

CITY OF ATHENA

NEWSLETTER

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

February 10, 2022

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, Sally Thompson, and Gene Wright present. Councilors Wayne Kostur and Jesse Bonifer was excused. City Recorder, Michelle Fox, and six guests were also present. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public:

Athena Mainstreet Association (AMA): April Makenna reported for the Mainstreet Association. April shared a yearly calendar of events for the Mainstreet Association. The next event is the Citizen of the Year Banquet. There will be no in-person banquet this year, but the winners will be announced on social media on March 4, 2022.

Kylie McClintock, from Cockburn and McClintock CPA's, reviewed the 6/30/21 Audit. Kylie reported a clean audit and commended the City Recorder for her hard work.

Katy King from Humbert Refuse was in attendance to inform the council of the new garbage rates and answer any questions by council or public.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 1/13/22 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 3-0.

Actionable Items: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ordinance #525E, the annexation and rezoning of Tax Lots # 1000 & 100, Assessors Map #4N3424000, to Suburban Residential. Motion carried 3-0.

Kristin received a grant from the American Library Association for

MARCH MEETINGS

LIBRARY BOARD

Monday, March 21st at 6:00pm @
Library

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 9th at
6:00pm @ City Hall

CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, March 10th at 6:00pm
@ City Hall

CEMETERY

Tuesday, March 8th 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

\$10,000. She will be bringing the Seattle Shakespeare Company to Athena. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution #2022-04 to Accept and Expense Grant Funds for the Library. Motion carried 3-0.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission denied a permit for Joe Kuehn to build a shop addition due to the building being too large and causing more building coverage than the 35% coverage that is allowed per city lot.

New Business: Mayor Schroeder informed the council that Public Works Supervisor, Kim King will be retiring in December 2022. The Public Works department is requesting the new hire begin employment with the City by July 1, 2022. Mayor Schroeder appointed an interview committee consisting of Mayor Schroeder, Councilor Sally Thompson, and Mike Dowd. Mayor Schroeder would like to have position filled by May 1, 2022.

A business license for Hodge Racing and Upholstery, and Crop Production Services were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded for both licenses being approved with the condition of the confusion of Crop Production Services/Nutrien name being sorted out. Michelle will contact Nutrien. Motion carried 3-0.

Old Business: The Code Enforcer has cited Athena Spit N Shine for conducting business without a business license. Michelle was directed draft a "Stop Work Order" ordinance for Council's review. In the meantime, the Council has asked Michelle to start gathering information to start an abatement process on this property.

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: The new library hours are working out very well. The library has free home covid tests.

Parks & Rec: Weather has halted the work on playground equipment

Public Works: None

Fire: None

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

Administration: The concrete slab for the new reader board has been poured. Sign should be here by the end of the month.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **March 10, 2022 @ 6:00 pm.**

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

**ATHENA CEMETERY
MAINTENANCE
DISTRICT #1**

The Athena Cemetery Maintenance District has an immediate opening for a cemetery board member. This position's term will run from present to June 2023. Individual must reside within the Athena Taxing District.

If you are interested in serving the community and filling this position, please drop a letter of interest at city hall or mail to:

Athena Cemetery Maintenance
District #1
PO Box 599
Athena, OR 97813

If you have any questions regarding this position, please contact City Hall at 541-566-3862.

ATHENA MAINSTREET ASSOCIATION

There will be no in-person banquet this year, but the winners will be announced on social media on March 4, 2022.

AMA Annual Meeting is April 4th, 6pm @ The Stahl Building.

We will elect new members and go over bylaws. The President position and Member at Large positions open.



UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT FOR THE CITY OF ATHENA

**Total Calls for Service/Incidents
(January 2022):**

101



ATHENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Changes are happening at the library! We're happy to welcome a new library board member, Rebekah Chennells. Rebekah grew up here in Athena and recently moved back to town with her husband and young son. We're excited to have her perspective on the board! Librarian, Kristin Williams, submitted her resignation and the city is in the process of finding a new library director. Watch for an announcement of the new librarian sometime this month!

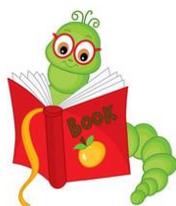
March activities:

Toddler Storytime is every Tuesday morning at 10:30. Join us for books, songs, games and crafts.

In person crafternoon is back! Every Thursday after school drop in for a fun craft time.

March 2 is Read Across America Day. Join us at 3:00pm for a story, a game and fun in celebration of reading. Everyone who comes to this fun event will receive a free book courtesy of the Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub!

Adult Book Club is March 28 at 6:30pm. This month we're reading *Chances Are...* by Richard Russo. Books are available at the library. Please join us!



CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER:

It's the first of March, and that means that Spring can't be far behind. To most folks, that means Spring cleaning! Code Enforcement would like to suggest that when you are taking that bag of things you are tossing out to the garbage can, stop and take a look around your yard too! Spring cleaning isn't limited to your inside, remember to include the outside as well.

If you have a vehicle on your property that you want to get rid of but can't locate the title, Code Enforcement may be able to assist. If the vehicle can be appraised at \$500 or less, we can provide you with a DMV Form 272 (aka Junk Slip) so that you can have a certified DMV dismantler haul it away. A reminder for residents of the city of Athena; vehicles that are unlicensed and/or inoperable are considered solid waste per the city ordinance. As such, they do qualify as a code violation for your property. Code Enforcement will provide this service free of charge to help you avoid a violation!

A few months ago, Code Enforcement announced a program for residents to step up to the plate and help improve your city in 2 ways! The program provides an opportunity to assist other residents in your community that have a code violation on their property but for whatever reason, can't physically remedy the problem. We invite people to volunteer to help these folks. This helps the property owner in violation but also helps this community by improving the appearance of this city, and that's good for everyone! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Michelle or Karrah at City Hall or call Gina at Code Enforcement (541)278-6300. There are some volunteer opportunities available right now, so be the first to sign up to help!



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