

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

**January 14, 2021**

**Attendance:** Mayor Becky Schroeder called the regular meeting of the Athena City Council to order at 6:01 pm via Zoom. Roll was taken with Councilors Katie Zmuda, Wayne Kostur, Sally Thompson, Jesse Bonifer and Gene Wright present. City Recorder Michelle Fox and three guests were also in attendance.

**Installation of Newly Elected Mayor and Councilors:** Recorder, Michelle Fox swore in Becky Schroeder as newly elected Mayor. Mayor Schroeder then swore in newly elected councilors, Gene Wright and Jesse Bonifer.

**Business from the Public:**

**Chris Williams - East Umatilla Fire & Rescue:** Chris Williams, Board member of the East Umatilla Fire & Rescue, explained to the Council that they are procuring funding through the legislature to build a new fire station for the district. Chris is asking the Council to sign a letter of non-monetary support for this new building. The new station will be housed on Banister Road which they feel will serve the District very well. Some Fire equipment will still be housed in Athena. A motion was made and seconded to sign the letter of non-monetary support for the fire district's new station. Motion carried 5-0.

**Athena Mainstreet Association (AMA):** April Vorhauer Flatt reported for the Athena Mainstreet Association. She announced they had three winners of the Holiday Lighting Contest. April also mentioned that the Citizen of the Year nomination applications are now available. All applications must be returned by February 8.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 12/10/20 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 5-0.

**Actionable Items:** Resolution 2021-01 Establishing Water Rates - No changes to water rates are recommended for the current year. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2021-01 Establishing Water Rates. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2021-02 - Establishing Sewer Rates - No changes to sewer rates are recommended for the current year. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2021-02- Establishing Sewer Rates. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Schroeder asked for volunteers or nominations for Council President. Sally Thompson and Gene Wright both volunteered to run for position. Both councilors gave a brief statement as to why they would like to be council president. A vote was taken and

Gene Wright was elected Council President. The Council President, except in voting on questions before the council, shall function as Mayor when the Mayor is absent from a council meeting or unable to function as Mayor.

Mayor Schroeder announced the new Councilor assignments:

Councilor Kostur: Umatilla County Sheriff

Gene Wright: Public Works & Parks

Katie Zmuda: Library

Sally Thompson: Administration

Jesse Bonifer - East Umatilla Fire & Rescue

### **Committee Reports:**

**Planning Commission:** No new building permits

### **Old Business:**

**New Business:** A sample ordinance from Mossyrock, Washington not recognizing certain state proclamations having to do with Covid-19 was reviewed by the council to see if something like this would be beneficial to our city. After a discussion, a motion was made in favor of moving forward with a similar ordinance. Due to the lack of a second, the motion was not taken up.

### **Business from the Departments & Councilors:**

**Library:** Kristin submitted her year-end library report. Even with the library being forced to close for a long period of time, circulation was only down 20% showing they were able to maintain an admirable level of service. Kristin also wanted to thank ALFA and the Library Board for their support during this difficult year. The library will be reopening on Tuesday, January 19. Curbside service will still be provided for those who prefer that option. Mayor Schroeder acknowledged a letter that she and the councilors had received from the Umatilla County Library Special District praising Kristin for her pioneering vision, creativity, and dedication to our city's library. Thank you, Kristin, for all your hard work.

**Parks & Rec:** None

**Public Works:** The snack shack at the softball field has been torn down. Half the lights on Main Street have been replaced with the new bulbs. Weather permitting, Corey Thacker is scheduled to start the ground work for the playground equipment the first week in February.

**Fire:** Council Wright acknowledged his support for the new Fire Station Project and believes the fire district is headed in the right direction.

**Sheriff:** The Umatilla County Sheriff's office monthly report was included in packet.

**Administration:** December was quiet with the holidays. The new year is starting out busy as usual. Mayor Schroeder stated that she would like to have a council work session in March to discuss any ideas, topics, goals, priorities, capital expenditures that need to be discussed before starting into the budget season. She asked councilors to talk with their respective departments and bring ideas and top priorities to the meeting for council discussion. The date and time are still to be determined for this March meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **February 11, 2021 @ 6:00 pm** via Zoom.

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

Attested: Michelle Fox, CMC, City Recorder \_\_\_\_\_