

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

August 12, 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 13th. 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 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.**

Approved: Becky Schroeder, Mayor _____

Attested: Michelle Fox, CMC, City Recorder _____