



Approved Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, December 17, 2024
6:00pm Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Ruch called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and did the roll call.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Ruch; Councilwoman Kramer; Councilwoman Porter; Councilman McDaniel; Councilwoman Devine; Attorney, Zach Jones; and City Clerk/Treasurer-Lori Yarbrough. Not Present: Public Works-Kevin Foster and Rand Wichman, City Planner.

REPORTS:

TREASURY REPORT - Lori submitted the December 2024 report. Lori read the ending STCU Checking account balance on the report was \$47,410.50; the ending Savings/Money Market account was \$30,442.55; and the ending LGIP account balance was \$990,959.29. The P1FCU Money Market is \$254,637.71 and the savings were \$18,094.02.

WATER REPORT- Lori submitted a written report and then read aloud the usages as listed on the report. She noted 40 accounts got a late fee and only 1 account is past due over 60 days who will be getting a shut-off notice.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) APPROVAL OF THE December 3rd REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by McDaniel that we approve the last regular meeting minutes for the 3rd, without amendments.

***NO DISCUSSION NEEDED.** All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

2) APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by McDaniel that we approve paying the November/December bills as submitted without amendments.

***DISCUSSION-**All in favor-none opposed.

Motion passed. ACTION ITEM

3) APPROVAL of Resolution 2025-05, The Fair Housing Resolution Declaring April as the Fair Housing Month – Motion by Devine, to approve Resolution 2025-05 declaring April as Fair Housing Month.

***DISCUSSION** – Lori shared the city has previously passed this, the last one was in 2020 and as part of a requirement for the CDBG Bathroom in the Park Grant we needed to update it. **Roll Call:** Kramer-yes; McDaniel-yes; Devine-yes; Porter-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Renew the T-Mobile Lease on water tower on Menser.

***DISCUSSION** Lori – Shared this is a renewal to an existing agreement that has been in act since 1999. They are asking for the same terms with the same annual 3% increase. She provided them with a history of all the lease agreements and the income it brings into the city; she noted that these leases supplement the residents' water bills by over \$10 a month. Councilwoman Porter – had a list of concerns she then read to the other council members: Cell towers with 5G have extremely high frequency hardware with its own power station; this high radio frequency brings several health exposure concerns. She believes that other cities and countries are imposing more restrictions or conditions in which it may be allowed, she would like for the city to do some more research because this location being so close to the school. She is aware of cities like Dover and Dalton Garden who have done this already and wants to look to them, to see what they found out and did. Spontaneous

***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.*

combustion is a fire hazard, and she wants to see what the fire district says about it. She thinks independent radiation studies and regular evaluations should be conducted. She then proposed the following motion asking the council to each do some research before deciding anything. Motion by Porter to postpone the decision regarding the T-Mobile lease to allow the council to do some more research on the safety concerns of 5G technology. Roll Call: **McDaniel-yes; Devine-yes; Porter-yes; Kramer-yes;** Motion passed. **ACTION ITEM**

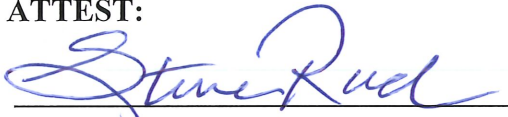
PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS: City Council - nothing. / **Mayor** – took the temporary microphone system he had and it going to purchase something more permanent, that would cost but a couple of hundred dollars. / **Staff** – Lori
1) She included in your packet the new proposed draft done by Rand of the new Area of Impact with the county; she wanted to know if everyone was ok with that or if they felt they needed a workshop with Rand to discuss further. The Council was good with the proposal so it will be brought back before the council in the future with Rand present so they may discuss approving. Lori also noted, Rand is meeting with several other cities as they have been gathering to find some common ground on their proposals with the county related to the new law. 2) Reminder City Christmas dinner party is this Friday at 6pm at Radicci's. 3) Lastly, she reminded that the office will be closed after Tuesday at noon until January 2, 2025.

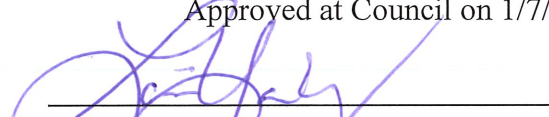
ADJOURNMENT at 6:57pm

ATTEST:

Approved at Council on 1/7/2025



Steven Ruch, Mayor



Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer