



Unapproved Draft Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, May 6, 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 briefly went through his written report and added a few additional items: He's applied for a National Grant for a Water Apprenticeship Program for \$3,000 that would ultimately give him a Level 2 Water Operators License. He also listed that he had done 17 meters so far but wanted to update with the ones he did today; he is now up to 24 new meters installed.

ACTION ITEMS:

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

Motion by Devine, 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 Bills Motion by Kramer, to approve paying the April/May bills as submitted without amendments.

***DISCUSSION-** Lori shared many of these bills on the list are related to the recent water meter updates and improvement as Pete has been addressing things the minute he notices them, and he has been swapping out many meters. All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

3) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL of a Catering Permit for the American Legion (AL) at the Athol Eats Food Truck Court. Lori introduced the application since the applicant was not present. She shared the food court is trying to find a way to drum up more business and specifically holding this new event on a Sunday afternoon. They are having a pig roast and asking to have the AL host a beer garden. The council had a few questions with concerns over liability and parking availability for such event but after a short discussion the following motion was made: **Motion by Devine, to approve a catering permit for the American Legion Post #149 a one-day permit at the location of the Athol Eats food court on Sunday, May 18th for an Outdoor Pig Roast.** ***DISCUSSION – Roll Call:** Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-no. **Motion Passed. ACTION ITEM**

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Remove several trees on Alice Court. Pete had included in the council packets, pictures of the location to show the area of the trees. We received 3 bids with the lowest being MGT at \$1450.00. **Motion by McDaniel, to approve the costs related to the removal of trees on N Meadow Street; not to exceed \$1,500.00.** *** DISCUSSION** Councilman McDaniel shared that he might want to go look at a Jack Pine at 2nd and Menser too. **Roll Call** Porter-yes; Kramer-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes. - **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.*

DISCUSSION ITEM: A presentation by the Athol Elementary 5th Graders accompanied by Mrs. Kelly Cain and Mrs. Payne. The students explained this was the 2nd year working with the city and described the work they have completed and what they still plan to complete this year before school gets out. Lori had shared with the council a few pictures that were taken of the children while they were out cleaning up the park and working with Pete.

5) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL for Water Bill Forgiveness at 30625 N Pastime** Lori introduced to the Council the circumstances and actions they have taken to date. Dustin Engles has a \$1,714.00 water bill for the total of the last 5 months, our 1st read since October. Staff have double checked the meter usage a couple of times since this reading, but it shows that 902,000 gallons have flowed through the meter since it was last read in October. This has caused the overage portion of the city water bill for him to be \$1,660.00. Staff explained the inconsistency in the usage and after a brief discussion with the homeowner; the council requested Pete to get the meter swapped for the radio read and then check the usage for any continued inconsistency and then bring it back to the council, before they decide if they will do any forgiveness of the high billing. **Motion by Porter, to postpone the request for forgiveness until Pete gets the new water meter installed and then come back to the council** *DISCUSSION Roll Call: McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes. - **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

6) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Purchase Fertilizer for the Park** Pete shared this is the normal need to get fertilizer for the park and due to the dollar amount, it's before the council. **Motion by Kramer, to approve the cost to purchase fertilizer for the park; not to exceed \$1,000.00.** * DISCUSSION Roll Call Porter-yes; Kramer-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes. - **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

7) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL of an Annual Contract with Elemech for the Commercial Water Hauling Station.** Lori gave the pros and cons to the council based on what Lisa was recommending and after a brief discussion the following motion was made: **Motion by McDaniel, to deny the annual service contract agreement with Elemech at this time.** *DISCUSSION If we find that next year or that we are needing the support the council will consider it in the future; they understand without the contract we will pay \$140 per hour for support. **Roll Call:** Kramer-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

ANNOUNCEMENTS **City Council** – McDaniel – He met a cemetery guy that might be able to work on the cemetery roads, and is getting some costs, so he's still working on it. Kramer – Wants a date to give the fire district to have a plan to get the building moved or what their plan is; council came up with May 30th Jeanette will relay this date. **Mayor** – none. **Staff** – Lori – 1) Shared the passing of Mary Zichko, whom was a past Interim Mayor and sat on the council for many years. Her memorial service will be Saturday May 17th at 4pm at the Athol Baptist Church. 2) T-Mobile cell company has agreed to go back and remove any old cables and such from the tower; once that has been done the Mayor will sign the agreement. Pete – nothing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT at 7:18pm

ATTEST:

Steven Ruch, Mayor

Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at Council on