



Approved Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Council Meeting

Mayor Ruch called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Ruch; Councilwoman Devine; Councilman McDaniel; Councilwoman Porter; Councilwoman Blackwell; City Clerk/Treasurer-Lori Yarbrough; Public Works-Pete Weigman; Rand Wichman, City Planner; Nick Peterson, Attorney, Not Present: none.

REPORTS:

TREASURY REPORT – Lori submitted the July 2026 report; Lori read the ending STCU Checking account balance on the report which was \$105,182.18; the ending Savings/Money Market account was \$17,514.82; and the ending LGIP account balance was \$1,928,868.76. The P1FCU Money Market was \$119,631.37 and the savings were \$77,906.03. Lori also shared that she did 2 transfers in the month from the money market account to the checking account. Once on 7/9/26 for \$25,000 and again on 7/22/26 for another \$25,000. She also noted that once the property taxes come in you will see a transfer back into the money market account on 8/13/26 for \$35,000.

WATER REPORT- Lori submitted a written report and shared the July usage was 10,120,608 gallons; coin haulers used 552,676 gallons. July billed utilities were \$25,376.00, overage \$6,374.00, and monies collected were \$34,309.03. Lori said she hadn't applied late fees yet but thinks there will be about 40ish this month, and 3-4 due for shut-off notices.

PLANNER REPORT- Rand submitted a written report and recapped briefly that there is nothing new on the Area of Impact to report on, and that the city attorney was outlining options for proceeding. He hasn't heard anything new on Code Amendments for the sign ordinance that two council members were working on. For Development Projects – he has been working with Colton Acres First Addition to move that application forward toward a public hearing, potentially this fall. There is also an application from Justice Owens for a Vacation of the Road right of way for E. Freemont Street west of Pastime Street. Mr. Owens is currently demolishing the existing house at 30625 N. Pastime Street and will be completing a boundary line adjustment on 3 of the 6 lots that he has purchased there. The vacation public hearing will likely be held in September or October. Rand noted that he has assisted Pete with some Code Enforcement cases, including drafting notice of violation letters. Lastly, the property transaction with the Tallents for the cemetery access easement and property donation is now complete. The deeds were recorded by Lori on August 11, 2026. In the next week or so he will restart work on the cemetery approach permit and the closure of the Sheep Springs approach.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) **APPROVAL OF the August 4th meeting minutes. Motion by McDaniel, that we approve the meeting minutes for the August 4th regular meeting 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 requires 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.

2) APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by McDaniel that we approve paying the July/August bills as submitted without amendments. *DISCUSSION- Lori shared a few bills that are not normally on the list are shown due to Athol Daze expenses. All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

3)DISCUSSION/APPROVAL of a Request for Sign Placement in City Right-of-Way (Athol Eats): Planner Rand Wichman gave a summary of this request and shared that the applicant Christy Drainer is present tonight to discuss this with the council. Rand shared the sign meets all the city codes, but that issue with the proposal is the placement of the sign. the city code doesn't allow for any off-premises signs. Their request, while making sense visually, is to put their signage in the city road right of way. There is a city water line that runs along that parcel of ground, and within just a few feet of the requested placement; that concerns him. He said in his memo to council about this matter, he marked 2 other suggested, possible locations for the signage. However, that would change the type of sign used, requiring a pole sign instead of a stand-alone. Rand further added if the council considers allowing the sign to be placed in the right of way, they should also include in their motion whether this is a one-time encroachment permit or if a lease agreement is needed. If the council decides that a lease agreement is required, then he would also suggest that council decide if there is a cost associated with the agreement, and if so, what that should be. The City Attorney, Nick, added the city is not allowed to permanently lease the right of way for the sign, it would have to be a year-to-year contract. Christy Drainer with Athol Eats then approached the council and added that they are flexible for sign placement, though the right-of-way would be their first preference for location. They really aren't interested in installing a pole sign. After a brief conversation, the council asked about other possible locations for signage and stating that they like the proposed design of the sign, then the following motion was made: **Motion by Porter, to deny the Athol Eats Sign placement in the City Right of Way.** *DISCUSSION **Roll Call Vote:** Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes; Blackwell-yes. Motion passed. **ACTION ITEM**

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL Regarding an ITD request about the Upper Railroad Bridge Replacement (along Old (original) Highway 95/1st Street): No Motion made.*DISCUSSION – Is the City interested in participating in the development of the mitigation and drafting of the Memorandum of Agreement for the Adverse Effects the project may have on historic properties. **NO ACTION ITEM**

DISCUSSION: Cemetery (Standpipe) Tank Report: Pete shared an overview of the Inspection conducted by Bruce Larkin, council was provided a hard copy and a file will be kept in the office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: **Idaho Code 74-206(1)(f)** “to Discuss litigation with the City Attorney

MOTION by McDaniel, to go into executive session under Idaho Code 74-206(1)(f) “to Discuss litigation with the City Attorney.” *DISCUSSION **Roll Call:** Blackwell-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

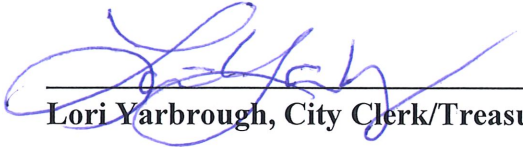
EXECUTIVE SESSION Began at 7:05pm and ended at 8:19pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: City Council – none. / Mayor – none. / Staff – Lori – Shared Kiki Miller of the CDA city council sent out an email invitation regarding a discussion on housing on August 20th. 2) There was an event permit issued for the Athol Seventh Day Adventist church for a Self-Reliance Expo on Sept 13th they will have 15-20 vendors and be using the baseball field and basketball areas in the park. 3)Our Attorney will be out for the birth of his 1st child, and we will have Terrun back with us

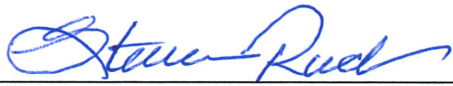
in the interim. To accommodate his absence, we moved the public hearing on the Freemont vacation hearing from the 2nd meeting in Sept to the 1st. 4) Reminder that the FY27 Budget Public Hearing will be held on Sept 2nd, our last day to pass the new budget, if anyone has questions ask Lori. **Pete** – none.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:22pm

ATTEST:



Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer



Steven Ruch, Mayor

Approved at Council on 9/1/26

