

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

**Tuesday, March 5, 2019**  
**7:00pm Regular Council Meeting**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Mayor Zichko; Councilman McDaniel; Councilman Hill; Councilman Spencer; Councilwoman Denis; Clerk/Treasurer, Lori Yarbrough; Public Works-Anthony Brandt; Not Present: Planner; & Attorney.

- 1) **Presentation by Dr. Becky Meyer**, Superintendent of the Lakeland School District – Spoke regarding the school districts upcoming Instructional Levy. Identifying it as a replacement levy not a new levy. It's the same as the 2017 levy that is expiring for same amount, \$8.99million. The market value has changed from \$2.4billion to \$3.155billion; seeing the highest growth in Athol area. Athol elementary highest enrollment and at capacity; there's been a 7.2% growth on average and as high as 15-20% at times. She concluded a whole presentation is available on the district's website or contact her for more info. Voting is 3/12/19.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**2) APPROVAL OF THE February 19<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion by Spencer**, seconded by Hill that we approve the last regular meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>, minutes without amendments. \*DISCUSSION All in favor- **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

- 3) **APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by Spencer**, seconded by Hill that we approve paying February/March bills as submitted without amendments. \*DISCUSSION-All in favor- **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

- 4) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL of the Chamber of Commerce use of the Community Center for Spaghetti fundraiser (for a kids Judo class) in April.** -Janet Ellis, Chamber President not present, Lori shared a little bit about their event and what they are asking for. After a brief discussion the council made:

**Motion by Denis**, seconded by Spencer to allow the Chamber of Commerce the use of the gym for their Spaghetti fundraiser free of charge. \*DISCUSSION

**Roll Call: Denis-yes; Hill-yes; Spencer-yes; McDaniel-yes. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

- 5) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL of Resolution 2019-02 an Interfund Transfer from the General Fund to the Street Fund for \$6,500.00 for the current FY2019.** As recommended by the

auditors in result of the FY2018 audit. **Motion by Spencer**, seconded by Hill to approve Resolution 2019-02 a one-time interfund transfer of \$6,500 from the general fund to the street fund. \*DISCUSSION **Roll Call: Denis-yes; Hill-yes; Spencer-yes; McDaniel-yes. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

**PUBLIC HEARING -On Proposed Fee Resolution 2019-01**

**Mayor OPENED the hearing at 7:25pm**, sharing this was to take and consider public comment on the adoption of City Fee Resolution 2019-01. This is regarding the institution of new or increased fees of more than 5% for

*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.*



various planning and zoning fees, water rates etc. Mayor reminded everyone to speak loud and clear- it is being recorded, those wishing to speak will come up to the podium.

- 1) **Bob Wachter, citizen of Athol:** Shared he agreed and was ok with the changes except for one area, the overage rate. Going from the \$1.10 for 1k over the base gallons to \$2.00 per 1k over will hurt the city in the long range. Fears too many people will just stop watering and then we may not have anyone using water beyond their base rate. Just feels like it's a 3<sup>rd</sup> ding when considering the other changes.
- 2) **Janet Ellis, citizen of Athol:** Commented she was surprised and liked that the drop in base gallons only went to 12k instead of she heard or feared 8k gallons. Also wondered why the water hauling station so much less than what residents pay - only \$0.50 per 1000k and citizen pay \$2.00 per 1000k gallons?
- 3) **Mike Cutler, citizen of Athol:** asked why can't the city just charge everyone the same base rate per the gallons they use?
- 4) **Mark Dane, citizen of Athol:** For Commercial accounts you get 8k gallons more water for only \$6.00

**The discussion following each of these are summed up as follows:** 1) Council understands it's a lot of change, and wished this wasn't so necessary to do this, had rates been adjusted through past years to plan for the needed updates in the water system. The overage rate will really only affect the fewer people who go over the monthly 12k gallons given in the base rate- so it feels more appropriate to charge those who use, than everyone as a whole. 2) Nothing regarding the comment on liking 12k verses 8k; but the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of her comment was responded to by thinking she mis-understood and that it really is \$0.50 for 100k not 1000k; actual \$.25 for 50gallons; meaning they actually pay more than residents. 3) The city can't budget with only charging per the used gallons, and further the base rate is what can be budgeted for because the used/overage rates are variable. After having the rate study done, we have tried many ways to best calculate this out, as well as put the city in the best position to get the best loans and hopefully grants to help with the cost of needed improvements to the system. 4) Clerk responded that the reclassing of the commercial accounts was hard to analyze and find the best fit for a new set of classes. This is our first attempt and we will have to watch the commercial classes and see how it goes. As a whole the council felt it best to go with the rates listed in the and make no changes, after some time passes, we could look at them again.

**Hearing no more comments the Mayor CLOSED the hearing at 7:53pm.**

6) **DISCUSSION/ADOPTION of Resolution 2019-01 The updating of the City Fee Schedule ACTION ITEM** Motion by McDaniel, seconded by Spencer to adopt the Fee Resolution as Presented with no changes, and the water fees portion to be effective April 2019. \*DISCUSSION  
**Roll Call: Denis-yes; Hill-yes; Spencer-yes; McDaniel-yes. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

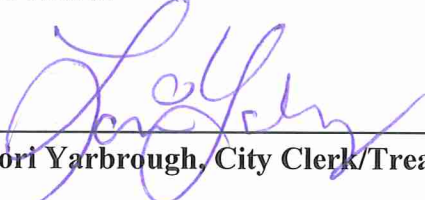
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE** Janet began sharing the information about their fundraiser for the Judo class, as well as that they are now doing the membership drive. They have changed their calendar year to be effective April to April each year, instead of January when too much is going on.


**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** **City Council**-none / **Mayor**- The next Athol Beautification/Athol Daze planning meeting is Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00pm; There will be a Transportation Planning Kick-Off meeting on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm-5:30pm; and she asked the council to begin thinking about attending the AIC quarterly meeting at the end of April in CDA. When we get a full agenda, we will share it. / **Staff**- none.

**ADJOURNMENT at 7:59pm**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer**

  
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**Mary J. Zichko, Mayor**

Approved at Council on 3/19/19