



Approved Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

6:00pm Regular Council Meeting

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

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Ruch; Councilwoman Devine; Councilman McDaniel; Councilwoman Porter; City Clerk/Treasurer-Lori Yarbrough; and Public Works-Pete Weigman.

Not Present: Councilwoman Kramer; Zach Jones, Attorney and Rand Wichman, City Planner.

REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS – Pete submitted his written report and had a couple things to comment on: 2c – he is working on getting some estimates for the electric on the new bathroom in the park. And secondly, he would like to add a 5.c b. he knows that the existing renters have moved out, and they shared that someone new is moving in, but they are likely to have the same problems and concerns as the last. He also just shared that the tractor blew a fuel line so he will need to get that fixed too.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) APPROVAL OF THE September 11th and the 16th MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Devine, that we approve two meeting minutes, September 11th and September 16th, without amendments. *DISCUSSION All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

2) APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED:

Motion by McDaniel, that we approve paying the September/October bills as submitted, without amendments.

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

3) APPROVED/DISCUSSION to Purchase new heaters for the gym. Pete shared he solicited 3 quotes and received 2 that were provided in the council packet. His recommendation is to approve the lowest bid and the 125k BTU unit, which was Bills Heating. **Motion by McDaniel to approve the purchase of two new heaters as recommended; not to exceed \$11,500.** *DISCUSSION Roll Call Vote: Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Porter-no. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Repair Two Water Main Valves (Colin & Lorraine; and 3rd & Hwy 54) Pete explained that he and Bob Wachter found and fixed the 3rd and Hwy 54 main, there was a rock stuck in it, and they dug around and found it, so that saves the city in not needing to make that repair. He is still gathering bids but expects parts to be approximately \$2k and labor/equipment to be \$3k so about \$5k each. At the time of the meeting, he had only received one bid for \$7,000.00, it was a little higher than he expected. There was a brief conversation about possibly hiring out the work by the hour and city buying the parts then the following motion was made: **Motion by Porter to table this item until Pete gets more pricing information including possible hiring by the hour.**

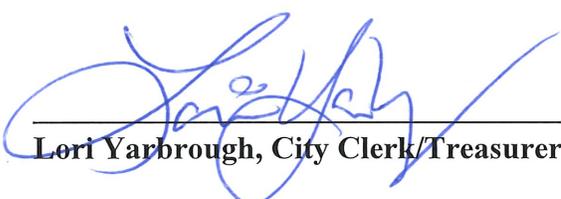
NOTE: The City will make reasonable accommodations for anyone attending this meeting who require special assistance for hearing, physical or other impairments. Please contact the City Clerk at (208) 683-2101 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting date and time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS **City Council** –McDaniel wanted to share with the rest of the council that the grader will be needing to get some work done on it as there is a leak in a seal. It has been taken to the mechanic and to fix the seal the motor will need to be dropped, and he thinks that it makes sense while the motor is out to go ahead and replace other hoses and such at the same time. So, there is not a way to really know how much it will cost but sharing a heads up that it will be coming. **Mayor** – Wants to know how the council feels about doing a recognition of Charlie Kirk, we were asked to do a resolution for a day of remembrance, and he first wanted to see how the council feels. The council agreed they were fine with that. / **Staff** – Lori – 1) Lori shared the AIC district training that happened today was a good one they discussed the new laws with the ADA that applies to websites and another thing like how AI is or can be used in our jobs, things like ChatGPT and how it plays into with records requests. She was really interested in learning how it can help with minutes- more to come on both as Lori gets into more information about them and how they can expose us but also how it can help us. 2) Reminded that Trunk or Treat is Friday 10/31/2025 on Halloween the city will have a trunk set up and there is always a need to have a few more trunks if there are any local businesses who want to come set-up or other individuals let Lori know and she will add you to the list, no cost to participate. (5pm to 6:30pm) Pete – nothing.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Wyatt Jenkins, 30150 N 2nd St., lives next door to the problem house on Menser just discussed and had lived there since 2021. He has seen several different renters and other people coming into and out of that house at all hours of the night; he wanted to share his concerns over this property and what it does to the community concerning safety. He really wants to see something done with this place. Council shared they are and have been pursuing violation of this property and moving towards possible legal action, but it is a slow process. He was also encouraged to contact the county sheriff’s department when something occurs to get it documents and on record, so they are aware of just what is happening there. **Deputy Eric Silva**, the new Deputy for this north district, has been with the sheriff department for 15 years. **Rob Porter**, 73 Sleep Doe Lane at the end of Colins Rd, he is a homesteader living off grid for about 3 years now, but he has a lot of experience in AI technology and federal website compliance laws, he would like to offer to help anyway he can. Lori will exchange contact information with him.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:52pm

ATTEST:



Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer



Steven Ruch, Mayor

Approved at Council on 10/21/2025