

# CITY OF ATHENA NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY/2021



## CITY COUNCIL

Rebecca Schroeder, Mayor

Wayne Kostur, Commissioner  
of Police

Gene Wright, Commissioner  
of Public Works

Katie Zmuda,  
Commissioner of Library

Sally Thompson,  
Commissioner of  
Administration

Jesse Bonifer,  
Commissioner of Fire  
Services

### 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



## ***FEBRUARY MEETINGS***

### **Library Board**

Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm @ Library

### **Planning Commission**

Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm @ City  
Hall

### **City Council**

Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm @ City  
Hall

### **Cemetery**

Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm @ City  
Hall

All departments of the  
City of Athena,  
including the Library,  
will be closed February  
15, 2021. In observance  
of Presidents' Day.



**CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING on  
February 11<sup>th</sup> will be  
virtual via Zoom. For  
online participation  
information please  
contact City Hall by  
3:00pm on the 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**541 566-3862**

### **Congratulations to the annual lighting contest winners**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Paul and Teresa Kelly 355 W. Washington Street

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Kenny Mitchell 235 E. High Street

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Justin and Kati Funderburk 336 E Darwin Street

Business: Moosebee's

Thank you to everyone who participated. We have never seen Athena so lit up!

### **2021 Citizen and Business of the Year Nominations**

Although there will not be a banquet this year, we feel it is still important to honor our Citizens and Businesses that make Athena so great. Please help us by nominating a citizen and or business you feel deserves recognition. Nomination forms can be found at post office, on the city website under community links for Athena Mainstreet Association, and on the Athena Mainstreet Connection Facebook page. Nominations are due Feb 8<sup>th</sup> and recipients will be awarded on March 5<sup>th</sup>.



**For more information email [Athenamainstreet@gmail.com](mailto:Athenamainstreet@gmail.com)**

## ATHENA PUBLIC LIBRARY



The library is open to the public again! We are allowing 6 people in the library at a time for browsing and checking out and we have 15 minute computer appointments available. We still can't have programming and are discouraging people from hanging out but we're excited to see you again!

While we aren't having in person crafternoons, every Thursday we do have a craft bag available for kids to take home! Kids can stop by from 12-5 to pick up their weekly dose of fun and creativity.

Every year the library receives a grant from the CS Jackson Fund to purchase new materials related to Oregon history. This year's grant selections includes titles for all ages.

- *O is for Oregon* by Trish Madson – an alphabetized board book field trip highlighting some of the plants, animals, food and places that make Oregon great.
- *B is for Beaver* by Marie and Roland Smith– a fun picture book with great rhyming stanzas perfect for kids with shorter attention spans but also additional information for older kids who want to learn more about their state.
- *Wagons Ho! Then and Now on the Oregon Trail* by George Hallowell and Joan Holub - this creative picture book tells the story of two families traveling from Independence, MO to Oregon City, OR, one family in 1846 and one family in the present day. How are their journeys different, how are they the same?
- *Sarah Journeys West: An Oregon Trail Survival Story* by Nikki Smith– this is a short middle grade novel of the Oregon Trail from the perspective of a 12 year old girl.
- *A Heart for Any Fate, Westward to Oregon, 1845* by Linda Crew – this novel is perfect for middle school and high school readers, it tells the story of a 17 year old girl who travels the Oregon Trail with 3 generations of her family. It's a clear eyed look at the hardships and difficulties of the long voyage. Will they even make it to Oregon?
- *This or That: Enduring the Oregon Trail* by Jessica Rusick – gives young readers a look at some of the many choices travelers on the Oregon Trail had to make. Would you have survived the trip?
- *Pick Your Own Path on the Oregon Trail* by Jess Wiley – a fun choose your own adventure style game book. Will you die of dysentery?
- *Unsettled Ground: The Whitman Massacre and its Shifting Legacy in the American West* by Cassandra Tate – this book is a brand new exploration of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and the narratives that have surrounded the "Whitman Massacre." This book attempts to provide context and a balanced look at an event that has shaped the west.
- *Rough House* by Tina Ontiveros – is a memoir about family, addiction, violence and generational trauma. Set in the logging camps of the Pacific Northwest, it is a big story of a disappearing culture and the small story of a broken family. If you like Tara Westover's *Educated* you might like this as well.
- *Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes* edited by Alvin Josephy – this is a collection of essays by nine Native American writers attempting to answer the question: what impact, good or bad, immediate or long range, did Lewis and Clark's journey have on the Indians whose homelands they traversed?
- *Hidden History of Civil War Oregon* by Randol Fletcher – most Oregonians believe the Civil War was a faraway event that had little impact on our state. This book details the stories behind the many Civil War monuments and graves that dot our landscape.

## UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT FOR THE CITY OF ATHENA

Total Calls for  
Service/Incidents  
(December 2020):

# 103



## 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 application is available now. 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- 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. The new year is starting out busy 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.

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## **ATHENA CITY HALL**

302 E. Current St.

PO Box 686

Athena, OR 97813

Phone: 541 566-3862

Fax: 541 566-2781

E-mail: [cityhall@cityofathena.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofathena.com)



## **FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER**

“Ceud Mile Failt”  
(100,000 Welcomes)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Editors: Michelle Fox: [michelle@cityofathena.com](mailto:michelle@cityofathena.com) and Karrah King: [karrah@cityofathena.com](mailto:karrah@cityofathena.com) reserve the right to edit for content and space.

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