



**Approved Minutes**

## **Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting**

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

**6:00pm Regular Council Meeting**

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**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; Attorney, Zach Jones; City Clerk/Treasurer-Lori Yarbrough; Public Works-Pete Weigman and Rand Wichman, City Planner.

**Mayor- Made a request for the council to amend the agenda to add a discussion item so that we could complete our discussion of any standards the city would like to see incorporated within the Area of Impact Ordinance for Athol.** A discussion that Rand will lead later in the meeting tonight. **Motion by Devine to add a Discussion Item #3, regarding the Area of Impact standards.** Roll Call Vote: Kramer-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

### **REPORTS:**

**TREASURY REPORT** - Lori submitted the April 2025 report. Lori read the ending STCU Checking account balance on the report was \$53,482.82; the ending Savings/Money Market account was \$101,923.83; and the ending LGIP account balance was \$1,491,214.46. The P1FCU Money Market is \$98,906.98 and the savings were \$41,493.41.

**WATER REPORT-** Lori submitted a written report and then Pete shared that he found one error on the coin haulers totals it wasn't 210,800 but rather 276,300; Lori said she will need to recalculate the dollar that converts to. Lori said there will only be 7 accounts that are reaching past due for shut offs and there were 43 accounts that got the late fee this month.

**PLANNER REPORT** – Rand submitted a written report and recapped: the Area of Impact Map we will continue our discussion on what standards to incorporate into our agreement with the county later in this meeting. Code amendments- Zach has completed his review on the sign ordinance but he hadn't looked at any of his comments yet, but we should be ready for a workshop on that soon. Potential Annexation Bunco Basecamp – he met with the property owner for a pre-application meeting for the property at the corner of Sylvan and Highway 54. Rand would like our city engineer to review the water and wastewater components; the property owner will sign a reimbursement agreement, and if it looks like those things can be worked out then it will come before the council, or it might not if they don't map out for the applicant. We will see, it's too early to know yet. CUP25-01 Nettleton property along N old Hwy 95 next door to Iron Pizza is out for agency review and will be coming before the council in the next few months.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

***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.*

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**1) APPROVAL OF THE April 1<sup>st</sup> REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion by Devine that we approve the last regular meeting minutes for the 1<sup>st</sup>, without amendments.**

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

**2) APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by Kramer that we approve paying the**

**May/June bills as submitted without amendments. \*DISCUSSION-All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

**3) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL for Water Bill Forgiveness at 5750 E Lorraine Drive.** Lori introduced to the council how the leak was noticed and the actions taken. John Smith, property owner, passed away in late December/early January and Kathleen Neill, his partner and on the water agreement, was staying in Rathdrum and checking on it weekly over the winter. She notified the city on 3/26/25 as soon as she found a water line broken underneath the trailer. Pete went out immediately and shut off the meter then changed out the meter to radio read since he was there. The water is still shut off as she had to move to Rathdrum and is going to be selling the trailer. When her water bill was read in April, it revealed the results of that leakage to be an additional \$1,354.00 overage costs to her bill (749k gallons) Kathleen then addressed the council sharing her side as I had just mentioned but she added how much of a financial hardship trying to get this bill paid will be on her limited income. She also added that since John does not have a will, the property will go through probate and they plan to sell the trailer and lot. After a short discussion the following motion was made: **Motion by Kramer to approve the request for forgiveness by splitting the overage bill 50% and allow her for up to 6 months to pay off her portion of the bill with no late fees for a past due account.** Lori to explain.

**\*DISCUSSION Roll Call: McDaniel-no; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

**4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL for Water Bill Forgiveness at 30625 N Pastime** Staff shared this was returning to the council because Pete swapped out the old meter on May 6<sup>th</sup> and for the last week there have only been 560 gallons used, which is normal use; there still doesn't appear to have been any fault with the meter or city side. He does not recommend forgiving any portion of the overage bill but giving him 6 months to pay it off would be nice. Dustin was allowed to speak, and he still didn't know what the problem could be; he checked the clean-out and there was no water running through it but still hadn't gotten a plumber out to look at the house for any leaks. Dustin overage bill that resulted in being a \$1,714.00 water bill. The overage portion of the city water bill was \$1,660.00. Pete did provide pictures for the council the packets with his recommendation **Motion by Kramer, to approve no forgiveness in the overage bill but allow for up to 6 months to pay said bill without applying late fees for a past due account.** \* DISCUSSION Roll Call: McDaniel-yes;

Kramer-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

**DISCUSSION ITEM:**

**1) Road Rights of Way – Regarding swales, ditches, and driveway culverts regarding the new Alice Court, AJ Homes, and the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.** *Staff are seeking some directions from the council regarding a few different matters, such as: 1) whether the city wants to make improvements and correct the ditches in the road right-of-way along Alice Court; to address pooling and drainage and if so, how do they want it fixed. 2) should staff move forward with the code enforcement of those properties who have expanded their driveways more than 24 feet and done so without getting a site disturbance permit. That is leading to individuals driving over water boxes and other utilities all in the city road right of way.* Various pictures of examples provided to the council.

After a lengthy conversation the council wants staff to enforce the code as written, but staff will draft up some memos to best work with the homeowners on getting the driveways corrected. As for the lack of drainage, ditches or driveway culverts; after Pete's opinion of it being minor pooling a week or two out of the year; that maybe we just deal with things on a case-by-case basis as it comes up; that he doesn't think there is really going to be much damage to the road. The council seemed to

agree that it is going to be the most cost-effective way to handle it. There was a lot of discussion on how we can better improve and watch for ways to prevent these problems from occurring in the future.

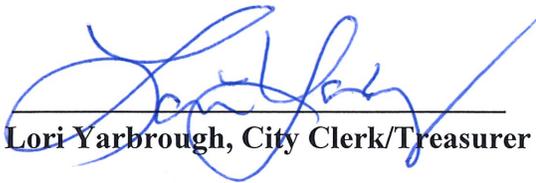
2) **To set a first workshop date for the 2025-26 Budget.** Lori shared an outline of possible workshops and offered 2 dates for the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop. Monday June 23, 2025 at 4:00pm was decided upon for the first workshop date.

5) **(Amended to add to the Agenda 5/20/25) Rand led this discussion, reminding them of the most frequent standards the city has encountered so far and purposed those to as best candidates to ask for.** There are 1) Public road frontage requirements and 2) setback for the road width to be set the same as the cities at 75ft; though there was an additional interest in increasing this to 85ft was also discussed as its possible the council is going to entertain making this change in the city code. 2 additional items were brought up by Councilwoman Kramer. 3) Building heights is the same as the cities; Rand said he thinks the counties are more restrictive but if it isn't he will add. And the other was 4) Increasing the minimal lot size for newly created lots. Rand will put that together and send off a draft agreement to the county.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: none**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: City Councilwoman Porter** – Wanted to form everyone about Legislative representatives from District #2 is having a zoom town hall meeting in two days. **Mayor** – none. / **Staff** – Lori 1) Looking at a public meeting for the Wastewater Planning grant to be held on Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. 2) Museum @ the Brig Re-Opening 3) Shared the Wildfire Community Meeting held here on Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am till 2pm. **Pete** 1) Met with the Timberlake Fire District and they checked in with their board of commissioners and said they unfortunately cant justify using public funds to try and keep this building as much as they wanted to. It will take a lot more money to preserve this building.

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer**

  
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**Steven Ruch, Mayor**

Approved at Council on

6/3/2025

