

# ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018



## CITY COUNCIL

John Shafer, Mayor  
Rebecca Schroeder,

Comm. of Parks

Chet Sater,

Comm. of Fire Services

Carol Speed,

Comm. of Public Works

LaVerne Mitchell,

Comm. of Administration

Comm. of Library

John Shafer,

Comm. of Police Services

\*\*\*\*\*

## CITY HALL HOURS

Monday – Friday

8am - 5pm

(open during lunch)

Closed

all legal holidays

## CITY PHONE

### NUMBERS

City Hall 566-3862

City Shop 566-0228

Library 566-2470

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency Sheriff

Dispatch 966-3651

**This institution is an  
equal opportunity pro-  
vider and employer.**

## Ambulance Calls:

December

RUNS

ILLNESS TRAUMA

Year -to- date:



## JANUARY MEETINGS

All meetings are at City Hall un-  
less otherwise noted

### Livestock Commission

Tuesday, 2nd @ 6:00 pm

### Library Board (at Library)

Monday, 8th @ 7:00 pm

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, 10th @ 6:00 pm

### City Council Meeting

Thursday, 11th @ 6:00 pm

### Cemetery Meeting

Tuesday, 16th @ 5:30

**HAVE A SAFE AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

## First Citizen Banquet

Monday, January 15, 2018 — 6:00 PM

Athena Catholic Church

Tickets \$15.00

Still time to submit applications for your choice of Citi-  
zen of the Year. Nomination forms available at City  
Hall and Athena City Library.

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## LIBRARY NEWS!!

Thank you to ALFA for the wonderful RETIREMENT  
PARTY and to all who attended, signed the quilt  
blocks, gave cards and well wishes. I am so honored,  
that our paths have crossed. I will miss every single  
one of you! Farewell as I enter the next phase in my  
life....retirement.

Sincerely, Carrie Bremer

The library will be closed for Martin Luther King day  
on January 15.

Stop by and meet the new library director, Kristin Wil-  
liams and stay tuned for changes at the library!

## Fireplace and Home Fire Safety

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels. Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to practice the following fire safety steps to keep those home fires safely burning. Remember, fire safety is your personal responsibility ...Fire Stops With You!

### Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Leave glass doors open while burning a fire. Leaving the doors open ensures that the fire receives enough air to ensure complete combustion and keeps creosote from building up in the chimney.
- Close glass doors when the fire is out to keep air from the chimney opening from getting into the room. Most glass fireplace doors have a metal mesh screen which should be closed when the glass doors are open. This mesh screen helps keep embers from getting out of the fireplace area.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces that do not have a glass fireplace door.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.



## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**December 14, 2017**

**Attendance:** Mayor John Shafer called the regular meeting of the Athena City Council to order at 6:00 pm in the Miller Family Community Room. Roll was taken with Councilors Pat Gibson, LaVerne Mitchell, Chet Sater, Carol Speed, and Rebecca Schroeder present. City Recorder Nancy Parker and eight guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schafer led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Business from the Public:**

**Sunset Housing:** Board member Ruth Kostur presented a request for financial assistance with water rates for one year while they work through financial issues due to the most recent water rate increase and the inability to raise rents. As a prior board member Nancy explained the project was built with Home Funds, which is a federal program that determines the rent rates and how they can be increased. She also mentioned Sunset Housing is "Affordable Housing" rather than "Low Income Housing", which is a common misconception, and affects how rental rates are calculated. She presented a chart explaining how the request would affect the city, and explained how the water rates were originally established. After discussion a motion was made to accept the proposal from Sunset Housing as an individual case, and to include all the units involved. The motion was seconded and approved 5-0.

**Caledonian Games** Vice President Erik Lynde thanked the city for their past support and requested permission to allow field vendors in the park so everything is more connected. The food vendors will stay where they are. A motion was made, seconded and approved 5-0 to allow the field vendors in the park.

**Athena Chamber of Commerce** hosted another successful Holiday Bazaar. They are preparing for the Citizen of the Year Banquet on January 15, 2018 at the Catholic Church Hall @ 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 per person and Representative Greg Barreto is the speaker.

**Main Street Association** thanked the city for providing the electricity for the Main Street lights. They are beautiful! The tree lighting ceremony was a great success, with over 50 adults and numerous children attending. The association met with a representative from the Ford Family Foundation to discuss a Comprehensive Plan for the Community/Region. They also served food as a fund raiser at the Holiday Bazaar.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 11/9/17 regular meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion passed 5-0.

**Actionable/Discussion Items:** Mayor Shafer appointed Christina McBean and Robin Pickard to four year terms on the Planning Commission.

**The real estate** contract on city property at 124 High Street has expired. Jerry Baker, our realtor from Coldwell Banker, suggested lowering the price. There has been interest in the property, but because it is in the flood plain it increases the cost for property insurance and people are hesitant to commit. A motion was made to extend the contract with the list price being \$13,500 and understanding the City would accept any reasonable offer. Motion was seconded and carried 5-0.

**A motion** was made and seconded to give the City Recorder authorization to make changes to city accounts at Bank of Eastern Oregon, including adding or deleting employees. Motion was approved 5-0.

**Michael Ward** from Umatilla Watershed Basin Council previously suggested the City name the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge once it is complete. A motion was made, seconded and approved 5-0 to name the bridge "Centerville Bridge" in honor of the city's past heritage.

**Committee Reports:**

**Planning Commission:** The commission approved Permit #2017-13, a new home built by Bill Ezell.

**Pool:** The outside of the building is complete and will be sealed when the weather warms up. Once that is complete the interior will be painted and the final fixtures installed. Traci King & Paula Babb are collecting empty cans & bottles from community members as a pool fundraiser. Flyers are also being distributed to request donations. Nancy is applying for a Ford Family Foundation grant for \$25,000.



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December 14, 2017 minutes

**Old Business: Water System:** Brad Baird submitted a report via email, which listed items for discussion at the January meeting. All contract work is now complete. The Operations and Maintenance Manuals will be delivered to the city on 12/18/17. Other items to be delivered soon include the updated Water System Map, Record Drawings, Water Management & Conservation Plan, GIS items, and the Project Display Board for City Hall. Anderson Perry is waiting for a few items from Goodman & Melenbacher to finish the final change order and pay request.

**New Business:** None

**Business from the Departments & Councilors:**

**Library:** Our new librarian is in training, and Carrie's last day will be December 28<sup>th</sup>. Community members have inquired about changing the hours. This is something that Kristin and Councilor Gibson can discuss.

**Administration:** City offices will be closed December 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> for Christmas and January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Day.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **January 11, 2018 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

*\*\*\*Minutes are subject to council approval, any corrections or additions will appear in the next newsletter.*

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**HUMBERT REFUSE**

Friendly reminder from Humbert Refuse...Please bag your garbage before placing in your garbage cans. This keeps garbage from blowing around. Please do your part to help. No one likes litter!!!

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**FOG in Sewer**

Just a reminder, please do not dump FOGs (Fats, oils and grease) into the toilet or down your drain. When fats, oils and grease are poured or flushed down your sinks, drains, or toilets they enter the sewer system where they cool, harden and stick to the inner walls of sewer pipes. Over time, as more fats, oils and grease are added to the system, these sewer blockages build up and harden until they completely plug the pipes. The hardness of the blockages makes them very difficult and costly to clean out.

**Where do fats oils and grease come from?** The most common sources of household fats, oils and grease are:

- .Meats and other food scraps (including baked goods) sauces, gravies and salad dressings, dairy products, (milk, cream, yogurt, kefir, cheese)
- Fats, lards, cooking oil, shortening, butter, and margarine
- Cosmetics and toiletries (make-up, lotions, and some soaps and oils)

**How do these blockages affect the sanitary sewer system?** You may think that once you flush it, it simply washes away and its gone for good. That's not the case. Fats, oils and grease will build up in your pipes, create blockages and plug sewers, leading to problems such as:

- Raw sewage overflowing and backing up into your home, business or a neighboring property.
- Basement flooding
- Exposure to disease causing organisms
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, streets, and waterways.
- Increasing operations and maintenance costs to clean and repair damaged sewer pipes.



### WATER BILL REMINDER

Please remember that water/sewer bills are due and owing **EVERY** month between the 10th-13th of the month. Please make every effort to pay your water bill on or before the due date.

Thank You!!!

### City of Athena Ordinance Reminder Ordinance 5-6.17

**Section 17: Snow and Ice.** No owner or person in charge of property, improved or unimproved, abutting on a public sidewalk shall permit:

Snow to remain on the sidewalk for a period of longer than the first four hours of daylight after the snow has fallen.  
Ice to remain on the sidewalk for more than four hours of daylight after the ice has formed unless the ice is covered with sand, ashes or other suitable material to assure safe travel.

### TIME TO RENEW CITY LICENSES—BUSINESS, DOG, CAT, & LIVESTOCK

License's are renewable as of Jan. 1, 2017. Citizens over the age of 62 do not pay to renew their dog or cat license but you do have to register and provide proof of shots and altering of your animals. If you do not have one or more of your pets we would appreciate it if you would call city hall with that information. New business and livestock licenses have to be approved by the city council at a city council meeting before city hall can issue the license. If your business has not changed or if the number and kind of your livestock is still the same your license will simply be renewed.

Business License—\$50.00	After 2/15/18—\$55.00	Livestock Permit—\$30.00	After 2/15/18—\$35.00
Dog & Cat License —\$12.00	After 2/15/18— \$15.00		

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**Ceud Mile Failt**  
(100,000 Welcomes)

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## JANUARY 2018



**BOXHOLDER**  
**ATHENA OR 97813**

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