

**Approved Minutes**

**Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting**

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

**Tuesday, June 2, 2026**

**6:00pm Regular Council Meeting**

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**Mayor Ruch called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.**

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

**REPORTS:**

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Pete submitted his written report, and he noted that today he installed another 4 deep meters, and he rented an excavator to do the work. Staff is trying to get an update on the status of the restroom building in the park. He also shared there was more damage to the coin collector at the water hauling station, but it was fixed and old. The graffiti in the park was pointed out to the city, and he got Scott to get that covered, similar pictures as we had seen before. Last thing was Councilwoman Porter wanted to know about getting the stop sign at super 1 yield area back up again; since it has been removed. Pete shared that is a privately maintained road not city, but he or Lori can check on it.

City Clerk wanted to note that the public agenda did have the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Statement listed on it, but it was left off the Mayor/Council agendas in error. For the record she did provide a copy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter financial statement in the packets for the council. **Mayor/Council acknowledged this adjustment.**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1) **APPROVAL OF THE May 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes: Motion by Devine, that we approve of the meeting minutes for May 19<sup>th</sup>, without amendments. \*DISCUSSION \* All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**
- 2) **APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by Devine, that we approve paying the May/June bills as submitted without amendments. \*DISCUSSION- Lori pointed out the random or annual payments on the list. All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**
- 3) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Purchase a Utility Locate Device:** Pete explained how he could utilize this device and how much more accurate it would make locating water meters and lines; noting that one bad marking could cost the city lots of money; as well as having to ask to borrow this device from a city resident. After a brief discussion the following motion was made: **Motion by Kramer to approve the purchase of a utility locate device as requested; not to exceed \$2,800.00.** \*DISCUSSION – This would be paid for through the water fund equipment/tools account. **Roll Call:** Porter-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Devine-yes. **Motion Passed. ACTION ITEM**
- 4) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Purchase a New Fence for the Baseball Field area** Pete explained he got 3 bids, and the lowest bidder was so happy to work with the city. He also asked about reusing parts of the existing fence to save money; however, the lowest bid was with all new pieces as they felt

*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.*

the existing fencing was not worth saving. This company installed the existing fence, and they are including a new gate at the corner for better access into the park from the 1<sup>st</sup> street roadside. Pete is highly concerned about the fence falling on someone and feels it's a liability. Councilwoman Porter raised the concern paying for the cost of replacing the fence now, if in the future Highway 54 might change or move with any ITD road project. Staff shared that it could still get moved or reused.

**Motion by Devine, to approve the purchase of a new fence for the baseball field; not to exceed \$9,000.00.** \*DISCUSSION – This would be paid for through the general fund park improvement account. **Roll Call:** Porter-no; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Devine-yes. **Motion Passed. ACTION ITEM**

- 5) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Accept Gifted Property from the Tallents and Authorize the Mayor to sign the Deeds and the Road Easement for the Cemetery. Gifted property is North of the Water Tower at the cemetery:** Rand recapped to the council all the things that have transpired recently bringing us to completion and ready for council to accept the deeds and authorize the mayor's signature. There are 2 deeds; one squares off the northern border of the cemetery where the water tank and drainage swale is, about a ½ acre, and the second deed grants the city access to easement across the south existing access, thus this will allow us to finish our work on the sheep spring road matter. Both are being given to the city, and no money or other considerations are being given in exchange. Rand also noted there is a timeline from pinning by the surveyor to the recording of deeds that is why it is on your agenda today. After a short few questions, the following motion was made: **Motion by Devine, to approve accepting the gifted property from the Tallents and authorize the Mayor's signature on the cemetery road easement and gifted property deeds.** \*DISCUSSION- **Roll Call: Kramer-yes; Devine-yes; Porter-yes. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- 6) **Regarding the Upcoming Workshop on the Area of Impact with Kootenai County:** Rand wanted to give the council an update regarding what the City of Stateline is going through with the county, as they denied Stateline's request for 2 lots to be included in their AOI. He shared the noted reasons why they denied it and most concerning was that Commissioner Mattare is using this as a platform to negotiate with cities without police departments. The sheriff's office wants MOUs with each city, negotiating a fee for calls the department receives in those cities. Rand feels that this is the sheriff's office pushing new standards on cities. He continued to share that he believes that the workshop scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> isn't going to accomplish anything and that we will likely need to follow the recourse that is in state law. This law requires requesting a committee of 4 for a recommendation that gets presented to the commissioners, and if the commissioners don't follow the committee recommendation it would go to a judge for determination. He wanted to give the council the heads-up on this matter. Last spring we turned in our request to the county, and they sat on it for months, then decided that they would hear all requests of the cities at once. Councilwoman Porter shared that the county commissioners have allowed an increase in the sheriff's budget by \$5 million in 1 year; that is 64% of the county budget.

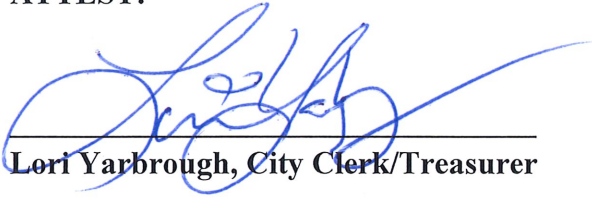
**ANNOUNCEMENTS: City Council: Councilwoman Kramer** – asked Councilwoman Porter if she was done with the sign ordinance updates she had; they planned to get together and work on their review of that. / **Mayor** - wanted to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts for the loss of his mom. / **Staff** – Pete 1) Christ Fit gym had about 10 or 11 people at the 6am class; so, people are liking it, good turnout. 2) He contacted the county for a personal matter and while he was talking with their code enforcement officer he asked them about the motor cross tracks status. He heard that the property owner is looking to

buy another lot to make his land size larger to meet county requirements. Rand didn't feel like it would get past the access easement point. Lori shared she did not have the first draft for a budget workshop that was originally planned for tonight at 5pm; she asked for another possible date for a workshop maybe Tuesday June 30<sup>th</sup> maybe at 5:00pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT at 7:26pm**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer**

  
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**Steven Ruch, Mayor**

Approved at Council on June 16, 2026

