

# CITY OF ATHENA

NEWSLETTER

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

August 8, 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 were present. City Recorder Michelle Fox and four guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Business from the Public:**

**Code Enforcement** - Gina Miller with the Umatilla County Code Enforcement was available for questions from the Council. Councilor Wright asked about the status of the Athena Spit N Shine Property. He was told that there is an active/open case and the owner has been given a warning for solid waste and operating a pallet business without a license. He has 30 days to rectify the situation or he will be issued a citation.

**Athena Mainstreet Association (AMA):** April Vorhauer Flatt with the Athena Mainstreet Association updated the Council on their events. Community Night Out was a big success with community conversation, networking, 3-3 basketball tournament, beer garden and more. Their next meeting will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. April distributed a Main Street Assessment sheet for the Council's review including potential hazards, concerns, wish list, and findings they would like addressed.

**Sunthurst Energy** - Daniel Hale with Sunthurst Energy gave a presentation with an opportunity to bring solar panels to Athena. He presented the council with a proposal to install solar panels on Pambrun Road near the sewer plant. He explained the benefits to the city for installing them and answered several questions from the council. After a lengthy

### SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

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#### LIBRARY BOARD

Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at  
6:00pm @ Library

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at  
6:00pm @ City Hall

#### CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at  
6:00pm @ City Hall

#### CEMETERY

Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at  
5:00pm @ City Hall

#### CITY HALL HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm  
City Hall: 541-566-3862  
City Shop: 541-566-0228  
Library: 541-566-2470  
Emergency: 911  
Non- Emergency: 541-966-3651

discussion, it was decided that the council needed more time to make a decision and would like to have a separate work session with Daniel to discuss this opportunity further. Daniel will send Michelle dates and times he is available for this meeting.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 7/8/21 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 5-0.

**Actionable Items:** None

**Committee Reports:**

**Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission approved Permit #2021-04 for Cory Watson. A conditional use permit to live in RV on his property for one month. Cory is to come back to the Planning Commission next month showing progress with plans to build on this property before a longer time frame to live in RV will be granted to him.

Permit # 2021-05 was approved for Lyman and Elaine Shaw for a conditional use permit for son-in-law to live in RV until 12/1/21 while renovating their house.

**New Business:** Councilor Bonifer asked if the city could host a town hall meeting with Sheriff Rowan. He would like an opportunity for the community to ask questions to Sheriff regarding state mandates that are being imposed which he feels are unconstitutional. Wayne Kostur, who is the police liaison councilor, will contact Sheriff Rowan to see if this would be possible.

**Business from the Departments & Councilors:**

**Library:** Kristen wished more people would have participated in the community conversation during Community Night Out but still felt it was a good conversation.

**Parks & Rec:** A resident filed a claim with the city for medical expenses caused by a foot injury at the pool. The rough patches on the bottom of the pool will be repaired before the pool opens next summer.

**Public Works:** The new snack shed for the softball field will be ready to be placed in the next few weeks.

**Fire:** No Report

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

**Administration:**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **September 9, 2021 @ 6:00 pm.**

## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor, Rebecca Schroeder  
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

## Community Food Pantry



Open Mondays 9:00am-12:00pm  
(except holidays)

Serving Athena, Weston, Adams, and  
Helix

Athena Christian Church  
458 E Van Buren St.  
Athena, OR 97813  
541.566.3422

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

Total Calls for Service/Incidents (JULY):

93



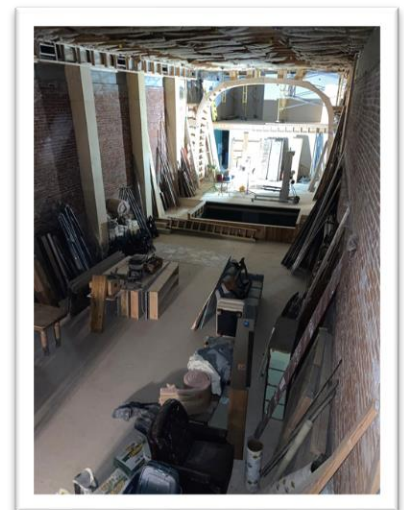
# CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER

FALL IS COMING!

We have been enjoying some cooler temperatures in recent days, and in the mornings, you can almost smell the Autumn days ahead! So right now is the time to get to work and get those Code Violations cleaned up that we have been talking about for the last few months. Admittedly July and the first few weeks of August were WAY too hot, day and night, and this made it difficult for people to get out and work in their yards. So, the coming months of September and October will be ideal for addressing any lingering Code Violations on your property.

Code Enforcement does conduct weekly patrols of this city all year long, so we will be looking at things in December and January as well. Believe us, it is much easier to take care of those Code Violations on your property in good weather! You don't want to be shoveling snow to get it cleaned up. Extra Warnings and Citations may be issued in the coming weeks to urge property owners to get Code Violations brought into compliance before the freezing days of Winter set in.

We always welcome your calls, and look forward to working with you and helping you get your property into compliance. We would much rather work WITH you and avoid having to issue a citation. We encourage you to respond with any questions you may have if you receive a Warning at (541)278-6300.



This guy - Rob McIntyre. Athena resident and high school band teacher. Talk to Rob for any more than a few minutes, though, and you will hear about the Gem Theater. Rob began the work of restoring the historic Gem Theater over 17 years ago. He didn't just settle for a little cleanup and paint. Rob has poured countless hours into actually restoring the theater to an even greater grandeur than its original days. When it is finished, it will be a destination tourist point of the Northwest. Rob's attention to the historic details is matched by his insistence on the best sound system and performance equipment that will make this a sought-after location for performance arts. Someday all of us will be able to look back and tell stories of going through the great Pandemic of 2020. Personally, I would far rather claim to have been part of the history of restoring the Gem Theater! Since Covid19 reared its ugly head, Rob has continued the work at the Gem nearly all on his own. He is getting close, but there is still work to be done. You don't have to be a construction person to volunteer - Rob has many jobs requiring little to no skill or experience at all. Just ask. Go to the Gem Theater Facebook page and see the progress and contact him. Even a few hours on a Saturday would be appreciated. Be a part of history in Athena!

**A huge Thank-You to Colleen Bagdon and the lifeguard crew for a great swim season!**

thank you!

# Athena Public Library

In honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, Athena Public library will be hosting **September 11, 2001: The Day the World Changed**. This educational exhibition recounts the events of September 11, 2001, through the personal stories of those who witnessed and survived the attacks. This exhibition includes archival photographs and images of artifacts from the National 9/11 Memorial permanent collection. The exhibition will be on display for the whole month of September. Please call the library if you want to bring a group to view the exhibit and regular library hours don't work for you.

September's Adult Book Club selection is **The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11** by Garrett M. Graff. The book club will meet on Monday, September 27 at 6:30pm to discuss the book and get the October book selection. Stop by the library to pick up your copy of the September book!

Storytime will be at the library **Tuesday mornings at 10:30am starting September 21**. Storytime is a fun way for toddlers and preschoolers to learn early literacy skills with friends.

Crafternoon is back! Crafternoon will be **Thursdays after school starting September 23**. Crafternoon is a drop-in craft time. Participants can stop by on their way home from school. Don't forget to check out a book while you're here!

## A reminder to please clean up after your pets:



570.15: PUBLIC NUISANCE: A. No person owning or having control of any dog shall permit such dog to do any of the following: 1. Defecate on private properties in the neighborhood or community (other than that of the owner or the person having control of the animal); 2. Defecate on public property without immediately cleaning or removing the excrement to a proper receptacle

## Athena City Hall

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