

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENA CITY COUNCIL

January 11, 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, 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: Michael Ward from Umatilla Watershed Basin Council reported the archeological dig was completed yesterday and today, a Geotechnical Investigation will be done in February, and a picture of the railing for the bridge was shown. Construction is slated to begin 9/1/18 and should take 2-3 weeks to complete. They are still waiting for drawings from Century Link.

Athena Chamber of Commerce: The Citizen of the Year Banquet will be 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: They are working with Crop Production Services to prepare for Spring Clean-Up, which is scheduled for May 5th. They requested the City again provide up to \$200 to pay for lunch for the volunteers. A motion was made to provide up to \$200 for lunch, was seconded and approved 5-0.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 12/14/17 regular meeting, the financial statements and bills. Motion passed 5-0.

Actionable/Discussion Items: Motions were made, seconded and approved 5-0 to accept Resolutions 2018-01-Approve Water Rates and 2018-02-Approve Sewer Rates. The rates did not change.

Council members discussed purchasing insurance on the new reservoir. Nancy was instructed to find out exactly what the insurance would cover and report back at the next council meeting. Mayor Shafer signed a proclamation commemorating January 21-27, 2018 as School Choice Week. Nancy presented information on CAN - Connect Americans Now- closing the broadband gap. CAN is an initiative to provide affordable and reliable broadband connection to rural Americans, with no cost involved. Motion was made and seconded to join CAN. Motion carried 5-0.

Committee Reports:

Planning Commission: The Gem Theatre is planning to put a mural depicting the movie "City Girl" on the side of the building. The movie was shot near Athena, using local people, equipment and animals.

Pool: WC construction has completed their portion of the project, with a savings of \$46,092 on the contract. The city will still have expenses for paint and other items to finish the project.

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Old Business:

Water System: Brad Baird presented three display boards of the water project to the city. All contract work is now complete. The final pay request for Goodman & Melenbacher is ready for submission to USDA, which will expend all USDA funding. A final change order to match additional work performed by Goodman & Mehlenbacher and amended engineering fees for the extra crossings needs approval. A motion was made, seconded and approved 5-0 to authorize the final change order. A motion was also made and seconded to authorize Nancy to sign the final paperwork, which will be routed through USDA. Motion approved 5-0. Brad reported Well #5 samples showed iron bacteria, but no manganese. This is not unusual as they display the same properties. The well will be flushed and tested again next week. Now that the system has settled down there should be no more problems with it.

New Business: Retired Librarian Carrie Bremer introduced new Librarian Kristin Williams. Kristin reported there is a new electronic open sign at the library. Mayor Shafer presented Carrie with an engraved pen set, along with a crystal plaque thanking her for her 19½ years of service to the city and the library.

Business from the Departments & Councilors:

Administration: The audit went well, and will be presented at the February 8th council meeting. City offices will be closed January 15th in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

Michelle will be on vacation Feb 1-9. Nancy was given permission to close City Hall February 5th to attend a medical appointment with her father. She will reopen when she returns to town that day.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm. The next regular council meeting will be **February 8, 2018 @ 6:00 pm** in the Miller Family Community Room.

Approved: John Shafer, Mayor _____

Attested: Nancy Parker, CMC, City Recorder _____