

CITY OF ATHENA

NEWSLETTER

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

March 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, Wayne Kostur and Gene Wright present. Councilor Jesse Bonifer joined the meeting at 6:30. City Recorder, Michelle Fox, and five 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 reported the Annual Meeting will be April 4, 2022 at 6:00pm. Board positions are open for the AMA Board if anyone is interested. April announced the Citizens of the Year. Congratulations to Kayla Durfee, April Vorhauer-Flatt, and Bill Muilenburg.

Ed Chestnut, representative for Hodaka Days, was happy to announce that after having to cancel for two years, they are excited to be back. He presented the council with the 2022 schedule for Hodaka Days. Hodaka is scheduled for June 21-26.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 2/15/22 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 4-0.

Actionable Items: A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2022-23 Budget Calendar. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made and seconded to elected Michelle Fox as Budget officer for the 2022-23. Motion carried 4-0

Mayor Schroeder re-appointed Terry Reynolds and Meagan Pickard to the Budget Committee for another two-year term.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: No Planning Commission meeting in March.

APRIL MEETINGS

LIBRARY BOARD

Monday, April 18th at 6:00pm @
Library

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 13th at 6:00pm
@ City Hall

CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, April 14th at 6:00pm @
City Hall

CEMETERY

Tuesday, April 12th 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

New Business: Library Director, Kristin Williams addressed the council by reading a farewell letter. The council thanked Kristin for her years of service to the city and the exemplary job she did for the library and the city. Kristin will be missed. A motion was made and seconded to accept Kristin Williams' resignation as Library Director. Motion carried 4-0.

Kristin then introduced the new Library Director, Stephanie Partida. Stephanie will start her new position as Library Director on March 21, 2022. The council welcomed Stephanie to the City.

The council received a written request to close a portion of 4th Street for a fundraiser for Ryan Calvert on Sunday, March 13. A motion was made and seconded to approval the 4th Street closure for the Calvert Fundraiser. Motion carried 4-0.

A dog complaint letter from a community member was received. Mayor Schroeder explained that this particular complaint had been resolved by the Code Enforcer.

Old Business: None

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: Kristin submitted her monthly library report.

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

Public Works: The windows will be installed soon on the snack shack. They are now waiting for the electrician to finish his portion so that can get to work on the inside.

Fire: None

Sheriff: No report this month as Sgt Gregory was on vacation.

Administration: The reader board is installed but it still needs a bit of electrical work done before start up.

Executive Session: Mayor Schroeder announced that council would be going into executive session pursuant to ORS192.660(2)(d) Labor Negotiations. Mayor Schroeder closed the open meeting at 6:45 pm. Executive session closed at 7:05 pm and the public meeting was reopened at 7:05 pm.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the City Recorder's new two-year contract with one minor change. The Columbus Day Holiday will be removed and replaced with a Floating Holiday. Motion carried 4-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **April 14, 2022 @ 6:00 pm.**



Spring is here!
Please unpack your
meter boxes.

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 OF ATHENA
IS HIRING!**

Public Works Position

Responsible for the operation and maintenance of city water & sewer system, utilities infrastructure, streets, equipment, buildings, and parks. Maintains records and works with various governmental agencies. Requires HS diploma/GED, computer skills, and a valid Oregon driver's license. Prefer 5 years directly related experience with supervisory skills, a certificate in Wastewater Collections and Treatment Level II (or able to pass certification test when on job experience hours have been completed). Electrical and carpentry knowledge is also preferred. Applicant must reside within 30 miles of Athena. Salary DOE w/complete benefit pkg. EOE. Application required, contact Athena City Hall 541-566-3862, 302 E Currant Street, PO Box 686, Athena, OR 97813. **Application deadline is April 15, 2022 at 5:00pm.**

ATHENA MAINSTREET ASSOCIATION

The 2022 Citizen of the Year recipients have shown commitment towards preserving local history, beautifying our streets and parks and helping maintain a high quality of life here in Athena. Without a banquet, the Athena Mainstreet Association had to get creative again about how to surprise our winners. Thankfully, we were able to get our recipient's families and the DoubleTree staff on board with a surprise award ceremony during Friday evening dinner. The crowd was addressed and told that special recognition needed to be made about a few people in the restaurant. The accomplishments and qualities of our mystery winners were listed off before the announcement was made that **Kayla Durfee and Bill Muilenburg** were the 2022 Citizens of the Year! The surprises did not stop there! With no Business of the Year nominations, the opportunity was taken to award and recognize a 3rd outstanding Athena volunteer that had also been nominated - our very own Athena Mainstreet Association President **April Vorhauer-Flatt!**

Congratulations Kayla, Bill and April!

The Athena Mainstreet Association is grateful for your efforts and honored to present you with these awards.

A knowledgeable handyman and mechanic, **Bill Muilenburg** spends his days doing odd jobs around town, providing an immeasurable convenience for our town's citizens. Bill takes it a step further, performing acts of service that benefit the entire town, such as volunteering at the Gem Theater, the Athena Weston Land Lab or plowing the Main Street sidewalks during snowstorms.

During the most recent snowstorm an elderly man in our community, knowing that Bill is a fixture at the local Napa, called there looking for him. Sure enough, he was close by and when he took the phone call, he agreed to drive to town in the terrible weather to ensure that the gentleman and his wife had the medications they needed. No matter the number of acts of service that could be listed as Bill's doing, there are surely countless more that no one has seen or taken count of because Bill is never one to draw attention to himself.

Kayla Durfee is a faithful and committed volunteer who has been described as not quitting until a job or project is done.

For the last 20 years, she has been involved in keeping one of our community's biggest annual events running by volunteering on the Athena Caledonian Games Committee. Since joining the committee, she has held the positions of both secretary and treasurer and was involved in getting the Caledonian Games its non-profit status in 2009. Caledonian weekend keeps Kayla busy with organizing, fundraising, and talking with locals and visitors who also love the games and Scottish history.

Knowing it is one of the most frequented and valued locations in Athena, especially during Caledonian Games, Kayla has spent countless hours working in the memorial rose garden and cleaning up in the city park.

Kayla has also been devoted to preserving our local history and is always willing to help with local genealogy. She has preserved and shared old copies of the Athena Press and has taken great care and time to catalog the history of each person buried in the Athena Cemetery, information is located at City Hall.

Her generous and hardworking spirit is well known to her family and friends, but Athena has also seen the benefits of **April Vorhauer-Flatt's** giving and determined nature.

April was an original organizer of the Athena Saturday Market, which has evolved into the successful Tuesday Market that is held weekly during the summer. She served as secretary during her time on the Athena Chamber of Commerce board and was the facilitator for the annual Chamber social held each Fall for board members and local business owners.

Since elected as president of the Athena Mainstreet Association (AMA), she has instituted annual community events like the spring time Clean Sweep and a bi-annual Adopt-A-Highway that covers Main Street. Her efforts were instrumental in organizing a community block party, held to celebrate the purchase and future restoration of the historic Stahl building. In addition to searching for and writing grants, she has also been a key player in fundraising for the AMA during Holiday Bazaars, Community Night Outs and Tuesday Markets.



EASTER EGG HUNT

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is happening in Athena, Saturday, April 16, 2022 at 10am! Ages toddler-5th grade are invited to search for eggs. There will be different areas where kids will spread out to hunt the eggs.

We will also be awarding the prizes for the school poster contest winners.



Saturday, April 16, 2022

10:00am

Athena City Park

Sponsored by the
EAST UMATILLA FIRE AND RESCUE



Athena Public Library

Stop by the library this month to meet our new director, Stephanie Partida! Stephanie was previously the Adams City Librarian and is excited to jump in to serving Athena.

The library is closed April 1 for county wide inservice training.

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

Adult Book Club is April 25 at 6:30pm. This month we're reading *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* by John LeCarre'. Stop by the library to pick up a copy today!

This month we're excited to welcome Seattle Shakespeare Company for a production of Romeo y Julieta. Save April 26 at 7pm for this show, brought to you as part of a grant from the American Library Association. More details are available on our Facebook page and around town.

We're excited about a new collection we received from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation. This mini collection includes books for all ages to help teach financial understanding. Want to learn more about investing, growing or saving money? Our new books can help!



UMATILLA
COUNTY
SHERIFF'S
REPORT FOR
THE CITY OF
ATHENA

Total Calls for
Service/Incidents
(February 2022):

101



ANNUAL CITY-WIDE YARD SALE!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND GET ON THE MAP/LIST NOW!

Spring is coming and with it brings the Annual City-Wide Yard Sale. Always the third weekend in May. This year it falls on Saturday, May 21st. As always, the advertising for this event is done for you! The map of sales will be provided; however, you have to give us your address if you want your sale included on the map. Please give your address to either City Hall or Bee's Knees by Wednesday, May 18th. This event is open to anyone who wants to have a sale. Sales will be advertised to run from 8:00am-3:00pm.

In previous years this event brought a lot of people to our community. If you are needing to declutter, this is the time! Save the date and mark your calendars now!! Saturday May 21st.

The Athena planning commission has one vacancy

to be filled immediately. This position will run from present-12/31/2022. Must live in Athena City Limits.

If you are interested in serving on this commission, please send a letter of interest to:

Athena City Hall
PO Box 686
Athena, OR 97813

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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 acknowledgment

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