

**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY HALL HOURS**

John Shafer, Mayor  
Rebecca Schroeder,  
Commissioner of Parks  
Chet Sater,  
Comm. of Fire Services  
Carol Speed,  
Comm. of Public Works  
LaVerne Mitchell,  
Comm. of Administration  
Pat Gibson,  
Comm. of Library  
John Shafer,  
Comm. of Police Services:

\*\*\*\*\*

Monday – Friday  
8am - 5pm  
(open during lunch)  
**Closed**  
**all legal holidays**

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
AMERICA**

# ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER JULY 2017



## JULY MEETINGS

All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise indicated.

### Livestock Commission

Tuesday, 11th @ 5:30 pm

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, 12th @ 6:00 pm

### City Council Meeting

Thursday, 13th @ 6:00pm

### Cemetery Meeting

Tuesday, 18th @ 5:30 pm

### Library Board

Monday 10th @ 7:00 pm

## Library News:

The Athena Public Library's Summer Reading Program, entitled "Build a Better World," is shaping up to be a great time for all ages! During July participants will experience computer video game programming, Makey-Makey, geodes (and hammers!), a speed stacking competition, and much more. Also, mark your calendars to enjoy an exciting OMSI presentation at the Weston Memorial Hall on the afternoon of August 18.

Programs on Monday mornings at 10:00 AM are for kids who have completed Kindergarten through age 14. Families are encouraged to come enjoy the Wednesday evening Family Nights at 6:30 PM. An adult must accompany children to the Wednesday evening programs.

The first program in July will be on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup>. Drop by the library during open hours for a Summer Reading Program schedule so you don't miss any of the fun.

## Needed at the Library:

1-2 adult volunteers who are brave enough to help children assemble a Go-Kart. Construction will take place during four scheduled Wednesday evenings. The task will be to assemble the cart; wooden pieces will be pre-cut. **Help!** Call Carrie @ 541-566-2470 or 541-566-2342. **Help!**

## Library Closures

The Library will be closed July 3-4 for Independence Day, and open hours may be different than usual on July 5-6 as well. Regular library hours should return by July 10.

**We are in for a long hot summer so please take precautions with fireworks this holiday and please abide by all burning rules and regulations!**  
**Thank you!**

## CITY PHONE NUMBERS

City Hall 566-3862  
City Shop 566-0228  
Library 566-2470  
Emergency 911  
Non-Emergency Sheriff Dispatch 541-966-3651

## THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BATHHOUSE & POOL

Many rumors and untruths are circulating about the pool not opening this summer. We would like to answer a few questions and clear up any misconceptions.

The projected cost for the bathhouse was \$488,000. A grant was secured for \$369,500 from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the City budgeted \$92,500 to complete the project – with the hope of securing additional grants and community donations. Plans were submitted and the project put out to bid, with work scheduled to begin mid-March or April, depending on weather. The goal was to complete the bathhouse on schedule for pool opening the first of June.

One bid was received, for \$846,000, and was rejected due to the amount. The plans were revised and bids went out again. WC Construction submitted the winning bid and began securing bids from subcontractors. Due to the tight construction market prices continue to rise by 20-25% every six months. Currently the projected cost is \$668,000.

Many of you have expressed concern with the cost of the bathhouse. The majority of this is because any Public Works project must meet federal prevailing wage standards, which add about 30% to any costs. We must also meet all ADA (American Disability Act) standards and be in compliance with Handicapped Accessibility laws. Again, these add additional costs that would not be incurred under normal construction circumstances.

We are working with contractors who have submitted bids in order to reduce costs as much as possible. We are also continuing to submit grant requests and solicit donations. Our goal is to have the project complete this fall.

We encourage anyone who has used the pool, had children learn to swim or benefited from the pool, been a lifeguard, or would like to insure we have a pool for generations to come to contribute to this worthy cause. No amount is too small, and the dollars do add up. The pool has been a major asset for the city since it was built in 1928. Countless youngsters have learned to swim; it provides employment opportunities for area students, water aerobics, and family swim hour are also offered. With few recreational opportunities available in our small community it gives kids and families a place to go and a way to escape the summer heat. Please contact City Hall if you have additional questions, would like to volunteer to help reduce costs, or make a donation. We want this project to succeed, and to ensure the information you are hearing is accurate.

## CITY HALL CLOSURES

**City Hall, Public Works, and the Athena Library will be closed July 3-4, 2017 for the Independence Day Holiday. We will re-open on Wednesday July 5th.**

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL****June 8, 2017**

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

**Business from the Public:** Ami Muilenburg and Mark Aby, representing WM Booster Club, requested permission to serve alcohol in the park during Hodaka Days. They would like to continue Beer-n-Brauts for guests who normally attend the event and expect dinner. They will charge a fee for dinner, and beer will be by donation only. They will have people checking ID for the safety of minors. A motion was made, seconded, and passed 3-0 to approve the request. There will also be music from 3:30pm - 1:00 am.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 5/11/17 regular meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion passed 3-0.

**Actionable/Discussion Items:**

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2017-07 to Accept and Expense Wildhorse Grant Funds and Donations to the pool project. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2017-08 to Authorize Borrowing of USDA Funds to Finance the Water Project. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2017-09 to Accept Loan and Grant Funds from USDA for the Water Project. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2017-10 to Adopt the 2017-18 Budget, Make Appropriations and Impose and Categorize the Tax. Motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2017-11 Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenue Sharing. Motion carried 3-0.

**Planning Commission:** Approved permit #2017-07 for Duane Smalley to build 30 storage units on the corner of Third & Jefferson, and permit # 2017-08 for Tom Munck to build a garage/storage shed at 204 W Garfield. They also approved updated language to the Comprehensive Plan, Planning section 9-3 pages 27-40, of City Ordinances. It was moved and seconded to approve the revisions to the comprehensive plan. Motion carried 3-0.

**Old Business:**

**Water System:** Brad Baird reported the well pump station is finished. The new pump is on order and will be installed as soon as it arrives. A motion was made to approve change order # 5 to cover two additional bridge crossings and removal of the vault at the existing reservoir. Motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0. Painting on the existing reservoir is complete. The reservoir will be put back in service after the removal of the control valve. Fencing of the reservoirs and well pump station is complete and budget projections are on track. The USDA loan will close June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Pool:** Bids were due 6-8-17. WC Construction will take a week to verify numbers then present the bids to us for input. Tentative start date is July 5<sup>th</sup>. Additional grants have been submitted to NW Farm Credit Services and Blue Mountain Community Foundation. A \$6,000 donation was received from Crop Production Services, as well as a donation from the Koepke family. Thank You!!

**New Business:** Due to scheduling conflicts in September during the Pendleton Round-Up and the Vision conference in October, it was agreed to change the September council meeting to the 7<sup>th</sup>, and the October meeting to the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Continued on page 3



**Page 2**

It was moved and seconded to apply for employee credit cards through Bank of Eastern Oregon for Carrie Bremer, Michelle Fox, Kenneth Faircloth, Kim King, John Reitz, and Nancy Parker. Each card will have a limit of \$3,000. Motion carried 3-0.

The city has received numerous complaints from citizens about the condition of the public sidewalk on the Koskela property. There are cords across the sidewalk, numerous items obstructing the path, and the concrete that was to be replaced has not been completed. Because we do not have a code enforcement officer, Mayor Shafer discussed the situation with the Sheriff's Department. They advised we send Koskela a certified letter giving him two weeks to rectify the situation. If he does not, the Sheriff's Department will issue a citation.

**Business from the Departments & Councilors:**

**Administration:** Michelle is at PDII June 11-16th. Nancy will miss the next council meeting due to vacation.

**Public Works:** Pictures of a planter box for the Main Street trees was distributed. Councilors are asked to stop by the City Shop and view the boxes built by Corey Thacker. Approval will be discussed at the next council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **July 13, 2017 @ 6:00 pm** in the Athena City Hall meeting room.

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

**VETERAN'S PARK PROJECT**  
American Legion Post #130 and Auxiliary  
3 Stages of Park Growth

1. Park Foundation
2. Raised Box w/Lighted American Flag
3. Benches & Signage

**Signs Include:**

- \* Veterans Park Sign
- \* Mural on Legion Building depicting Legion History
- \* Donor/Sponsor (\$100.00 or more gets name on sign)



**ALL DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED & TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Donations can be mailed to:

Veteran's Park Project  
American Legion Post #130  
P.O. Box 477  
Athena, OR 97813

For More Information Call (541) 310-0771

**CHAMBER NEWS**

Athena Chamber of Commerce invites you to share your ideas with us and get involved:

- Chamber meetings are now held at the Double-tree Restaurant the fourth Thursday of the month at 6pm. Everyone is invited to join us!
- Tuesday Market from 4-7, stop by our booth for information, enter to win a quilt and see our new magnets that are for sale.
- Come out and see us at the Caledonia Games.
- Always follow us on Facebook for the most up to date information.

**ATHENA TUESDAY MARKET**

*sponsored by the Athena Chamber of Commerce*

The market is held at Dugger Park EVERY Tuesday starting the beginning of May to the end of August from 4pm to 7pm. There is NO vendor fee and there are weekly raffle prizes! This market is also a great opportunity for fundraising booths and promoting organizations or events. For more information on being a vendor, volunteering opportunities, providing entertainment or live music - email the Chamber at [athenachamber@gmail.com](mailto:athenachamber@gmail.com) or contact them on the Chamber Face-

**Changes for Caledonian!**

- 1) Caledonian Parade is turned around. The parade will start at Diamond Eye, travel up Main Street to Fourth Street, right on Fourth to Currant, right on Currant to First Street and back to Diamond Eye. Our thanks for the cooperation of the Diamond Eye folks. Entrants with horses will line up at the Grain Elevator.
- 2) Camping is moved. The school grounds are closed to public use. RVs may use the parking lot next to the park (access on Third Street.) It will be close. It is a fire lane. Keep the drive open.
- 3) Camping is available on two empty lots next to City Hall on Currant Street. Keep it clean. Make room for the next guy. No services.
- 4) Tent campers may camp on a section by the basket ball court in the park. You may pull in to unload your gear but please remove your car.
- 5) There will be a "Welcoming Ceremony" immediately after the parade in the park. This is different than we've done before. Please come to the park to kick off all the festivities in the park on Saturday, July 8.
- 6) Caledonian Blankets will be for sale. The Tree of Life Blanket has Scottish symbols, designed for Caledonian Games. See the demo at Bank of Eastern Oregon. They will be \$49.95.
- 7) Please attend our Friday night (5:30-7:30 pm) dinner in the park and hear **GUESS WHEN BAND!** Our guest band is going to be a lot of fun, get things wound up in the park and in a great mood for Caledonian. Come on down!  
This is going to be fun. Food vendors will have a limited menu and Scottish Outfitters will have meat pies and other good Scottish food.
- 8) See our Schedule at [www.athenacaledoniangames.org](http://www.athenacaledoniangames.org) and Facebook.

**City of Athena**  
**PO Box 686**  
**Athena, OR 97813**

**Athena City Hall**

302 E Currant

PO Box 686

Athena, Or 97813

**Phone**

(541) 566-3862

**Fax**

(541) 566-2781

**E-mail**[Cityhall@cityofathena.com](mailto:Cityhall@cityofathena.com)**Ceud Mile Failt**

(100,000 Welcomes)

## ATHENA

## CITY NEWSLETTER

Is published monthly by  
the

CITY OF ATHENA

**JULY**  
**2017****NEWSLETTER****BOXHOLDER**  
**ATHENA OR 97813**

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

Editors: Nancy Parker: [nancy@cityofathena.com](mailto:nancy@cityofathena.com) and Michelle Fox [michelle@cityofathena.com](mailto:michelle@cityofathena.com) reserve the right to edit for content and space. Original articles from this publication may be reprinted with proper acknowledgment.