



Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, February 18, 2025
6:00pm Regular Council Meeting

Approved Minutes

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

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

REPORTS:

TREASURY REPORT - Lori submitted the January 2025 report. Lori read the ending STCU Checking account balance on the report was \$102,370.56; the ending Savings/Money Market account was \$101,663.32; and the ending LGIP account balance was \$1,417,686.92. The PIFCU Money Market is \$98,732.06 and the savings were \$38,413.66.

WATER REPORT- Lori submitted a written report and then read aloud the usages as listed on the report. She had not yet looked at how many accounts would receive a late fee or who will be getting shut-off notices.

PLANNER REPORT – Rand submitted a written report and recapped: the Area of Impact Map Rand has forwarded the council recommended AoI map to the county and have requested an update on their process of adopting new AoI ordinances. He's not received any response to that. He also shared that he did speak with the county more on changing the city's approach to commenting on projects within the current ACI. We have new languages we can use to make it clear that the city is not approving or denying projects outside of its jurisdiction; Rocky's Auto Body after several reviews and re-reviews he has completed his review of the parking and landscaping plans for Rocky's Auto Body. There are still a few items they need to address with Lori and Kevin, but his part of the permitting for this project is finally complete. Code amendments - he has started some research and redrafting of a new sign code to replace the current requirements for signs.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) APPROVAL OF THE February 4th REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Devine that we approve the last regular meeting minutes for the 4th, with one amendment just discussed in the public comments section. *NO DISCUSSION NEEDED. All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed. **ACTION ITEM**

2) APPROVAL OF THE February 6th SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Devine that we approve the special meeting minutes for the 6th, without amendments. *NO DISCUSSION NEEDED. All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed. **ACTION ITEM**

3) APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by Kramer, that we approve paying the February/March bills as submitted without amendments. *DISCUSSION-All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed. **ACTION ITEM**

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL of the for the Annual Renewal of the Grandmothers' Club Rental

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.

Agreement. President Cindy Reinbolt present and introduced herself to the council, she asked to renew with no changes other than dates. No further discussion. **Motion by Devine to approve the annual renewal of the Grandmothers Rental Agreement.** Roll Call: Porter-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Devine-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

5) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Renew the T-Mobile Lease on the water tower on Menser.** Devine began with making a motion to approve as presented; but then as further discussion began, she withdrew her motion. The council had a short discussion on some possible request for changes brought forward by Porter; the others agreed and the following motion was made: **Motion by Devine to approve the T-Mobile lease and direct staff to pursue the following changes just discussed: 1) direct staff to ask about the subleasing clause; as our other agreement provides for an increase in compensation upon the event of a sublease; 2) ask staff to see if they will go to a 5% increase and not the 3%; and finally 3) have staff discuss the location conditions of where they place their equipment on the tower- so as not to block the cities use or name, as well as keep with the cleanup of older not used stuff.** *DISCUSSION Attorney- cautioned that depending on what they agree to and what they don't this may still need to come back to council, pending their significance. Roll Call: McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Devine-yes; Porter-no. **Motion passed as amended.** Councilwoman Kramer then wanted to briefly state, she doesn't feel a workshop is needed to discuss 2G, 3G, 4G or 5G anymore, 2 of the other 3 council members agreed with her; the census of the council was a workshop is not needed on this matter. **ACTION ITEM**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

6) **FIRE and EMS Impact Fee Discussion about whether or not the city should continue the Joint Powers Agreement to collect Impact Fees for both Fire and Emergency Services.** This was to be a time for Timberlake Fire and Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System to address the council regarding their consideration to dissolve their joint powers agreement for the collection of impact fees. Fire Chief, Brandon Hermetnet, was present but had to leave, so Kody Wright, Division Chief, spoke on his behalf and requests to continue this matter at the March 18th meeting, to give them time to prepare a presentation that they hope will answer many questions for the council. **NO ACTION ITEM 15 Minute (BREAK)**


7) **Presentation of the III-A Annual Report** – Megan Smith made her presentation of the 2023-24 Annual report for the trust. III-A is a self-funded health trust that administers health benefits to the city employees. **NO ACTION ITEM**

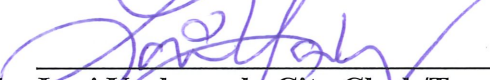
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Councilwoman Devine – reminded her fellow council to lead by example, follow city codes and do what's right. Encourage the public to ask questions, go to city hall, ask the Mayor etc. Councilwoman Porter – 1) asked if the road repairs were all completed. 2) when is the next Athol Daze meeting. 3) she wants to discuss the possibility of having public comments before an action item vote is made. Councilman McDaniel – shared 1) it's been noticed the Durapatcher was not put away correctly for winter storage and still had emulsion/oil left in it, he and the Bobs will be working to get that drained and taken care of. 2) the little John Deere tractor will need to be taken into Ragan, once they return the mower, for a few maintenance things and to fix the sweeper and a few other minor things. 3) he got heaters set up in the cemetery tank, so they don't freeze up, but may need something more permanent 4) oil deck on the grader after the snow season will need to be fixed. / Mayor – none. / Staff – Lori 1) interviews have been scheduled for this week for the public works position; 12 applicants, interviewing 5 of them. 2) Bennett Well replacement pump tentatively set for March 10th or 17th – she will keep everyone posted and get it posted for the water haulers affected by the closure. 3) AIC district meeting is April 22nd from 8am to 3pm if anyone is interested in going, let Lori know so she can sign you up.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Lisa Bennett

ADJOURNMENT at 8:15pm

Approved at Council on 3/4/25


Steven Ruch, Mayor


ATTEST: Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer