

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

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.

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.**

Approved: Becky Schroeder, Mayor _____

Attested: Michelle Fox, City Recorder _____