

Approved Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

6:00pm Regular Council Meeting

The Planning Workshop began at 4:10am. – Rand lead a short discussion regarding the newly amended Area of Impact Agreement proposed by Kootenai County. There wasn't much of a discussion about wanting any real significant changes, but rather the desire to keep the map as is, and to keep us in the loop of the neighboring uses, and there aren't any planned upcoming annexations to worry about. Staff will work on the next steps.; Rand drafted up what he thought the council was considering changing regarding the Shipping Container Ordinance. After a brief conversation the council had no interest in amending this ordinance at this time; the last item of discussion was the possibility of a Stormwater Ordinance for the residential zone. After discussing history of various subdivisions in town and the reasons and differences of when and why you have culverts vs. swales vs. ditches the council felt that an ordinance might not be the answer but rather, we should draft some policies as how to manage existing stormwater facilities and new installations going forward. **NO ACTION ITEMS**

Mayor Ruch called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

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

REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS - Kevin submitted a written report. Councilman McDaniel asked about what type of heater was installed in the residential coin hauler building; Kevin responded a small cadet type heater. Then the conversation moved to whether or not the new commercial water hauler should be shut down during the winter season or not because there is no-backup power and the complications that might arise if the power goes out and it freezes. Kevin will plan to talk more with the manufacturer to get some options. Councilwoman Porter then asked about if the city hall building has any back-up power being the largest and most likely used building in the event of an emergency. Lori will check with Clearwater Financial to see if they know of any grants available to help the city purchase an appropriate generator for the building or even funds to convert power to use the one for the water pump system.

ACTION ITEMS:

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

Motion by Kramer, that we approve the last regular meeting minutes for the 15th, without amendments.

***DISCUSSION** All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

2) APPROVAL OF THE October 25th Workshop MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Porter, that we approve the workshop meeting minutes for the 25th, without amendments.

***DISCUSSION *** All in favor-any opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

***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.*

3) **APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: *DISCUSSION-** Lori ran down the list of bills then the following motion was made: Motion by McDaniel, that we approve paying the September/October bills as submitted with amendments. All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

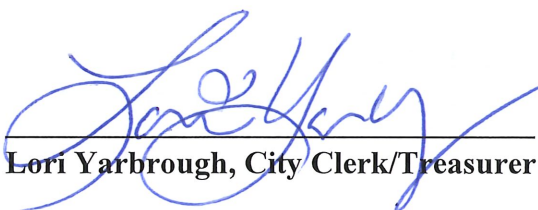
4) Part-time Maintenance help vs. Seasonal/Snow Help – Kevin shared that he was in contact with Bob Rickel, he is willing to contract again this winter for snow plowing help. November through March. But staff wanted to share that Bob Wachter will not likely be available for snow help this year and we may also need to start looking around for a new back-up water operator. Staff also wanted to discuss that moving forward they want to begin planning to look at posting a seasonal position to help the Public Works versus a year-round part-time employee. Before they begin working on a list of duties for this person, staff wanted to know if the council had a preference of seasonal or part-time. After a brief conversation everyone seemed more interested in starting with a seasonal to try it out. Staff will bring it back to the council once they have drafted up a job description.

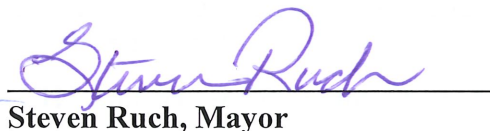
ANNOUNCEMENTS **City Council-** none / **Mayor-** Shared he is planning on having an executive session at the next meeting to further discuss some matters. / **Staff – Lori 1)** The city was officially awarded the Idaho Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) in the amount of \$177,000 for a permanent restroom in the city park, hoping to have it done by Athol Daze next year more to come as we learn next steps. 2) Engles Property Lawsuit – The city has won, and the property owner will need to finish cleaning the property to city standards or the city can refile for the cost to get it all removed; a judgement was approved in the amount just under of \$16,000; this is to cover the city attorney fees, the land survey costs, and misc. filing fees. 3) Trunk or Treat was a good time, 300 to 400 kids, but only 18 trunks; hoping for more trunks next year. 4) Reminder - the Christmas Tree Lighting is on Saturday November 30th begin gathering about 4:15/4:30pm and Tree lights go on at 5pm; right after the Athol Farmers Market Christmas craft fair.

Public Comments: Dan & Ruthanne Sundstrom – (30525 N Alice Ct) He has been working with the city staff on a resolution to a problem with the side of his driveway and a drywell both on his property. The road is eroding away, and he is requesting to build a retaining wall with ecology blocks to better support it and hopefully lessen the erosion and sediment from going into the drywell. He is hoping to get to some type of resolution soon. The staff shared their thoughts and concerns of the 3 utility easements that are also on his property and after a short discussion, all parties agreed it would be ok for him to place the ecology blocks alongside his driveway, burying them into the ground a bit so they don't tip over. Staff will follow up on this matter to see that he does as discussed. Lisa Bennett – (5959 E Grove Ave.) She asked whose job it is to take care of the trash along the roads near Tractor Supply and Super 1 Foods. It was shared with her that it is a private development and not under the city's jurisdiction; but staff can make a call to the development owners who have a maintenance contract that can take care of the trash.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:53pm

ATTEST:


Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer


Steven Ruch, Mayor

Approved at Council on 11/19/2024