



Unapproved Minutes Draft

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting
Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, November 7, 2017
7:00pm Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Wachter called meeting to order: 7:00 P.M Visitors please sign in.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Wachter; Councilwoman Zichko; Councilman McDaniel; Councilman Hill;
Councilman Spencer; Clerk/Treasurer, Lori Yarbrough Public Works-Mark Mitchell
Not present: City Planner, Rand Wichman; & City Attorney, J. Cafferty

APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH (October 17th) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

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

APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH (October 24th) SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP MINUTES:

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by McDaniel, seconded by

Hill that we approve paying part of Oct's bills as presented. *DISCUSSION-All in favor- **Motion passed.**

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1. Presentation of the 4th Quarter Financial Statement** – Lori shared with council and citizens the final 4th quarter report. She also mentioned that Monday 6th the auditors were on-site to conduct the FY2017 audit; it went well. She thought they may have some suggestions on how to transact our budgeted items/savings in a different way, but we are working through that. It's possible they may be ready to present to council sometime in December. She will keep them posted.
- 2. Discussion on Upcoming council meeting dates and the holidays** – A calendar of the next 4 months was given to the council and the Mayor asked council to look over the list of the upcoming year to see if there were any dates which they thought might be best to cancel due to holidays and such, namely the January new year's holiday. No issues- the meetings will stay as in accordance with the Ordinance. (The 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7 pm.) In addition, Lori reminded council of the upcoming AIC district meeting/training in CDA on December 5th. Please let Lori know if you are planning on attending so she can get you all registered.
- 3. Discussion or Direction on a More Restrictive Right of Way** – Councilman McDaniel brought forward his concerns for safety and clutter because of people parking in the city right of way. Current city code only provides for prohibiting parking in the right of way during a snow emergency or removal time of year. He asked council their thoughts on expanding this to possibly year-round. A

NOTE: The City will make reasonable accommodations for anyone attending this meeting who require special assistance for hearing, physical or other impairments. Please contact the City Clerk at (208) 683-2101 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting date and time.

short discussion of comments and thoughts that resulted in the council asking the clerk to look into what other cities are doing and get back to them.

4. **Discussion on Consideration of setting time limits on permits.** – Councilman Hill brought to the council his concerns over too many of the permits dragging on and on with no resolution and mostly the costs the city is occurring due to this. He wants to know what can be done about this. Clerk shared that she believes that the planner and she was already taking that under consideration and believes that the planner will have some possible language or remedies for that when we do the ordinance update workshop. Councilman Hill would like the ordinance update workshop to be separate from anything else, as it becomes a lot of information to consider. Hopefully, a workshop can be set as soon as next month in December.
5. **Discussion on the Area of City Impact** – Councilwoman Zichko feels it might be necessary for the city to consider expanding the area of city impact considering possible development and growth in and around the city. She was looking at moving it further to the East and down south more. Clerk reminded the council that the planner just spoke at the last council meeting agreeing that it might be time to review the current area of city impact. Then the conversation ran into the next agenda item the updating of the city comprehensive plan.
6. **Discussion on Updating of the City Comprehensive Plan** – Councilwoman Zichko also wants to the city begin soon with updating the city comprehensive plan, she feels we have been talking about it for a few years now and it time to get it done. Clerk then shared a brief rundown of the last conversation of this agenda item. Last December 2016 council was presented with a contract from Panhandle Area Council who was willing to facilitate and update the comprehensive plan that would fit into what was budgeted for it. There was also a conversation with planner Rand, about his role in that. The planner and Nancy with PAC, needed to further discuss that their shared roles might be and so council decided to table it at that time. Clerk provided the council with 5 different variation of a request for proposal (RFP) to find a firm to conduct the updating of the city’s comprehensive plan. It was agreed that each councilmember shall receive a copy of the samples and that we will schedule a workshop to sit down together, with the city planner present and decide exactly what they wanted in a comp plan and what the roles of the city planner would play in that, just and the planner had previously suggested. Council would like to see this workshop happen near the 1st or 2nd week in January 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 1) **Michele Ash representing Chan Karupiah**- wanted to share with the council a draft of a sign that Mr. Karupiah is considering putting up on his building. She stated she didn’t think the city had done any type of visionary plan or had a motto; but she was open to conversation and discussion with anyone after the meeting. Chan’s current thoughts are: “Welcome to Athol, The Future is Here”.
- 2) **Jim Whalen, Athol, ID** – asked with regards to the discussion on the city right of ways- he felt there is a stop sign blocking the view at the corner of 3rd and grove street. - The Mayor said they would look into it.
- 3) **Andrew Bruse, Athol, ID** – also added as far as safety goes the piling of the snow on Hwy 54 between the church and C & L Auto gets so big you can’t see around it if your trying to pull out of Colin Dr.
- 4) **Deborah Warner, Athol, ID**- stated she really has seen an increase in the traffic along Highway 53, and it can be concerning.
- 5) **Jack Gunderman, Athol, ID**- while he lives outside of the city he was wondering if the council would share their thoughts regarding the city’s comprehensive plan and the area of city impact. Like where do you

see the future more and will you allow for the growth or do you want to wait and not allow for growth? Mayor Wachter responded that the recent annexation of the Super 1 shows clearly some desire for growth, but that this council is just beginning to look at exactly that- what does the future look like, we just aren't sure. That's why we are planning to do an update to the comprehensive plan that is 20 plus years old and looking closer at the area of city impact. Councilman McDaniel added that we are also working on getting a grant to do a Transportation plan for the city – that will help us discuss and plan what that looks like. Councilman Spencer also added we just did the Community Review last year which started to do that type of thing. It's been 30 years of doing nothing and now we are taking things as they come. Looking at the city's needs and assets, and what our options are.

ANNOUNCEMENTS **City Councilman Spencer-** Wanted to see the updating of the Employee policy at the next meeting. He feels it's important to get it all up to date prior to the budgeting and employee reviews for the next year. **Mayor Wachter-** shared with council we are looking at ordering some ink pens that say City of Athol on them, which half of them will be used for the Holiday Lighting Ceremony as the City is planning on having a booth with some type of games for the kids to play and win prizes. / **City Staff- Lori/Mark-** none

ADJOURNMENT at 8:16pm

ATTEST:

Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer

Bob Wachter, Mayor

Approved at Council on