's volunteer spirit is seen through his contribution towards the restoration of Athena's historic Gem Theatre and Stahl building.

These two gentlemen exemplify what it means to live in, love and give back to our community. We thank you for your commitment to Athena and appreciate your hard work to better the quality of life for our citizens.

Business of the Year

Wheatland Insurance Center- This business has resided on Main Street Athena for 37 years and currently employs 3 full time employees with over 50 employees throughout Eastern Oregon. They have been an avid supporter of many local and school organizations such as FFA, Booster Club, Caledonian Games, Athena Chamber and Triangle Little League. Thank you, Wheatland!

Something NEW! The Youth Citizen(s) of the Year will be announced at the 2020 Weston-McEwen graduation ceremony.

Also, a BIG Thank You to the Umatilla County Cultural Coalition for the \$900 grant awarded to the Athena Chamber in February. This grant will cover the majority of the cost of the 2020 Community Night Out on July 31st!!

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(100,000 Welcomes)

April
2020

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