

# CITY OF ATHENA NEWSLETTER



MARCH/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



## *MARCH MEETINGS*

### Library Board

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

### Planning Commission

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

### City Council

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

### Cemetery

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

**CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING** on  
March 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**

## HUMBERT REFUSE

Please make checks payable to:

**Humbert Refuse**

P.O. Box 727

Athena, OR 97813

For all that pay via bill pay, please remember to update the payee to Humbert Refuse (remove “& Recycling”). The phone number remains (541) 938-4188 and payment drop-offs are still accepted at 54841 HWY 332, Milton-Freewater as well as Weston, Athena, and Adams City Halls. Thank you!



## **LIFEGUARDS NEEDED**

Now accepting  
Applications for  
Lifeguards!  
Must be 15 years  
of age to apply.



**\$12.00 Per Hour**  
Please contact  
Athena City Hall  
for applications.  
Applications must  
be returned by  
March 31, 2021

## ATHENA PUBLIC LIBRARY



The library is open to the public again. We welcome you to stop by and browse the shelves, check out books, use the computers and enjoy visiting the library again. We're glad to be making steps back toward some normalcy at the library.

Every Thursday we offer Take and Make Crafternoons! Just stop by the library on your way home from school and pick up a bag full of all the supplies you need for a fun craft plus a snack! Crafternoon bags are available every Thursday until they run out!

Please watch our Facebook page for information on some Spring Break Week fun! We will be hosting a traveling exhibit from the Museum of Natural and Cultural History called Oregon's Dino Story! We will be scheduling appointments to enjoy the exhibits and activities as soon as we have some more information.

Looking for a new series to read? We just added the Spy School series by Stuart Gibbs to our collection. Spy School is an 8 book series of about an awkward middle school student trying to become a super cool secret agent. It's perfect reading material for these blustery March days!

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

Total Calls for  
Service/Incidents  
(January 2021):

# 110



## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

February 11, 2021

**Attendance:** Mayor Becky

Schroeder called the regular meeting of the Athena City Council to order at 6:00 pm. Roll was taken with Councilors Katie Zmuda, Wayne Kostur, Sally Thompson, Jesse Bonifer and Gene Wright present. City Recorder Michelle Fox and four guests were also in attendance via zoom. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Business from the Public:**

**Kylie McClintock – Audit Presentation:** Kylie McClintock from Cockburn & McClintock, LLC presented the 2019-2020 city audit. She commended the city on another clean audit.

**Athena Mainstreet Association (AMA):** April Vorhauer Flatt reported for the Athena Mainstreet Association. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 there will be no in-person Citizen of the Year banquet but they will still be announcing Business and

Citizen of the Year on March 15. Instead of monthly, the scavenger hunts will be saved for fun activity weekends such as Caledonian and Hodaka Days. The AMA's goal for 2022 is to hire an executive director.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 1/14/21 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 5-0.

**Actionable Items:** A motion was made and seconded to approve a business license application for **Spring Hollow Transfers**. Motion carried 5-0.



Daylight saving time  
will begin at 2:00

AM on

**Sunday, March 14**

## **Committee Reports:**

**Planning Commission:** Permit #2021-01 was approved for Richard and Kris Garrett for a new garage.

**Old Business:** Mayor Schroeder announced that a council goal/planning session is scheduled for March 11 at 5:30pm to go over city and city department priorities and goals, for next year. She asked each councilor to meet with their respective departments and bring a list to the meeting. She reminded them that the departments put their own budgets together and items on the list need to fit within the budget and time restraints of the staff.

**New Business: - Livestock Permit** - A motion was made and seconded to approve a livestock permit for Brian Nye for 6 rabbits. Motion carried 5-0. A motion was made and seconded to approve a livestock permit for Brian Nye for 6 chickens. Motion passed 4-1. Sally Thompson voted no.

**Humbert Refuse Franchise Agreement-**The franchise agreement between the City of Athena and Humbert Refuse was reviewed and discussed. The council would like to see a few changes made. Michelle will call Humbert Refuse and ask for changes to be made and she will bring a revised draft back to the next meeting.

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

**Library:** The library is open to the public once again. Kristin will be doing the summer reading program in the park this summer. She will try to do one activity per week.

**Parks & Rec:** None

**Public Works:** They are waiting for Corey Thacker to remove remainder of cement at the softball field.

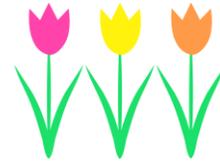
**Fire:** Councilor Bonifer has a meeting set up with Fire Chief, Dave Baty.

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

**Administration:** Michelle informed the council that union negotiations for a new three-year contract would be starting soon. She asked for a councilor to volunteer to bargain for the City along with Mayor Schroeder. Council Wright volunteered to be on the bargaining team. Kristin Williams and Kenneth Faircloth will negotiate for the city employees.

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

Spring is almost here! Please  
unpack your meter boxes.



# **A Message from our Mayor:**

March-April 2021

“Ordinary” – defined as “something regular, customary, or usual”. So many people I know are so ready for some “ordinary” life. The long-term strain of this past year is definitely being felt far and wide in America. The term “extraordinary” would seem to be a better descriptor of these times in which we live. I have seen people in Athena demonstrate their “extra”ordinariness over and over in the last few weeks with all of the snow and winter weather. Neighbors checking on neighbors, plowing each other’s driveways, bringing in groceries, helping to support those who are struggling. The thing is, as I look back at these Mayor’s Messages over the past year, this kind of behavior is quite ordinary for those who live in our little town. This is not the first time in the past year we have had to come together as a community and help each other. The times we live in may be extraordinary, but for the people of Athena, rising to take care of each other and navigate these challenges is ordinary indeed. Our own librarian, Kristin Williams, was recently commended by Umatilla County Special Library District for her exemplary and amazing dedication to keeping our library going this past year despite the challenges. This year Athena’s Mainstreet Association is planning to resume some of their activities such as the Tuesday Markets, despite the ongoing Coronavirus challenges causing many to cancel such events for another year. It would seem what is “ordinary” for Athena is not so “regular, customary, or usual” in other places. Thanks to all who choose each day to make this community what it is – “extra” ordinary!

-Becky Schroeder

## **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)

## **MARCH 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. Original articles from this publication may be reprinted with proper acknowledgment