



Approved Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

6:00pm Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Ruch called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

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

REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS – Pete submitted his written report but had a few small additions; he added that he installed 5 new meters today bringing the total of 64 new meters. That is 180 manual reads and 194 radio reads now. 2) He finally got up to the cemetery to do a bit of mowing and will try and get back there tomorrow to finish. 3) 5 applications going to interviews and hoping to get someone hired soon for the summer seasonal help. 4) Cindi asked about the broken fire hydrant on Menser, Pete said no one knows how long it's been broken but he is getting it fixed soon. 5) There are two friendly reminders that are still out of compliance regarding code enforce and will write some letters next, but it might need to go to the attorney.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) APPROVAL OF THE June 17th REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Kramer, that we approve the last regular meeting minutes for the 17th, without amendments.

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

2) APPROVAL of the Bills Motion by McDaniel, to approve paying the June/July bills as submitted without amendments.

***DISCUSSION-** Lori shared nothing irregular on the bills this month. All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

3) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Purchase new locks for the fire hydrants. Pete reminded them he had previously shared he's been finding the locks on several hydrants that are being pried open; he would like to order a more durable lock and replace them all. There was a brief discussion over the types we should get then the following motion was made: **Motion by McDaniel, to approve the purchase of new locks for the fire hydrants; not to exceed \$1,700.00.**

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

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to approve the rental of 2 Drop boxes for the Old City Hall debris. Pete shared there is a volunteer to come tear down the building and so the only cost to the city would be the box to haul off the wood debris. After a short discussion the following motion was made **Motion by Kramer, to approve the rental of boxes from Site Solutions; not to exceed \$2,000.00.**

***DISCUSSION – Roll Call: Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes. Motion Passed. ACTION ITEM**

5) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL of Cemetery Road Improvements Lori reminded that Councilman McDaniel had gotten a rough cost estimate for what the cost to do the road work, so that we know what procurement steps will need to be taken. The project will roughly cost \$60,000 plus, so the city will just have to solicit at least 3 bids from licensed public works contractors and then pick the lowest responsible bid. She

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.

reminded them this has been an ongoing discussion about what steps we want to take to begin cemetery improvements, if you all feel that repairing the road is the first step and we have enough money then approval will mean staff will work to solicit. It was also discussed that Shane will help Pete write out the basic specs and scope of work to use when soliciting bids. **Motion by Devine, to approve moving forward with the informal bid process to begin doing the cemetery road improvements.** *DISCUSSION – Roll Call: McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes. **Motion Passed. ACTION ITEM**

6) **DISCUSSION/APPROPVAL per the request of Councilwoman Devine to briefly discuss** the email sent to the full council on June 22, 2025, **regarding a young community members concern over the speed limit on Highway 54 as it leaves the city going west up the hill towards Spirit Lake** (Greystone Lane to N Sheep Springs Road). Councilwoman Devine asked her fellow councilmembers if they got the email and if anyone responded. She then shared that she did and asked the council if they should direct staff to write a letter to ITD with the recommendation of lowering the speed limit on the hill. Councilman McDaniel shared he also responded and gave her the direction of first starting with ITD and his thoughts for a process for her to begin working through, hoping to encourage her to learn steps in making a change. He thought the city should wait to see if ITD inquirers with the city based upon her steps but wasn't opposed to such recommendation to lower the speed limit, it's just that it is an ITD road. **After a brief discussion the item was tabled, and no motion was made.** *DISCUSSION **ACTION ITEM**

DISCUSSION ITEM:

7) **Ellery Howard-** Would like to have a discussion with the council regarding the cemetery and its current condition. Ellery shared his connection to the city from both a personal/family connection and professionally as an engineer that has worked with the city in years past. His reason for speaking to the council was to share his concerns with the lack of care the cemetery is getting this year. He did speak with staff and understand the change in staff and timing of things but felt it important to still bring it to the council's attention. He also wanted to offer his services in any way that might help the city with attaining this. He understands it is considered an unmaintained cemetery but would like to at least see it be mowed by memorial day; once or twice a summer would be great. He also understands the city needs a trailer or better means to get the equipment up the hill; he suggested possible sharing with another district like Bayview Water & Sewer. Finally, he offered to do his part after listening to the previous discussions the council had regarding road and cemetery expansion in the future. He offered to work with Shane and staff to help draft out the specs needed for the bidding process for the road work and any other help from an engineering standpoint that might help the city with some more care or expansion of the cemetery. He added he has a lot of family in the cemetery, and they would all like to help when needed.

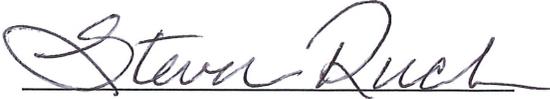
ANNOUNCEMENTS City Council – Porter asked if staff has done anything for recognition to the two fire departments who lost men in the local tragedy. They had not but staff will get some cards together and get everyone's signature and sent out. **Mayor** – 1) The microphone equipment has finally arrived; he will be installing before the next council meeting. 2) He attended the AIC conference in Boise felt there were a lot of benefits to attending, he went to classes that centered around emergency preparedness the most and met lots of new contacts. **Staff – Lori** – 1) Looking for a date to have the next budget workshop; they agreed on Monday July 14th at 5pm. 2) She share that her and the Mayor has decided to host two "Sit Down with the Mayor" meetings open to the public; meant as an opportunity for the local community to come in ask questions, share any concerns they have. They are Thursday July 24th at 5:30pm and Saturday July 26th at 8:30am. 3) The Community Library is asking the council to fill out their stakeholder form, they are looking for some feedback, she has extras if anyone in the community would like a copy. **Pete** – nothing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Marilyn Twete (Twete Rd, County resident) – Asked the council if the old spickets up at the cemetery work to water the place. Council shared, they do not they had been vandalized years ago and would be costly to get water there. Also wanted to know if the city had a road easement for the

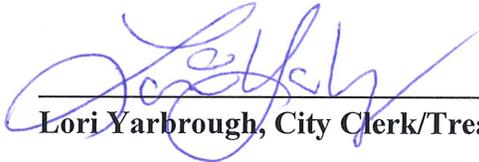
cemetery because that road will need drainage, the council shared they have already looked into that, and the city is good that's why they want to move forward with road improvements. Lastly, she shared her appreciation that the council is discussing the next steps for the much-needed cemetery improvements.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:13pm

ATTEST:



Steven Ruch, Mayor



Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at Council on 7/15/2025

