

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

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 3rd 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.

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 28th. 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 25th & 26th for Christmas and January 1st 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.

Approved: John Shafer, Mayor _____

Attested: Nancy Parker, CMC, City Recorder _____