

ATHENA CITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017



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, 3rd @ 6:00 pm

Library Board (at Library)

Monday, 9th @ 7:00 pm

Planning Commission

Wednesday, 11th @ 6:00 pm

City Council Meeting

Thursday, 12th @ 6:00 pm

Cemetery Meeting

Tuesday, 17th @ 5:30

HAPPY NEW YEAR

First Citizen Banquet

Monday, January 16, 2016 — 6:00 PM

Athena Baptist Church

Tickets \$13.00

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

DOORHANGER FEE INCREASED
Beginning January 2017 the doorhanger
(shut off notice) fee will increase from
\$10 to \$25. This is due to the increas-
ingly large number of late payments and
the added time it takes to prepare and
hang the notices. We appreciate your
efforts to pay your City bill in a timely
manner.

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 8, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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 LaVerne Mitchell, Chet Sater, Becky Schroeder and Carol Speed present. Councilors Pat Gibson was excused. City Recorder Nancy Parker and one guest were also in attendance. Shafer led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public: None

Consent Agenda: Councilor *Speed moved*, and the motion was seconded by Schroeder, to approve the minutes of the 11/17/16 regular meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion passed 4-0.

Actionable/Discussion Items: Hunter Sater and Bailey Hillmick would like to install a permanent sound system at the softball field for their Milestone project at Weston-McEwen High School. Councilor *Schroeder moved* to allow the project, with a second by Mitchell. Motion was approved 4-0.

Mayor Shafer reappointed Everett Pixler & Brenda Vorhauer to four year terms on the Planning Commission.

No bids were received for the City property at 124 High Street. The Council would like Parker to contact Jerry Baker about listing the property, and report the information at the next meeting.

The fee schedule was reviewed. After discussion, Councilor *Mitchell moved* to increase the Door Hanger fee to \$25, beginning in January. Motion was seconded by Schroeder and carried 4-0.

Councilor *Speed moved* to approve Athena-Weston School District's requested to place a permanent school crossing sign base, with a removable flag, on 5th street. Motion was seconded by Mitchell and passed 4-0.

Planning Commission: Recorder Parker reported there were no new building permit applications.

Old Business:

Water System: Due to the weather, Brad Baid was unable to attend but did send a written report. Remaining water line improvements are proceeding nicely. The reservoir is still under a delay pending Umatilla County land use approval. The comment period ends December 19th, and all permits have been submitted. The budget is in good shape with approximately \$92,000 remaining in the contingency fund.

New Business: Election certification was received from Umatilla County Elections, with John Shafer elected Mayor, and Becky Schroeder & Pat Gibson as City Councilors. Congratulations and Thank You for your service to our community!!

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Fire: Councilor Sater reported the Fire Department would like to purchase a used fire truck for sale by the College Place Fire Department for \$20,000. \$16,000 would come from the Fire Truck reserve balance in Capital Funds, and \$4,000 from the Firemen's Fund. Once the existing fire truck sells, the Firemen's Fund would be reimbursed \$4,000. Sater moved to approve the purchase. Motion was seconded by Mitchell and approved 4-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **January 12, 2017 @ 6:00 pm** in the Athena City Hall meeting room.

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



LIBRARY NEWS

67 children enjoyed their visit with Santa Claus @ the Library!
Parents, please pick up your Santa photos at the library.
Thank you, Robert McLean for taking pictures. We love them!

The current art display. "Storyboards", is photos and original stories by Vince Bator, an Athena resident. His custom designed display cubes and framing are just part of the creativity of his art.

Library Services include:
Computer printing: 25 cents per page (B&W only)
Photocopies: 10 cents per page
Fax: \$1.00 per page

athenalibrary.weebly.com now includes medical resource databases.

Library events are posted on our website, facebook, city newsletter, and the community reader board at the high school.

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!!!

TIGER SCOTS JANUARY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Jan 3	Irrigon	3:00
Jan 6	@ Enterprise	3:00
Jan 10	@ Umatilla	3:00
Jan 13	Bye	
Jan 14	Heppner	1:00
Jan 20	@ Pilot Rock	3:00
Jan 21	Stanfield	1:00
Jan 27	Culver	3:00
Jan 28	Bye	

GO TIGER SCOTS!!



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 2/15/17—\$55.00	Livestock Permit—\$30.00	After 2/15/17—\$35.00
Dog & Cat License —\$12.00	After 2/15/17— \$15.00		

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