

CITY OF ATHENA

NEWSLETTER

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

July 14, 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, Wayne Kostur, Sally Thompson, Jesse Bonifer and Gene Wright present. City Recorder, Michelle Fox, and 6 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. Tuesday Market is going great with a wide variety of vendors. Community Night Out will be held on July 29, 2022. Starting at 5:30. Events include a 3-3 basketball tournament, live music, and food vendors.

Gina Miller from the Umatilla County Code Enforcement updated the council on the warnings and citations that have been recently issued.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 6/8/22 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 5-0.

Actionable Items: Mayor Schroeder went over the timeline of events for the Humbert Spit N Shine Property which caused the abatement action. Charlene Jaeger, an employee from Humbert Spit N Shine addressed the council to appeal the scheduled abatement. After she presented their case and a lengthy discussion between council and Mr. Humbert, a motion was made and seconded to continue with the abatement process. Motion carried 4-1. Councilor Bonifer voted no.

Due to the increase in cost of gravel, the city is needing to raise the cost of selling gravel to \$30.00 per yard. A motion was made and seconded to increase the cost of gravel to \$30.00 per yard. Motion carried 5-0.

AUGUST MEETINGS

LIBRARY BOARD

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, August 11th at 6:00pm
@ City Hall

CEMETERY

Tuesday, August 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

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

A motion was made and seconded to order a Byrnes Oil Credit Card and a Visa Card for Public Works employee, Eric Pickard. Motion carried 5-0.

The council had a discussion pertaining to Oregon Measure 109, Psilocybin Mushroom Services Program Initiative. Councilors were presented a sample ordinance to review that would prohibit Psilocybin Services and Manufacturing within the City limit. If this ordinance is approved by council, it would be referred to the electors of the City of Athena for approval at the next statewide election.

Committee Reports

Planning Commission: The commission approved three building permits.

Tim Sprenger, owner of Aspen Construction presented preliminary plans for a new 8.2-acre development within the city limits. Councilor Wright volunteered to be the council liaison and to attend the Planning Commission meetings during the development stages. Councilor Kostur asked about a sidewalk from the new development to Main Street. This will be addressed at the next planning commission meeting.

New Business: None

Old Business: Mayor Schroeder asked the council if they've had a chance to review the draft Reader Board Policy. One change was needed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Reader Board Policy with the one adjustment. Motion carried 5-0.

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: Stephanie asked the council if she could attend council meetings quarterly rather than monthly. The council agreed. Stephanie also informed the council that she may be trespassing a couple people from the library.

Parks & Rec: None.

Public Works: They are still waiting on permits to finish the snack shack and restrooms at ball field.

Fire: None

Sheriff: May & June reports are in packet.

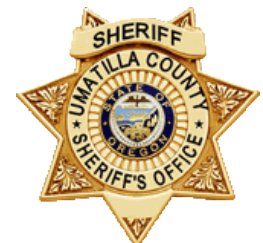
Administration: Auditors will be in the office July 18-23.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **August 11, 2022 @ 6:00 pm.**

UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT FOR THE CITY OF ATHENA

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

141



Athena Public Library

Summer Reading has come to an end, and that means it's time for a celebration! Join us on August 3, 2022 from 5:00pm-6:00pm for pizza and prizes for our summer reading participants. Please be sure to turn in all reading logs, bingo sheets, and reading road trip cards by August 1, 2022. Although summer reading is over, that doesn't mean to quit reading! We hope you will still enjoy time spent reading as summer break comes to an end. One way to continue to enjoy reading is by attending our Tuesday morning story time at 10:30am weekly. We hope to see you there!

The library will soon be undergoing some changes as we work on getting new carpet installed, thanks to our wonderful Athena Library Friends Association! There will be more information on that soon. Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on upcoming events.

Library Board 8/15/22

Book Club 8/22/22



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR:

Does it ever amaze you when a news outlet reports a sensational story on the front page, but when the story is shown to be completely false or full of gross inaccuracies, the correction occurs many pages away from the front? I would say this is a new phenomenon, but honestly deception and deflection have been around at least since the Garden. And the dangers and consequences of it are not any less today than they have been throughout history. I know we are in the thick of summer and harvest. And yet murmurings of the importance of the upcoming November election are bubbling. While the national election will get most of the attention, I am here today to draw your attention to the critical importance of local ballot issues. In addition to electing officials who will represent you at the local, county, and state levels, there will also be issues of critical local consequence on the ballot. Some citizens are currently working on getting a measure on the ballot to end our contract for police services with Umatilla County. The council also approved a measure to place on the ballot whether or not Psilocybin Mushrooms, which are now legal in the state of Oregon, can be sold within our City Limits. They would still be legal to possess and use within city limits, simply not to sell them, if this measure is passed. Many communities are choosing this option to prohibit sales much as was done with Cannabis in recent years (to allow use, but prohibit sales), but it must be passed within each community. When one looks at the statistics for crime nationally, statewide, and in our local area for the last 2 years, and when one considers the epidemic of drug related deaths especially among the young in our communities, it doesn't take long to realize that these two issues which have such a big voice nationally, are now on our local forefront as well. We may be tempted to minimize the impact of our "one" vote nationally, but every single one matters on this local level. In this last 2 weeks I have had several conversations with citizens on these types of issues, and I was alarmed at the lack of credible facts or just flat-out falsehoods in their information. These were not "we have different points of view on the same set of facts" conversations, but the facts were simply wrong. We cannot afford such aberrations from accuracy on such important issues. I cannot urge you strongly enough to check facts when you hear them - not everything presented as a "fact" is accurate. If you are not sure, please contact a credible first-hand source to check the information. We should be having conversations on these issues - healthy conversations not based in unsupported fears or unverified facts. I welcome such questions and conversations. But please, please, human nature 101 tells us that not every comment will present the whole picture on any issue. Do your homework so you are prepared to place your votes in November.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to get out and visit the Farmer's Market each Tuesday in Athena from 4-7 pm. We are fortunate to have our very own Farmer's Market, and the vendors will only return if they are able to see a return on their investment in being here. It's fun and the products are great - you are guaranteed to walk away with a good dose of happy Summer Vibes (along with some yummy eats). Cheers!

-Mayor Becky Schroeder

CODE ENFORCEMENT CORNER:

Happy Sunny Summer Days! A quick look around and it's easy to see that the sun has been shining! Lawns are growing great, but so are the weeds. Code Enforcement wanted to remind everyone to not forget the alley ways behind your homes when mowing the front lawn. It's very important to keep the grass and weeds to a minimum as they present a terrible fire danger during these hot, summer months.

Speaking of the alley ways, please remember that these areas are NOT to be used for personal storage of any material or parking of trailers, vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles or boats. In the interest of promoting safety for everyone, Code Enforcement will be concentrating on alley ways now through the end of August. Alleys are declared to be fire lanes, and must remain clear and unobstructed at all times.

We are still looking for volunteers to help some people in the Athena community with their yards. Please call City Hall to sign up.



Thank you to the Guardians, grantors and the sponsors who help Caledonian Association preserve the precious tradition we have in Athena. Thank you to Pacific Power Co., Athena Civic Memorial, AWERE, School District, Umatilla County Cultural Coalition, Humbert Refuse, City of Athena, Lions Club for grants and sponsorships. Thank you for the support of the many Guardians.

The weather was beautiful and that made it a wonderful day to be in City Park with some piping, dancing, food, friends and Games. Thank you to Caledonian Games leadership (the three Durfees, Colleen Bagdon, Alan Wernsing, Nick Seltmann, the Hodges, Michelle Kirby, Deb Glover and the 4-H group, the Alberts.... all the volunteers, for inspiring us like our Scottish ancestors did. Those pioneers of Athena loved and honored their home country, music and dance, so they created the first Caledonian Society Picnic and Games in 1899. We can be proud of our 123-year tradition in Athena as we continue to celebrate the Scottish.

Please help us continue to honor the clans, the Scottish ancestry and tradition.... the rich heritage that Athena has.

Sue Friese, President

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Community Night Out
July 29, 2022 5:00PM

Tuesday Market
June 7, 2022-August
30, 2022

Trunk or Treat
October 31, 2022

Annual Holiday Bazaar
December 3, 2022

Winter Light Parade
December 4, 2022



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 acknowledgment