



Approved Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

6:00pm Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Ruch called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Present: Councilwoman Devine; Councilman McDaniel; Councilwoman Kramer; Councilwoman Porter; City Clerk/Treasurer-Lori Yarbrough; and Public Works-Pete Weigman. Not Present: Mayor Ruch; Zach Jones, Attorney and Rand Wichman, City Planner. Council President McDaniel ran the meeting in the absence of the mayor.

REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS – Pete submitted his written report nothing new to add. Councilwoman Devine asked about #1.e. of Pete’s report regarding the hydrant and the clearing of the brush around it, is that a regular thing? Pete shared the circumstances around that matter and that this is not a regular thing but felt it right in this case and he had the help that day, so it just worked out; he had spoken to the mayor about it first and the Mayor did speak to the homeowner. It is supposed to be the homeowners who take care of maintaining and clearing around the fire hydrants.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) APPROVAL OF THE July 15th REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Kramer, that we approve the last regular meeting minutes for the July 15th, without amendments. *DISCUSSION All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

2) APPROVAL OF THE June 23rd Budget Workshop MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Devine, that we approve the June 23rd workshop meeting minutes, without amendments. *DISCUSSION * All in favor-any opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

3) APPROVAL OF THE July 14th Budget Workshop MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Devine, that we approve the July 14th workshop meeting minutes, without amendments. *DISCUSSION * All in favor-any opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

4) APPROVAL OF THE July 17th SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Devine, that we approve the special meeting minutes for July 17th, without amendments. *DISCUSSION * All in favor-any opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

5) APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by Kramer, that we approve paying the July/August bills as submitted without amendments. *DISCUSSION- All in favor-any opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Audit – Christina Laurie with Alpine Summitt CPA was attempted on zoom but it wasn’t working so she did a teleconference by phone. She presented the 2024 Fiscal draft audit and review the main base pages of the audit. She highlighted pages 4, 6, 10, 11 & 12, 13, 23, 28, 29

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 48 hours in advance of the meeting date and time.

and 30. Councilwoman Kramer had a few short questions and then she was done, and the following motion was made:

6) APPROVAL/DISCUSSION of the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Audit, by Alpine Summitt CPA. Staff only pointed out the restricted equity fund balances for the general fund, so that council is aware of those new ending balances related to their overall savings allocations. **Motion by Kramer, to accept the 2024 Fiscal Audit by Alpine Summitt.** *DISCUSSION **Roll Call Vote:** Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

7) PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/APPROVAL of a Catering Permit #2025-03 for Sweet Lou's for a Beer Garden at Athol Daze. Lori shared her request for the council's approval of this catering permit for Sweet Lou's. This would be the second beer garden for Athol Daze, we have generally been having three of them. This one was a bit unique as Sweet Lou's was asking to also serve hard alcohol from their CDA license; to further discuss the reasons behind this request, owner of Sweet Lou's was present and wanted to address the council. Chad then shared his plan for a menu and how costs for hard alcohol are better for both them and the customer and gave a quick discussion on alcohol volume by Idaho state standards. There wasn't much of a discussion after that, Councilwoman Porter shared she does not want to see hard liquor served at the event, then the following motion was made: **Motion by Devine, to approve a Catering Permit #2025-07 for Sweet Lou's at Athol Daze for Liquor, Beer and Wine.** *DISCUSSION **Roll Call Vote:** McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-no; Devine-yes. Motion passed. **ACTION ITEM**

8) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL of the Order of Decision for Conditional Use Permit (CUP25-01) for Nettleton, personal storage in a commercial zone. Lori shared with the council, this is more a procedural thing, your opportunity to be sure staff got your approval and any conditions correctly. No further conversation so the following motion was made: **Motion by Devine, to approve the Order of Decision for CUP25-01 for Nettleton.** *DISCUSSION – **Roll Call:** Porter-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes. **Motion Passed. ACTION ITEM**

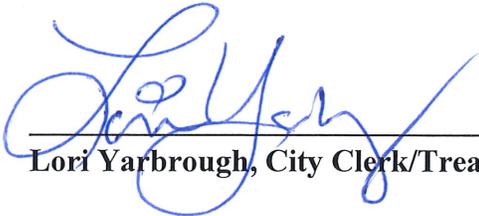
ANNOUNCEMENTS City Council – Kramer asked if her neighborhood could get a stop sign put up on E Forest and N. Meadow Street with the increased traffic she is seeing so many more near misses and people are just not slowing down when entering to turn onto Meadow Street; Pete said he will take a look and get a sign up. **Devine** wanted to know if we ever heard anything from ITD from that teen girl asking about lowering the speed on the hill on Hwy 54; staff had not heard anything. She wants to recommend the city write or contact ITD to make a recommendation; staff said they would draft something up for the Mayor to send. **Porter** wanted to ask the council to really consider an ordinance to protect the city from more cell towers, she encourages the council to listen to Gen Noel during her public comment time as she supports their request. **Mayor** – no present. / **Staff – Lori** – 1) The bids for the new Park restroom our out and closes the day before our next regular council meeting; the engineers should have a recommendation for you at the next meeting on the 19th; you will need to select the lowest qualified bid. Hoping to still get this in before winter hits. 2) Athol Daze this weekend we have 103 vendors and things are looking good. 3) Lori needs a date to have the next budget workshop; they agreed on Wednesday August 13th at 4pm. 4) Gave them all the ITD notice for their public meeting regarding Parks road, she thinks it is something the city will be affected by one way or another, might be best to keep up and even participate in their planning. **Pete** – new guy, Scott, working out well, nothing else.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Jen Noel and Bill Brizee (Smart Cities) – Would like the city to entertain a zoom call with a lawyer from New York who wrote an ordinance for Dalton Gardens regarding telecommunications/Cell Towers. Wants him to write one for Athol to protect them, he charges \$8,500.00 to do so but her organization is willing to offer to pay the money on behalf of the city if they act soon. She raises a big concern being a new law that just went into effect that could force the city to allow these if the timeliness

is not met. City Clerk, Lori, recommended to council they consult the city attorney on his thoughts on the matter and see if an update to our current ordinance needs any updates and go from there; she will pass on this discussion of information and get Zack to give his input to the council, hopefully at the next meeting if his schedule allows for it.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:10pm

ATTEST:



Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer



Steven Ruch, Mayor

Approved at Council on 8/19/25

