

CITY OF ATHENA

NEWSLETTER

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

February 9, 2023

Attendance: Mayor Schroeder called the regular meeting of the Athena City Council to order at 6:00 pm. Roll was taken with Councilors Gene Wright, Sally Thompson and Jesse Bonifer present. Assistant City Recorder, Karrah King, and 2 guests were also present. Councilors Katie Zmuda and Wayne Kostur were excused from the meeting. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public:

Spectrum/Charter Presentation

Charles Deister, Director of Government Affairs, presented to council different options and price points Charter would offer to Athena and answered many questions about Charter's service. Council will review the Franchise Agreement and Admin will have City Attorney, Sam Tucker, review the agreement. Council will vote at the March meeting whether Charter's services will be brought to the City of Athena.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 1/12/23 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 3-0.

MARCH MEETINGS

LIBRARY BOARD

Monday, February 20st at
6:00pm @ Library

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 8th at
6:00pm @ City Hall

CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, February 9th at
6:00pm @ City Hall

CEMETERY

Tuesday, February 21st 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

Actionable Items: A new Pool Rate Proposal was discussed. The new rate will be:

Family Pass: \$110 (for 5 or less members) \$10 for each additional family member

Single Pass: \$50

Daily Rates: Free for ages 0-2

\$2 for ages 3-18

\$3 for ages 19+

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new Pool Rate Proposal; Motion carried 3-0.

Committee Reports

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission began reviewing the Comprehensive Plan.

New Business:

A motion was made and seconded to approve Athena Caledonian Games use of the City Park for their annual event the weekend of July 8th. Athena Caledonian Games requested a one day and two-night event. Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Schroeder asked council to select a date to begin a Budget Work session. Council tentatively chose March 2nd at 6pm. Karrah will check with excused council members to make sure that date works for them.

Councilor Jesse Bonifer submitted his letter of resignation. Jesse is moving out of the area for family reasons. The council thanked him for his service and wished him well on his next endeavors.

Mayor Schroeder has asked Karrah to post about the open position. Council will be accepting letters of interest and will appoint someone at the March 9th meeting.

Old Business: Mayor Schroeder reminded council that the next meeting with Brad Baird to discuss the Waste Water Facility Plan is February 23rd at 6pm.

UMATILLA COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT FOR THE CITY OF ATHENA

Total Calls for Service/Incidents (January 2023):

77



Daylight saving time will begin
at 2:00 AM on
Sunday, March 12



Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: No Report

Parks & Rec: Councilor Wright met with Kenneth Faircloth. The Snack Shack is closer to being complete. There is some electrical work that needs to be done as well as some work in the restrooms.

Public Works: Kenneth will be absent for some time in March, possibly for an extended period. Councilor Wright has mentioned the possibility of needing to hire Kim King for that time.

Fire: A handout was included in the packet. No construction has begun on their new building.

Sheriff: The monthly report was included. There was a total of 77 calls for service/incidents in the month of January.

Council has asked Assistant City Recorder to ask Councilor Kostur to have a meeting with the Sheriff's department regarding some much-needed patrol during school hours, specifically beginning/ending of school, and the lunch break. Karrah will also touch base with Gina Miller, Code Enforcer, to see about consistent patrolling.

Administration: City Recorder, Michelle Fox is out on vacation. Karrah is working on getting annual licenses issued back to businesses of Athena.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **March 9, 2023 @ 6:00 pm.**



It is easy to say that Caledonian has been around for over 100 years. But we all have a responsibility to roll up our sleeves and work to save it! It is important to Athena, to our families, to our kids to save these traditions. Athena Caledonian Games is stretching and waking up now and getting ready to activate exciting projects and programs for 2023. We need short-term and long-term help. Please volunteer to save our precious traditions! We are the only Scottish heritage festival in northeast Oregon and we have a time-honored duty to maintain our reputation of hospitality.

Caledonian is currently collecting stories of old Athena, old family histories with Scottish heritage and it is almost time to get our book ready to print. Tell It To Me Again ----Sharing Athena's Scottish History needs your story.... your heritage. Please send your story to athenacaledoniangames@gmail.com.

Caledonian is beginning to make plans for our July 8 Scottish celebration in Athena. We need an association secretary and a Set-Up Crew committee chairman. Please help us move equipment and decorate the park in readiness using your truck and your energy!! We need man-power, ideas, energy and Guardian donations to Athena Caledonian Games Association. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22 at 6 PM at Athena Library. Call us!

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

It's time again to renew your permits/licenses for your canine and feline friends! Call City Hall at 541-566-3862 to take care of this. It is very important to permit your dog and cat with the city so they can be returned to you if they get lost! Please also remember to make sure that your fencing is adequate to keep your dogs and cats safe and **contained on your property**. A dog or cat at large constitutes a violation of city ordinances and could result in fines and your dog or cat being impounded. The outside cat population also seems to be increasing. If you have an outside cat, it should be spayed or neutered.

Vehicles that are inoperable and/or unpermitted are a code violation. Code Enforcement will be focusing on these vehicles in the coming months, so please make sure your vehicles are in good working order **AND** have current tags with the DMV! If you have a vehicle that you want to get rid of and don't have a title, Code Enforcement may be able to assist you with issuing a DMV Form 272, also known as a "Junk Slip". If you have any questions about dogs, cats or cars, please call Code Enforcement (541)278-6300 or email ceo@umatillacounty.gov and we will be more than happy to assist you!!

ATHENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Board: Monday, March 20, 2023 @ 6:00pm

Book Club: Monday, March 27, 2023 @ 6:30pm. Our new book is The Midnight Library by Matt Haig.

Story time: Tuesdays at 10:30am. Our story time is geared towards preschool age kids and under. Story time is followed by a small craft.

Crafternoon: Thursdays after school from 3:30-4:30pm. Snacks provided.

March crafts will be:

- March 2nd: Shamrock suncatchers
- March 9th: Rainbow twirlers
- March 16th: Edible rainbow bracelets
- March 23rd: Rain drop suncatchers
- March 30th: Mandala easter egg painting

We will be celebrating Read Across America week by sharing a virtual reading road trip. Stop by the library for more information or follow us on Facebook to check it out for yourself! Kids that complete the online challenge can get either a free book eraser, bookish sticker, or free book.

The Library was awarded a \$1,200 grant from Umatilla County Cultural Coalition which will be used to support art programs during our summer reading program. It will also be used to pay for two performers to come to our library this summer.



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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.
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