

**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**

**CITY PHONE
NUMBERS**

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

CITY HALL CLOSURES

**City Hall, Public
Works, and the Athe-
na Library will be
closed July 4, 2018 for
the Independence
Day Holiday. We will
re-open on Wednes-
day July 5th.**

ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER JULY 2018



JULY MEETINGS

All meetings are at City Hall unless
otherwise indicated.

Livestock Commission

As Needed

Planning Commission

Wednesday, 11th @ 6:00 pm

City Council Meeting

Thursday, 12th @ 6:00pm

Cemetery Meeting

Tuesday, 17th @ 5:30 pm

Library Board

Monday 2nd @ 6:00 pm

**We are in for a long hot sum-
mer so please take precau-
tions with fireworks this holi-
day and please abide by all
burning rules and regulations!
Thank you!**

Athena Public Library activities during July:

- July 9: Movie Monday: Mary Poppins at 6:30pm
- July 11: Hey, Mr DJ! Libraries Rock program at 1:30
- July 12: Crafternoon: Record Album Bowls at 3:00pm
- July 16: Movie Monday: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers at 6:30pm
- July 18: Traveling Lantern Libraries Rock program at 1:30
- July 19: Crafternoon: Sheet Music Painting at 3:00pm
- July 23: Movie Monday: Annie at 6:30pm
- July 25: Karaoke Libraries Rock program at 1:30pm
- July 26: Crafternoon: DIY drums at 3:00pm
- July 30: Movie Monday: West Side Story at 6:30pm

Don't forget, the library will be closed Wednesday, July 4th. Happy Independence Day!

**East Umatilla County Ambulance Area Health District
Medic 400**

541-566-3813

PO Box 640, Athena, OR 97813

Special Board Meeting-June 14, 2018

The meeting held at the District office was for the purpose of finalizing the FY 2018-19 Budget. The Board added a position for Administrator/Paramedic which bring District up to 4.5 FTE. The job will be posted the first week of July and it is hoped that the position will be filled by September.

June 21, 2018 Budget Hearing

The Budget Hearing began at 6:00 pm. Present were Chairman Jeremy Lasater, Chris William, Carol Kirk and Chris Wernlund from the Board. Elizabeth McIntyre was absent. Also present was Administrator Jeff Rost, office manager Donna Grimes, Paramedic Andrew Fournell and Rachele Roggerio, RN. There was no one from the public in attendance. The hearing was closed at 6:30 pm.

June 21, 2018 Board meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chairman Jeremy Lasater. The agenda, minutes and treasurer's reports were all approved.

The Board passed resolution adopting the budget and making appropriations 2018-2. They also passed resolution 2018-3 which approves the transfer of \$5000 from the General Fund to the Ambulance Replacement Fund.

The Administrator/Paramedic job description was finalized and the opening will be posted in early July.

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL****June 14, 2018**

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, Rebecca Schroeder, and Carol Speed present. City Recorder Nancy Parker and six guests were also in attendance. Mayor Schafer led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public: Sgt. Josh Roberts with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office reviewed the police report and answered questions. Mayor Shafer presented Trespass Enforcement Agreement signs and explained when they are posted trespassers can be cited and removed from the property with no additional police contact. The first 10 signs are provided free of charge. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Trespass Agreement. Motion carried 5-0. Signs will be posted at all city properties.

Erik Lynde, from Athena Caledonian Games, updated the council on plans for this year's games and the parade route. The games will be held July 13-15th.

Athena Chamber of Commerce: They have printed door hanger and are requesting permission to hang them on every door in town. The hangers are two sided, laminated, and look very nice. Council approved the request by consensus. The Chamber also reminded everyone of the Community Night Out June 29th.

Main Street Association: Still gathering funds for the Stahl building. They are holding a work party during Hodaka Days. People will be able to peek into the building, but not go inside. They also voiced concern about a pole in Duggar Park that secures the wind shades not being secure. It was noted the shades will sag over time and pull on the poles. Public Works could possibly help with the poles.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 5/10/18 regular meeting, the financial statements, and bills. Motion passed 5-0.

Actionable Items: A motion was made, seconded and carried 5-0 to approve Resolution 2018-09 to Accept and Expense Donations and Grants for the Swimming Pool Project this fiscal year.

To assist discussion on Resolution 2018-10, Nancy explained during USDA's review of the 2016-17 audit it was discovered that all sewer payments in July 2016 were credited to the water fund. This occurred directly after the conversion to the new software. Resolution 2018-10 will remove those funds from the water contingency and put them in the sewer fund. Because of these additional funds, and after conversation with Melanie @ Oregon Department of Revenue - Budget Law, the city can use the funds to make an additional principal only payment to DEQ Loan # R 81150. This will result in a \$7,035 savings over the life of the loan. A motion was made to approve Resolution 2018-10. Motion was seconded and approved 5-0.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2018-11 to Adopt the Budget, Make Appropriations, Impose and Categorize the Tax. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was also made and seconded to approve Resolution 2018-12 Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues for fiscal year 2018-2019. Motion was passed 5-0.

A motion was made and seconded to approve a business license for Michels Corporation, who is doing construction work for Cascade Gas. Motion carried 5-0.

Planning Commission: A motion was made, seconded and approved 5-0 to accept the Athena Growth Report as presented. Nancy was recognized for her work completing this project.

Pool: The pool is scheduled to open June 23rd and swimming lessons begin June 25th. Public Works is still investigating cameras for the pool, bathhouse exterior, and the surrounding area.

Old Business: Code Enforcement Officer: Nancy presented further information from Umatilla County Code Enforcement regarding hiring a code enforcement officer; including a copy of the contract the City of Adams has with them. Comments from visits to City Hall and Facebook posts concerning the officer were presented. Almost exactly half were in favor, with others against, undecided, or had concerns. Continued on page 3



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Nancy reviewed and answered the most common questions. She also assured council and public this is meant to help improve the appearance of Athena, not be punitive. This a starting point and the officer will work with people to avoid citations. A list of the questions with respective answers can be found at City Hall, in the Post Office, on our website, and in the July city newsletter. The city ordinances were codified (made compliant with state laws) in 2016 and are available to view at City Hall. We are also researching the fee to put them online. Please direct additional questions and concerns to City Hall. A motion was made to move forward with hiring a Code Enforcement Officer after July 1, 2018 for a one year trial period. Motion was seconded and approved 5-0.

New Business: None

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Library: The Summer Reading program is going well, and the adults are having fun with it too!

Public Works: The backflow testing has been completed. Councilor Sater suggested next year whoever is testing hang notices on the homeowners' doors when the test is finished.

Administration: USDA has approved and accepted the 2016-17 audit. Nancy will be attending PD IV June 11-15 and OPRD June 17-20. Michelle will be attending PD III June 17-22, which will result in the office being closed July 18-20th. Nancy will be on vacation July 9-13.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **July 12, 2018 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

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

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 or contact them on the Chamber Facebook page @athenachamber

CALEDONIAN GAMES

Caledonian is proud to see our Athena Clan of the Mid-Columbia School of Highland Dance doing their best as they learn Highland Dancing with Cassandra Humphrys. They will perform Saturday at 1:00 in City Park, at the Tattoo at 6:30 at the high school stadium and 1:00 at the shelter house in City Park on Sunday. The response to a Umatilla County Cultural Coalition grant to create dance in Athena to enhance our heritage has been exciting and they are doing great Caledonian Games has a new look this year with colorful event flags by a grant from Wildhorse Foundation! We have our Highland dancing with a Native American twist, pipe bands from Boise and Portland (Clan Macleay Pipe Band) and Athena's own Athena Royal Highland Guard. Help us welcome athletes who compete, spectators, clansmen and friends as we enjoy friends and fun during Caledonian Games, July 13, 14 & 15. See www.lathenacaldoiangames.org for the schedule.

Bring a couple of antiques from family, Caledonian or Oregon or not.....Sunday, July 15 at 11:15 to share at open mic in a program we call The Way We Were. Great fun to share at Caledonian, 2018.

YARD OF THE MONTH

May's Yard of the Month goes to **Susan and Vernon Purcell**, located on the corner of 4th and Van Buren. The Purcells will have the Yard of the Month sign on display thru the month of June. They also received a Tuesday Market magnet and a gift certificate to the Sugar Shack as a Congratulations gift from the Chamber.

Next winning yard will be picked on June 26, nomination forms can be found and dropped off at every Tuesday Market. Grab a couple forms and take a drive around town - We have some truly beautiful yards in Athena!



CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

About 50 different people commented—Almost exactly half were in favor. Others were against, undecided, or had concerns.

Caveats and Concerns listed:

Can we contract with the county? Would that be a good idea? **Yes, \$35/hr., 3-4 hrs. /week—may be less as time progresses**

Go in with Weston? **They no longer have a code enforcement officer and we want a neutral party**

Several people wanted to see the local codes – **They are available at City Hall**

Are they available online or in digital format? **Not at this time, we are researching this**

Has Athena's code book been updated to help eliminate unclear codes? (Yes for legality – not so much for clarity) **Codes were codified in 2016, which means they were brought into compliance with state law.**

Will a code enforcement officer issue legally binding citations? **Yes, but code enforcement will address the issue and work with offenders before a citation is issued.**

Which codes are most often violated? **Dogs, parking, nuisance, junk, noise, cars, weeds, alleys**

Does the city pay for legal expenses if citations are challenged? **No, as with any legal proceeding cited to Municipal Court, a defendant challenging a citation would pay their own legal expenses**

How do we ensure codes are enforced fairly for all? **Codes will be enforced by trained personnel. They will follow the ordinances and state law (ORS - Oregon Revised Statue).**

Try a trial run for 30 to 60 days...see if the time of 5 hrs. a week is too much or too little, and get citizens' response. **Contract must be for 1 year. Hours will vary, with more hours needed in the beginning, and depending on how quickly citizens respond to warnings. Activity should decrease in the winter months.**

How about enforcement? Some say Weston tried it but nothing has changed. **Weston had success when they had an officer, but with no enforcement the same problems returned.**

Use of warnings and giving time to correct – concern for those who have difficulty with compliance due to personal hardships. **The city and code enforcement have reasonable expectations. They are willing to work with anyone. Local churches have also volunteered to help those needing physical assistance.**

Have an ordinance officer to deal with gross violations – ie, weeds on lots that are so bad they are a fire hazard, constantly loose dogs (not occasional), dead cars parked on city streets. **The majority of complaints the city deals with are these exact issues. We have attempted to address them in a positive manner with individual offenders, with no noticeable results.**

Concern about people being targeted for minor violations – not wanting this to be a judgmental position about how messy or neat people's yards and property are kept in. How can we prevent this from happening? **This is not meant for small infractions or to be punitive. It is meant for community improvement and to enforce processes already in place. Many times we are asked why do we have codes if they are not enforced. The police must prioritize their calls, and have limited resources. Having a dedicated code enforcement officer will be another means to address citizens concerns as well as clean up some neglected areas of the city.**

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT CITY HALL WITH ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS !

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Welcomes)

JULY 2018

NEWSLETTER

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