

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

March 9, 2017

Attendance: Council President Becky Schroeder called the regular meeting of the Athena City Council to order at 6:02 pm in the City's community room. Roll was taken with Councilors Pat Gibson, LaVerne Mitchell, Chet Sater and Carol Speed present. City Recorder Nancy Parker and five guests were also in attendance. Schroeder led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Business from the Public: Greg Floren and Bob Whitman from Hodaka Days presented a summary of 2016 events and donations. They will be raffling a customized motorcycle trailer this year, and also discussed new events for 2017. They are working with the school to try to coordinate a location for showers. Councilor *Mitchell* made a motion to approve Hodaka Days June 22-25th. Motion was seconded by Gibson and approved 5-0.

April Vorhauer-Flatt and Susan Purcell, representing Main Street Association, announced the PGG building sale will close the end of the March. There will be community meetings to gather input as to what locals would like to see in the building. They are again coordinating with Crop Production Services to host the "Athena Clean Sweep" day on May 6th, which is also free dump day. Councilor *Speed* motioned for the City to provide \$200 toward the community lunch. Motion was seconded by Mitchell and approved 5-0.

Mayor Shafer arrived at 6:21pm.

Sue Friese submitted a letter requesting permission to use the City Park for Caledonian Days July 8-9. Councilor Gibson moved to approve the request, which was seconded by Schroeder and approved 5-0.

Consent Agenda: Councilor *Gibson* moved, and the motion was seconded by Mitchell, to approve the minutes of the 2/9/17 regular meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion passed 5-0.

Actionable/Discussion Items: Mayor Shafer appointed Recorder Nancy Parker as the Budget Officer and Jerry Baker & Chuck Vickery to three year terms on the budget committee. Councilor *Mitchell* moved to approve the budget calendar, which was seconded by Speed and approved 5-0.

Parker presented a proposal to update the travel expense statement using federal rates as a guideline for meal expense reimbursement. After a lengthy discussion, Councilor *Gibson* moved to have employees charge the actual meal expense on their city credit cards, being prudent and using the approved guidelines.

Mitchell seconded the motion, with Gibson, Mitchell, Schroeder and Sater voting to approve. Speed voted against. Motion carried 4-1.

Councilor *Gibson* moved to approve a business license for Winding River BBQ, LLC. Motion was seconded by Mitchell. Schroeder recused herself as this is a business owned by her and her husband. Motion carried 4-0.

Planning Commission: Permit #2017-03 for Carol Judkins to combine her tax lots was approved. They are also reviewing the Comprehensive Plan and have completed pages 27-39.

Old Business:

Water System: Brad Baird reported the reservoir is scheduled to be filled next week. Testing will occur, and once it passes it will be flushed again and put online. The old reservoir can then be drained and prepared to be painted. Goodman & Melenbacher are waiting for the weather to clear up so they can finish up. The budget is on track, with the contingency fund holding up well.

Pool: The ads have been placed for the CM/GC and are due by 3/15/2017. After numerous emails and phone conversations with Mark Seder, the City received a letter from Seder Architecture's attorney. Seder is insistent on finishing the project. Parker has contacted Sam Tucker, the City's attorney, and he will handle any correspondence going forward; as well as negotiating a termination agreement.

New Business: Bill Duke, Umatilla District Fish Biologist, is requesting a meeting with city, county, state federal and tribal employees to explore a more cost effective alternative for the fish passage project at the Athena 3rd Street Bridge. More information will be available as dates for the meeting are finalized.

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Administration: Total pool donations received to date are over \$10,000. Anyone who has not donated is encouraged to do so.

Councilor Speed requested an update on Bank of Eastern Oregon and the expected opening date. She also requested information on the proposed mushroom farm on Sandhollow Road, west of town.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **April 13, 2017 @ 6:00 pm** in the Athena City Hall meeting room.

Approved: John Shafer, Mayor _____

Attested: Nancy Parker, City Recorder _____