

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

May 14, 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 Katie Zmuda present. City Recorder Nancy Parker, Assistant Recorder Michelle Fox and four guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Schroeder opened the Public Hearing to take comments on a proposed tax lot split and rezoning requested by Dennis Olson. Fred & Edna Kirk commented they were not opposed to the property split, but would like to see the city extend High Street from East to West. Nancy explained to extend the road it would need to go through Dennis Olson's' property, and a city road cannot be extended through private property. There being no further comments the public hearing was closed.

**Business from the Public:**

**Athena Mainstreet Association (AMA):** Brenda Vorhauer reported the Athena Chamber of Commerce has merged with AMA. This will benefit both organizations due to duplicate members and funding. They would like to acknowledge donations of \$1,000 from Sunset Housing and George Vorhauer Memorial. Electrical work will take place in the Stahl Building during June. June will also see a virtual Tuesday Market, with the traditional market returning during July & August. AMA also requested permission to use Duggar Park for the market and asked the city to again provide the porta potties. Discussion was held about the cost difference of a regular unit and one that includes a hand washing station. Brenda suggested AMA could pay the difference.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 3/12/20, 4/21/20 and 4/29/20 meetings, the financial statements and bills. Motion carried 4-0.

**Actionable Items:** Mayor Schroeder asked if there was any further discussion or questions on the Dennis Olson Tax Lot Split/Rezone. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to approve the tax lot split/rezone and Ordinance 525C. The motion was approved 4-0.

A motion was made and seconded to allow Tuesday Market in Duggar Park during July & August and for the city to again supply a porta potty. Motion was approved 4-0.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the design presented by the Athena Caledonian Games to install an arch in the park. Motion carried 4-0.

Livestock permits were submitted by Chuck Vickery and Rob & Dusty Pickard. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Vickery permit for chickens. Motion passed

3-1, with Councilor Thompson voting no. A motion was made, seconded and passed 4-0 to approve the permit for Pickards.

**Committee Reports:**

**Planning Commission:** The meeting was cancelled due to no permit activity. Reports were submitted by email and phone.

**Old Business:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge - The remainder of the panels have been installed and look great. We are waiting for them to return to repair the riprap that washed away during the high water in February.

**New Business: None**

Councilor Gene Wright arrived at 6:26 pm.

**Business from the Departments & Councilors:**

**Library:** Librarian Kristin Williams submitted a statistical report, which also included information of events happening during the COVID-19 shutdown. Creative programs include a weekly Facebook Live Trivia Night, weekly ZOOM party, and distribution of craft kits. She also reviewed her policy for each phase of reopening.

**Parks & Rec:** Lifeguards have been hired and the city is planning to open the pool this summer, depending on state COVID-19 restrictions.

**Fire:** Gene reminded everyone to vote on the Fire Department consolidation.

**Administration:** Nancy reported she had secured \$40,000 for the pool mechanical room from Sunset Housing, and \$1,000 for the library. She reminded everyone her last day in the office is May 28<sup>th</sup>, and her official retirement date is June 30, 2020.

**Mayor Schroeder** presented Nancy a beautiful retirement plaque and thanked her for her years of dedicated service, always going above and beyond, and performing her duties at the highest quality. She also announced due to Nancy's extraordinary efforts in making sure the swimming pool was refurbished and the bathhouse replaced, the city was naming the pool area the "Parker Pool Complex". Nancy expressed her thanks to the council and city; and was truly humbled by this announcement.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **June 11, 2020 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

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

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