

CITY OF ATHENA

NEWSLETTER

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

October 14, 2021

Attendance: Mayor 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 and Gene Wright present. Councilor Jesse Bonifer was absent. City Recorder Michelle Fox and three 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 gave an update on the Athena Spit and Shine Property. Mr. Humbert failed to appear for his court date and now has a Default Judgement filed against him. To date, the County Code Enforcement has 24 open cases in Athena. Gina also, explained a new pilot project she would like to start in Athena, where local community members volunteer to help with clean-up projects for those who are unable to do clean-up themselves. She will write an article for our website and newsletter explaining how this project would work.

Athena Mainstreet Association (AMA): April Makenna with the Athena Mainstreet Association asked the Council for permission to close Main Street between 2nd street and 4th Street on Sunday, October 31 between the hours of 4:00-8:00pm for Trunk-or-Treat. A motion was made and seconded to approve street closure for Trunk-or-Treat. Motion carried. Future events on the AMA calendar are the Holiday Bazaar on December 4th and the Christmas Light Parade on December 5th.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 9/9/21 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 4-0.

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

LIBRARY BOARD

Monday, November 15th at
6:00pm @ Library

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 10th at
6:00pm @ City Hall

CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, November 18th at
6:00pm @ City Hall

CEMETERY

Tuesday, November 16th 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

Community Food Pantry



Open Mondays 9:00am-11:45am
(except holidays)
Open Every 3rd Saturday 9:00am-11:45am

Serving Athena, Weston, Adams, and Helix

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

Actionable Items: A letter was submitted by Sue Friese, President of the Caledonian Games Committee, to apply for a grant to add more power outlets to the City Park if the council agreed this was something she should pursue. The Council agreed this was a much-needed project and would like Sue to move forward with grant process.

A new business license from Michels Construction, Inc, a company from Brownsville, WI, submitted a new business application. The council would like Michelle to contact owner and ask what type of construction business they are and what jobs they have in Athena. This application will be tabled until Michelle makes contact.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: Permit #2021-07 from Hugh and Kimberly Wales for a new garage was approved. Permit #2021-08 from Tim and Karen Albert to move forward with annexation of their property in the Urban Growth Boundary to be annexed into the city limits was approved, contingent on the Council approving the same. A motion was made and seconded to move forward with process of annexing in Urban Growth Boundary Property into the City Limits. Motion Carried 4-0. Michelle will start the process.

New Business: None

Old Business: Four of the new garbage cans for Main Street have arrived. Public Works will remove the cement planters and replace with the garbage cans.

All the paperwork has been submitted to DLCD for the Beamer property Rezone.

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: Crafternoon is going well. Kristin is encouraged with the circulation numbers for the library. She feels the numbers are close to pre-pandemic level. Programs with the school are going well. The library will be closed October 20-22 due to Kristin being at a conference.

Parks & Rec: None

Public Works: The 4th and 5th Street project is complete.

Fire: Received a nice thank you letter from Fire Dept for our donation for air purifiers.

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

Administration: Reader Board has been ordered

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **November 18, 2021 @ 6:00 pm.**

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

City Hall, Public Works and the Library will all be closed Thursday, November 11th, in observance of Veteran's Day. And Thursday, November 25th- Friday, November 26th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



TIME TO PACK YOUR WATER METERS

Winter is just around the corner and the weather is changing quickly, so now is the time to pack your water meter with a plastic bag full of insulation in the form of leaves, plastic peanuts, or newspaper until Spring!

CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER



November is a month where we are reminded to give thanks for all the blessings and good things in our lives. One of the ways we can show how fortunate we are to live in such a wonderful community like Athena is to give back of our most valuable possession...ourselves! In this spirit of giving back to our community, we will be establishing a list of people who would be willing to donate their time, energy and resources to help someone else in Athena who needs assistance with their property.

Code Enforcement, in partnership with the City of Athena, will be collecting names of people who will be available to help others clean up their property that may have been identified as needing some extra upkeep to reach compliance with the city ordinances. This may be like some weeding or leaf raking, to piling up a pickup truck with some solid waste items that need to go to the landfill. If you are interested in joining our Community Code Task Force, please email ceo@umatillacounty.net to get your name on the list! Please include a brief summary of what skills and/or resources you may have to offer, such as a truck, mower, etc. Also include what times and dates you would be willing to provide assistance to someone in Athena with their property. We hope to start having some names to match up with properties that need assistance for Spring, but sign up now to beat the rush!!

Thank you for taking time to thoughtfully consider this exciting new approach to Code Enforcement in Athena! It just makes more sense to help our neighbors this way.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR:

Little steps can achieve long journeys. Looking back over the years we have lived in Athena (since 1996 for Jim and I, since 1975 for Jim and his family), in many ways it seems it has not changed much. Times come and go in our daily lives and really not that much changes, does it? A school burns down and another one rebuilt, Main Street gets new lights, a few houses here and there, a new pool house, a new city well. Businesses change owners after many years. Ask Rob McIntyre about small steps creating big changes at the Gem Theatre. It has been exciting recently to see that new land is becoming available for development in our little town. Many who have wanted to have homes here in our great little town may finally have a chance to do so. Small steps, yes. And perhaps now a few bigger steps. It is exciting to see. Despite the challenges of these times in our state and country, Athena is growing. Our people care about each other and are willing to invest in our community in many ways from watering plants on main street, to volunteering for Caledonian Days, to putting out flags, and so much more. This investment is multiplying the value of what we have here. These may seem like small things or little steps...they are nonetheless important and keep us moving along the path of a healthy and thriving community. Let's keep going! In this with you...

-Mayor Becky Schroeder

ATHENA MAINSTREET ASSOCIATION



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Annual **Holiday Bazaar** is back! Shop local this Holiday season- Saturday, December 4th 10am-4pm located in the Stahl Building.
- Annual **Light Parade** Sunday, December 5th at 5pm. For more information about how to join the parade please contact Katie Zmuda at 541-969-4810.

Athena Public Library

New library hours! Starting November 1, the library will be open new hours in order to better serve you. High school students: this change means we'll be open during lunch hour 4 days a week. Feel free to stop by the library during your lunch.

New hours:

Monday: 12:00 - 6:00

Tuesday: 11:00 - 5:00

Wednesday: 11:00 - 6:00

Thursday: 11:00 - 5:00

Friday: 11:00 - 5:00

Don't forget we have Storytime every Tuesday at 10:30 and Crafternoon every Thursday after school.

The **library will be closed** Thursday, November 11 for Veterans Day. Thanksgiving week we will be closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday so don't forget to stop by earlier that week to stock up for the holiday week.

Don't forget, Daylight saving ends at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 7th.



Caledonian Games will be at the Athena Bazaar on Dec 4 selling Spurtles in a kitchen set. Spurtles are a Scottish invention, I am told! (Handy kitchen utensils.) We have nifty evening bags and great gift items. Look for us at the Bazaar!

UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT FOR THE CITY OF ATHENA

**Total Calls for Service/Incidents
(September):**

88



Athena City Hall

302 E. Curreant St.
PO Box 686
Athena, OR 97813
cityhall@cityofathena.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Editors: Michelle Fox: michelle@cityofathena.com and Karrah King: karrah@cityofathena.com reserve the right to edit for content and space. Original articles from this publication may be reprinted with proper acknowledgement.