

February 2024

# CITY OF ATHENA

NEWSLETTER

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## THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

**January 11, 2024**

**Attendance:** Mayor Schroeder called the regular meeting of the Athena City Council to order at 6:00 pm. Roll was taken with Councilors Sally Thompson, Katie Zmuda, Wayne Kostur, John Manderscheid and Councilor Gene Wright being present. City Recorder, Michelle Fox, and 2 guests were also present. Mayor Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Business from the Public:

AMA – Heidi Stiers reported for the Main Street Association. The Stahl building is close to being rentable. They will be having a Member/Board workshop on January 20, 2024.

Humbert Refuse – Katy King from Humbert Refuse presented the new rates for garbage service in Athena. The new rates will take effect March 1, 2024

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the council meeting minutes of the 12/14/24 meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion carried 5-0.

**Actionable Items:** A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution #24-01, establishing Water Rates for the City of Athena.

Raising Sewer rates due to the upcoming wastewater project was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to keep the rates the same for another year and approve Resolution #2023-02, Establishing Sewer Rates for the City of Athena. Motion carried 4-0. Council Kostur opposed.

## FEBRUARY MEETINGS

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### LIBRARY BOARD

Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm  
@ Library

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at  
6:00pm @ City Hall

### CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at  
6:00pm @ City Hall

### CEMETERY

Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 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

Mayor Schroeder announced the Council Assignments for 2024. All councilors will preside over the same departments again this year. Mayor Schroeder reminded the councilors to touch base with their departments before each meeting.

**Committee Reports**

**Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission reviewed all open building permits.

**New Business:** None

**Old Business:** Code Enforcement - The council discussed options for the city code enforcement. Options included, renewing the Code Enforcement Contract with the County, or hiring our own code enforcer. Michelle communicated that she had spoken with the City of Milton-Freewater about their code enforcement as they have their own. The council would like to have a discussion with the county before making a decision. Michelle will contact the County and ask if they would be willing to come to next meeting.

**Business from the Departments & Councilors:**

**Library:** Library report in packet

**Parks & Rec:** None

**Public Works:** Nothing new to report

**Fire:** They are still continuing work on new station

**Sheriff:** The sheriff's report is in packet.

**Administration:** Audit is complete. Michelle will set up time for Cockburn & McClintock to report to council.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **February 8, 2024 @ 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

John Manderscheid,  
Commissioner of Fire Services



Please remember you **MUST**  
**BREAK DOWN YOUR**  
**BOXES AND PUT THEM IN**  
**THE RECYCLE BIN!!!**

Recycling Reminders:

**Absolutely no garbage**  
**Absolutely no milk jugs**  
**Absolutely no garbage left**  
**around the bin**  
**Absolutely no packing**  
**materials including plastic,**  
**shredded paper, and**  
**Styrofoam.**

Thank you!

**UMATILLA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S REPORT FOR  
THE CITY OF ATHENA  
Total Calls for  
Service/Incidents  
(December 2023):**

**128**



**HOLIDAY CLOSURE**

**City Hall, Public Works, and the  
Athena Library will be closed  
February 19<sup>th</sup> for Presidents'  
Day.**





City of Athena is in dire need of lifeguards for summer 2024. Without lifeguards, the city will have no choice but to close the pool for the summer.

The YMCA has been providing lifeguards from Walla Walla but there is a shortage of lifeguards everywhere and having local youth serve the pool would be wonderful! We invite any interested students (must be at least age 16) and adults to contact City of Athena or the Walla Walla YMCA to apply. To qualify for Red Cross lifeguard training, which the Y offers, a pre-test is required. (The Y will provide transport if needed) This test includes:

- students must be able to swim 6 laps of the 25 meter pool,
- dive to the bottom of the 10' depth, and
- tread water with feet only for 2 minutes

Lifeguard training is then scheduled over a weekend and is about 20 hours for certification. Being a lifeguard means kids are guaranteed summer jobs anywhere!

In addition to lifeguards the City of Athena is looking for a Pool Manager. A Pool Manager will manage lifeguards, maintain pool cleanliness, safety and customer satisfaction. If you are interested in the pool management position, please contact the City of Athena directly.

## **Code Enforcement Corner**

Code Enforcement is very pleased to announce the arrival of a new Code Enforcement Officer, Rich Estes! Officer Estes comes to us with 20+ years of experience in law enforcement and has hit the ground running. You will see him patrolling Athena in our white Chevy pickup with the County logo on the sides. Welcome Officer Estes!

There still may be patches of snow on the ground, but it's never too early to start thinking about Spring Cleaning! Before we know it, it will be April and the weeds will start growing right along with the grass and flowers. Code Enforcement would like to remind all residents of Athena to keep their lawns in good shape, and to stay ahead of the weeds in the alley ways and back yards. Alley ways cannot be used for storage of personal items, vehicles or trailers. If you have a vehicle on your property that doesn't have a title and you would like to get rid of it, contact Code Enforcement at (541)278-6300 to request a DMV Form 272, also known as a "Junk Slip". An Officer will come by to get information and photos from the vehicle and once processed, we will provide you with a document that will enable a vehicle tow company will be able to remove the vehicle from your property and be dismantled.

Code Enforcement would like to remind dog owners to make sure they renew their dog licenses with the City! Dogs must be kept on your property at all times, and should not be allowed to freely roam the streets. Please keep your dog at home where it's safe and residents using the park and walking along the streets are safe as well!



OUR HOURS ARE CHANGING

**NEW CITY HALL  
SUMMER HOURS**

**CITY HALL WILL BE  
CLOSED ON  
FRIDAYS  
MAY-SEPTEMBER**

**ATHENA CITY HALL**

302 E. Current St.  
 PO Box 686  
 Athena, OR 97813  
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 Fax: 541 566-2781  
 E-mail: [cityhall@cityofathena.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofathena.com)

**February 2024 Newsletter**

“Ceud Mile Failt”  
 (100,000 Welcomes)



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 Original articles from this publication may be reprinted with proper acknowledgment

**Pajama Story Time**

Celebrate World Read Aloud day in style- pajama style!  
 Get cozy and read at the library.  
 We will read a couple stories and every child can take home a free book!

ATHENA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024  
 5:30PM