

ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER

August / 2020



CITY COUNCIL

Rebecca Schroeder,
Mayor

Wayne Kostur,
Commissioner of Police

Gene Wright,
Commissioner of Fire Services

Katie Zmuda,
Commissioner of Library

Sally Thompson,
Commissioner of
Administration

Pat Gibson,
Commissioner of Public Works

CITY HALL HOURS

Monday-Friday
8:00am-5:00pm
(closed all federal holidays)

CITY PHONE NUMBERS

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

AUGUST MEETINGS

Library Board

Monday, August 17th at 5:30 @ Library

Planning Commission

Wednesday, August 12th at 6:00pm @ City
Hall

City Council

Thursday, August 13th at 6:00pm @ City
Hall

Cemetery Board

Tuesday, August 18th @ 5:00pm @ City
Hall

HARVEST TIME!

Wheat harvest has started which means an increase in truck and big equipment traffic. Please drive carefully!



CALEDONIAN ARCHWAY INTO HESKETH ROSE GARDEN

Check out the new beautiful archway to the rose garden in The Athena City Park. A formal dedication will be held during the 2021 Caledonian Games. A big thanks to Athena Caledonian and Freels Fabrication for making this happen, it looks great!



CITY OF ATHENA VACANCIES

The City of Athena will have three vacant positions, Mayor and 2 city council positions, starting January 1, 2021. These positions are four-year terms. If you are interested in running, pick up your election packet at City Hall. The application must be turned in to the County Elections Office by **August 25th, 2020.**

ATHENA MAINSTREET ASSOCIATION

Come help clean up Main Street. Volunteers age 16 and older are invited to meet us at the Sugar Shack on Sunday August 2 at 8am to participate in Adopt A Highway. Please wear gloves and bring bottled water. Masks will be provided. Sharing one hour of your time will make a big improvement in Athena's Main Street.



ATHENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library will be closed on Monday, August 10. We'll be back to normal hours on Tuesday!

August is here and Summer Reading is winding down. The last summer reading bags will be available the week of August 10. After that week we'll take a short break from weekly craft bags to re-assess and make plans for the fall. We'll resume weekly bags in September! We are continuing to have weekly Facebook Live trivia nights, every Wednesday at 7:00pm. All you have to do is log in to Facebook from the comfort of your home, go to the library Facebook page and play along. It's a fun time each week. We also post stories and other fun stuff on our page. Follow us and see what we're up to!

Kids have been experiencing a lot of changes and fall will probably bring more. School may look different, routines may look different, people even look different with their masks on! Reading a book to your child can help them process all the things happening in their lives. Here are a couple of suggestions that might help:

Do Not Lick This Book: It's Full of Germs by Idan Ben-Barak tells the story of Min the Microbe and is a fun way to talk to your kids about germs. The images in the book are microscopic photography and are really fun.

Germs are not for Sharing by Elizabeth Verdick introduces concepts of hygiene, hand washing and why we don't want to share our germs.

As always, we have many books and other resources to help out. Currently the library is open regular hours and we're also always happy to check things out and bring them to your car if you prefer not to come in the building!



United States Census 2020

The 2020 Census is still happening, and it's not too late to make sure you're counted! With every resident of Umatilla County that's counted in the 2020 Census, approximately \$4,000 worth of funding comes to our communities for education, healthcare, housing, transportation and other vital services. An individual's personal information collected on the 2020 Census is protected by Title 13 of United States Code and cannot be shared with law enforcement, federal or state agencies, landlords, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), or employers. Completing your Census form only takes about 10 minutes, but will impact Athena and the county for the next 10 years. Head to 2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020 TODAY!

THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY BENEVOLENCE: A JOINT MINISTRY OF THE CHURCHES OF ATHENA

Do you need urgent help to prevent losing your housing or prevent your power from being shut off? Do you need emergency food, gas, winter clothing, or help with emergency medical costs? We would like to help you.

Emergency Clothing

Free winter coats and accessories are available at Bees Knees, 216 Main Street, in Athena with voucher from Athena Christian Church

Athena Food Pantry

Open Mondays 9am-12pm

A voucher for gas is available at Athena Christian Church, 8am-noon, Monday-Thursday

Emergency Assistance Fund

Emergency Assistance is available from the Ministry of Community Benevolence

Additional Resources

Weston Food Bank- Open every Third Saturday from 10-11am

* Valley Cupboard- behind Valley Christian Center, 800 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater, 541-938-7161

Breadbasket- 8NE 7th Ave., Milton-Freewater, 541-938-3158. Monday-Friday 9am-12pm.

Christian Aid Center- Walla Walla, 509-525-7153

Salvation Army- Pendleton, 541-276-3369

Contacts:

Chrissy Froese 541-969-1839

Bob Johns 541-969-8006

THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 16TH, 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

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, Katie Zmuda, and Gene Wright present. City Recorder Michelle Fox and two guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public:

Athena Mainstreet Association (AMA): April Flatt reported for the Athena Mainstreet Association. An Adopt-A-Highway has been approved by ODOT and will be held August 2nd. Participants will meet at Sugar Shack at 8:00 am. The AMA would like to thank the Bjorklund's for a donation to the Stahl building in the amount of \$1,050.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Budget Hearing minutes. Motion carried 5-0. A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 6/11/20 meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion carried 5-0.

Actionable Items: Mayor Schroeder explained to Council that a Premises Lease Agreement, Intergovernmental Agreement, and a Resolution are being drafted by the League of Oregon Cities attorney between the City of Athena and the new Fire District. This agreement is for the purpose of transferring possession of all fire equipment to the new fire district with the exception of the property the fire station resides on, the Fire Station, and the Fire Trucks. These items will be leased by the Fire District for \$0.00 dollars with all liability being shifted to the Fire District. Once documents are drafted, both entities will review and make any changes necessary before final documents are drafted.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission approved Permit #2020-07 for Mike Robinson to build a new house and shop at 419 N Hunt St.

Old Business: The Council selected four objectives they would like to see put on the Legislative Agenda for 2021.

New Business: Mayor Schroeder read a Proclamation stating the City of Athena stands to defend the police departments, not to defund the police departments.

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: Librarian Kristin Williams submitted her Library usage report. Stated that Library use is increasing once again. The county libraries are discussing how story time can be restarted this fall. All libraries are working on how to continue to meet the needs of their communities during this new climate. The library received a grant for the children's books from the Pilcrow Foundation. With this grant, 93 titles were purchased.

Parks & Rec: The pool is doing great.

Public Works: They are receiving bids for a new excavator. Michelle received a quote for the new slides. She will order them next week.

Fire: None

Police: Wayne is reviewing the contract between the Umatilla County Sheriff's Department and the City

of Athena. The present contract will expire June 30, 2021.

Administration: Auditors will be here the week of July 20-24.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm. The next regular council meeting will be **August 13, 2020 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

ATHENA CITY HALL

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“Ceud Mile Failt”

(100,000 Welcomes)

August 2020 Newsletter



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