

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

**Tuesday, October 18, 2016
7:00pm Regular Council Meeting**

Mayor Wachter called meeting to order at: 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Wachter; Councilwoman Zichko; Councilman McDaniel; Councilman Spencer; Councilman Hill; Clerk/Treasurer Lori Yarbrough; Public Works, Stephen Williams; City Planner, Rand Wichman; City Attorney, J. Cafferty.

APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH (Sept 20th) MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by McDaniel, seconded by Zichko that we approve last month's meeting minutes without amendments. *DISCUSSION All in favor- Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by Zichko, seconded by McDaniel that we approve paying Sept/Oct's bills as submitted. *DISCUSSION-All in favor- Motion passed.

TREASURY REPORT- Lori read aloud the ending balances; STCU checking \$43,658.34; STCU saving/mm \$90,362.13; and the LGIP balance: \$454,720.58. She also noted we did receive \$8,228.80 from restitution for Sally Hansen, and the \$8,016.00 rebate from Kootenai Electric for the lighting upgrades.

WATER REPORT- Lori reported August usage was: 10,114,200 gallons; **September usage was: 2,209,400 gallons.** We billed for \$6,848.87 and collected \$7,619.79. About 10 account letters were sent out, with an outstanding balance of \$1,825.67 for those over 60 days. There was also a reminder that new rates will be increased as of the October (new fiscal year) billing- this month. Clerk also mentioned that Stephen and her are trying to find the best way to document and record water haulers and bulk water tracking. Will check with the auditors when they are here.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1. Sewage Management Plan - Letter to citizens/ORD draft review** – Brief discussion on the letter that has been prepared to send out this month regarding the septic pumping. A note that next month, the Ord related to the SMP, will be ready for voting. This will officially allow the city the legal right to carry out the terms agreed to with the SMP plan that was signed with Panhandle Health District.
- 2. Planner Report - Rand Wichman** – Nothing written, just a few brief comments. 1) Amendments were more extensive than he thought, but he's gotten 37 pages of the revised city code drafted and sent to attorney Cafferty for his review. Once reviewed, it can be given to council, have a workshop to iron out any concerns, then plan for a public hearing. 2) Ellery/JUB officially signed and moving forward with rates for the annexation applications. He has completed a lot of logistics with outlining

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agencies for permitting, etc. Also, has list of non-engineering issues and will meet with Ellery next week. Making progress, but moving slowly, so no workshop yet. 3) The Community Review took much of his time for the past few months, so no real progress in code enforcements. No new letters, and still communicating in some fashion with the 2 previous property owners that letters did go out. He estimates to have donated/worked at a much-reduced rate due to the community review (approx. \$3,000), but not complaining and feels it is a great benefit to Athol to have done the Review.

3. Decision on Site Disturbance Applications – No new applications: 0

4. Discussion of Transportation Grant application w/LHTACT2 - Lori/Mayor – This is a no-match grant. If selected, funding will not be till FY2018. Application deadline is Nov. 15, 2016. Mayor and staff will work on and submit. Could possibly inquire about using an engineer. **Motion by McDaniel, second by Spenser “to approve the Mayors signature on the LRHIP Grant application for funding of a Transportation Plan, and submit.”** **Vote: *DISCUSSION- Roll Call:** Councilman Spencer - yes Councilman Hill – yes, Councilman McDaniel – yes, and Councilwoman Zichko - yes. **Motion Passed.**

5. Approval of Farragut Flyers - Annual rental update – *Mayor said they would like to keep everything the same as last year. They are still willing to help with city events if/when needed. Lori added that they only ended up meeting last year a handful of times.* **Motion by Zichko, second by Spenser “to approve another annual year of Farragut Flyers rental use of the facilities on 3rd Saturday at 10am at no charge.** **Vote: *DISCUSSION-Roll Call:** Councilman Spencer-yes, Councilman Hill–yes, Councilman McDaniel–yes, and Councilwoman Zichko-yes. **Motion Passed.**

6. Community Review- Mayor shared his feelings on the city’s very successful Community Review at the beginning of the month. His only disappointment was that he hoped we would have had more city residents participate in the 2 town hall meetings. Brief discussion from some of the council stressing that this is an opportunity to give input in what people want of their city. The outlining rural residents are always showing up and giving their input and thoughts, which is great, but we want more citizen’s input. Be a part of the process, don’t wait until decisions are made, then complain. The written report on the Community Review should be available in December, we will also make it available on-line. But, we don’t have to wait to start creating groups to find out where their passions are to begin the city planning when it happens. The Mayor finished by sharing his appreciation to the following organizations for their help in providing meals during the review: Athol Baptist, Church of God, the Athol/Spirit Lake Grandmother’s Club, and John and Sue Fevold. Thank you to everyone who did attend and participate in the Community Review.

7. FATBEAM- Lori and the attorney just wanted to update and share with council that Fatbeam has inquired with the city about right-of-way access/agreement. They are running fiber from the Athol Elementary School (Hwy 95) to Timberlake High School (Hwy 54) in Spirit Lake. Fatbeam keeps offering the city a franchise but not service to the community citizens, so we have begun to ask for a similar contract to the ITD agreement they have. Will have updates when we know something more.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sue Fevold – Thanked the city council and staff for having the courage, commitment, common sense, and forward thinking to apply and have the community review done on our city – “It’s long overdue and we need to move into the 21st century.” Also, had the question, is it possible to get some before and after feedback from other cities who have already gone through this Review process? Lori commented that a few cities have done follow-ups and/or second Community Reviews. She will try and get info and data from John at IRP or some of the cities themselves.

Richard Davis – Regarding the SMP mandatory pumping of the septic tank, are their conditions of inspection? The Mayor addressed and stated yes, if there is not enough to pump, that can be noted and submitted to the city and it will be identified as a complaint for that 5-year period. It may still cost a person to have them come check, but should be a lot less than the full cost of pumping.

Jeff Merkeley – On the heels of Mr. Davis’ comment, could some form of private guys be used for inspection/record keeping basically a 3rd party, to collect and handle pumping?

John Fevold – Asked about using the city newsletter for soliciting people’s comments on various topics. Mayor responded that this has been done in the past.

ANNOUNCEMENTS -City Council Staff – Lori/Stephen- Mayor

City Council – none; **Stephen** – Stillman coming out the 26th to do some site tours and fire flow testing to begin actual work on the water facilities plan. He also inquired about applying for a BNSF grant for up to \$10k for some new kid’s playground equipment, ages 2-5 years old. Council liked the idea.

Lori – Had several housekeeping items: 1) In the council packet was a final break-down of the costs of her attending the ICCTFOA conference in Idaho Falls. Total spent was \$833.36, and she received a scholarship in the amount of \$343.00; 2) She listed several of the training topics while there: budgeting basics, understanding your audit report, harassment in the workplace, electronic records management, “dying” to have more burial space, budgeting best practices, alcohol licensing & catering permits, understanding records retention...are just a few; 3) Lori addressed a comment by council from the previous meeting re the ability for the city office to continue doing business in the event of the current clerk not being here. A brief discussion as to how things are handled who and where back-up information is, etc.; 4) Anderson auditors will be here on 11/03/16 for complete their review of the FY2016 records and accounting; 5) Lori provided everyone with a calendar for the next 4 months, identifying various meetings and dates. Some discussion on upcoming training and city hall office hours. WINTER hours are now 9:00am-4:30pm, Mon-Thurs and Fri still 8:30am-12:30pm, probably through March; 6) Lori provided a detailed list of the employee holiday and vacation time tracking through this fiscal year. She added that council needs to RSVP to her regarding 11/28 AIC workshop. Also, discusses was election day is 11/8, and Nov and Dec council meetings will remain on the same dates (11/15 and 12/20), no changes.

Mayor – Contacted Bill Steele with the fire department and they discussed the possibility of the city using one of their “excess” trucks that is out of service. It’s free to the city if it is assigned to our water department for water and city fire hydrants. A brief discussion and a consensus for him to consider it further. He also mentioned the fire dept. has several large generators that aren’t being used if we’re interested. Mayor also mentioned the 3-recent article by the CDA Press how he thought it was great press to read about the city in such a positive light, and that further he suggested to them to consider doing an article on the city clerk. The very next day the made contact and did one with her; it was in the Sundays addition. “Thank you for all you do Lori”. Everyone clapped.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:30pm

ATTEST:

Bob Wachter, Mayor

Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at Council on