

City of Athol Council Meeting

May 6, 2014

The meeting was called to order by *Mayor Kuhman* at 7 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Spencer x , Miller x , McDaniel x Zichko x .

**All present*

Visitors: All visitors Please Sign in.

Minutes: Motion made by *Councilman Miller*, Seconded by *Councilman McDaniel*.

Bills: Motion made by *Councilman McDaniel*, Seconded by *Councilman Miller*.

Treasury Report:

Water Usage: April 2014 2,308,900

Unfinished Business:

Panhandle ER information* Panhandle Health would like acceptance letter.

**Panhandle Health does not want to ask/talk to their board if we ask for more after they do/if they do five us more ERs for our pool. Depending how you read potentially 93 ER's needed/we have roughly 50 ERs now, there are still undeveloped lots and 93 ERs would cover all of the lots in town. Panhandle Health is willing to deal looked at our over all water usage. Need motion and vote by the City Council that they are willing to negotiate new SMA agreement. Just need to be clear if we ask for certain amount. We will not ask for more then recommended new SMA agreement. Councilwoman Zichko made motion to negotiate SMA agreement, and provide letter that indicates Council voted to negotiate new agreement. Second the motion made by Councilman Spencer. Miller-Aye, McDaniel-Aye, Ayes unanimous.*

JohnHartung Community Library Network, removal of tree.. Has estimate
**Quote from Jacobsen tree service \$3,300.00 Seems a little high. Councilman McDaniel asked for what cost would be just to bring down the trees only, not removal of them. Also, KEC still has not gotten back regarding if they would help remove the trees beings there are electrical lines in location as well. Will table this discussion until we have more information on pricing.*

Art Luckado, discuss 3rd/Miller Mel Bertch property fix road where it floods, water gets very deep. Safety issue.

**Mel Bertsch would like to discuss Bertsch Rd and 3rd Street property
Mr. Mel Bertsch introduced himself and it had been brought to his attention that there were complaints about the quality of the road and it being a safety issue. In discussion with Mr. Bertsch's attorney he advised Mr. Bertsch the best in Mr. Bertsch's interest would be to just close the road and not allow any vehicles to come through, then Mr. Bertsch would be protected. If the city does not want to take on the liability of the road it is just best to close down. To bring the road up to code would run about 300,000.00. Mr. Bertsch feels that since he owns the road, he has the right to close the road. It is not in the cards for the city financially. So as it stands, Mr. Bertsch feels best in closing the road. Our City Attorney did advise of State Law indicating if the road is used and or maintained by the public for 5 years, the city can take over if they would*

like but it would be a huge expense. The city recognizes there is a big liability and not in their best interest to take over the expense of the road.

- **Input on the old City Hall building – What to do restore?**

Councilman Miller inquired how old does a building have to be before it is deemed historical? Maintenance worker Stephen Williams had gotten a bid to see cost on repairing and it was right around 16,000. Councilman Spencer asked what do we want to do with the building? Save it as historical or as Mayor Kuhman suggested restore for possible concession stand? Councilman Miller had indicated in the past he brought up possibly having a group of volunteers to restore the old City Hall, there are lots of memories and it is basically the only historical building left in Athol. Gentleman in the audience Seth McDaniel spoke up, he is not a resident but grew up here and majority of his family Athol residents would volunteer to help do work to restore building. Another gentleman in the audience who owns a business in Athol City Art Luckado stated he could possibly work on getting some concrete donated. Would need to get a group of volunteers in order and scheduled to do the work. Stephen and possibly Seth will scope and see what needs to be done.

New Busines:

**Connie Stone –Possible 2nd Er for property located at 6115 E Hwy 54
Connie would like to make sure she can keep 2nd ER she indicated there was paperwork stating there was a trailer on the property in the 1960s. Informed Ms. Stone would need to see the paperwork indicating there was a residence there in the past as well would need to know where the septic was located on the property.*

Christi Hill – Considering purchase of property located at 30290 N 1st Street. (3 tax lots?) Would like to know if it is possible to build residence where single wide trailer used to be on property? *NO SHOW

**Update computer/program*

**Stephen Williams, Maintenance- Road Maintenance/spring break up
Had received a couple bids from Cda Paving as well as Leo Neal , Leo Neal substantially less, Leo has done work for the city in the past. Councilman McDaniel made motion to have Leo Neal do the work on the roads. Councilman Miller seconded. Councilman Spencer aye, Councilwoman Zichko undecided.
Also to repair roof on city hall will be right around 500.00*

Site Disturbance

Seth McDaniel/American Legion 5525 Hwy 52. Add on non smoking room to the Legion.

Motion to approve site disturbance pending ER ok by Panhandle Health made by Councilman McDaniel, Seconded by Councilman Spencer. All in favor

Public Comment

Attorney brought up that Mayor Kuhman wanted to talk about the open meeting law. There are 3 aspects, 4 or 5 people can get together and generally talk and make no decision. Workshops are open to the public. The purpose of an open meeting is so that the public knows. If Council members are discussing possible road fixes, etc, just no decision can be made, must be made at open meeting. Agenda must be posted 48 hours, person in audience stated has not been posted 48 hours prior, clerk informed him that it is posted every Friday prior to the city council meeting.

Also questioned ERs and commercial property.

Councilman Miller stated sometimes when you allow too much public comment with the audience, the audience will get carried away. Mayor Kuhman set time imit to 3 minutes per public comment. Councilman Spencer stated that sometimes he feels it is

Executive Session

Councilwoman Zichko made motion to go into executive session under title 67-2345

Section B . 8:17-8:29

***Will give Stephen Williams \$1.00 pay raise.**

**Moved by Councilman Miller____, Seconded by Councilman __McDaniel__ to
adjourn meeting. Meeting Adjourned at __8:32__ p.m.**

Clerk Sally R. Hansen

Mayor