



Unapproved Draft Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting
Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
6:00pm Regular Council Meeting

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

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

REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS – Pete submitted his written report and shared a picture of an example as to a city code violation (section 6-6-2B2) that has recently come up. He wanted to have a brief conversation giving an example of two different properties that are both in violation of the same code while noting how different they look from each other. This was just a short discussion and no decision was made. He wanted to allow council a visual as to reflect how difficult it can be to apply the city code to varying situations; something for the council to keep in mind as they make and change the various city codes.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) **APPROVAL OF THE January 20th MEETING MINUTES: Motion by Kramer, that we approve the meeting minutes without amendments. *DISCUSSION All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed.**
ACTION ITEM

2) **APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED:**
Motion by Kramer, that we approve paying the January/February bills as submitted, without amendments. *DISCUSSION * Lori shared not as many bills this month, compared to last month. There was a question on why the Kootenai Electric bill was so high? The peak usage is now in effect, but Lori said they would do a little more looking into the billing to see what they can find; as \$9,500.00 is high. Lori also said that she had to call an HVAC company that was willing to come look at the new mini splits as they were not working. They got it fixed, but she hadn't seen the bill yet. All in favor-any opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

3) **APPROVED/DISCUSSION for an Amendment to Owner-Consultant Agreement for the Athol Cemetery Survey.** Lori shared with the council this is what Shane has been working with the city engineer and the Tallent family on getting the survey information straight. He added that approving this additional cost will get the repining and all legal documents/recording of the land that the Talents have agreed to work with the city to correct all of the records with the county. Then the following motion was made: **Motion by Devine, to approve the Mayor's signature on the Amendment Agreement with Keller Associates, Inc. for the cemetery survey project; not to exceed \$4,000.00. *DISCUSSION Roll Call Vote: Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-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.

4) **APPROVAL/DISCUSSION on the AIC Leadership Academy** – Jeanette has decided she is not interested and Lori was still interested in attending this Leadership training. It is a 2-year commitment and requires two in person 2-day training in May in Boise. Approx cost for 1 person is \$1,500k for both years including flights hotel and tuition. Councilwoman Porter – shared her research and the varying class topic matters and doesn't feel like it is worth spending the taxpayer money for such training. With no further discussion the following motion was made: **Motion by Porter to deny sending anyone to the AIC Leadership Academy.** *DISCUSSION Roll Call Vote: McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes. Motion passed. **ACTION ITEM**

5) **APPROVAL/DISCUSSION to Purchase Water Meters.** Pete shared he was down to the last 90 to replace and while he does have about 30 more meters left on hand he will need to order more, There is a couple months lead time to get them, that is why he is asking to make the purchase now so that he will have them by early summer. He went through buying options based upon quantity and after a short discussion the following motion was made: **Motion by Porter to approve the purchase of 32 - 5/8"x3/4" meters and to purchase 2 2-inch meters to get closer to finishing the meter replacement project.** *NOTE: Buying 32 meters & nodes = \$10,442.56 or buying 51 meters & nodes = \$16,642.83; and 2 2-inch meters = \$1,360.88. We will also need to consider(add) in costs to either rent or buy the equipment/labor depending on the route we go. Refer back to equipment options Pete provided at last meeting. In the current water budget, we have \$15k ear-marked for water meter replacements, plus we could possibly use the other \$10k marked for misc. water costs. Also, an option in the current budget (water & general funds) we have a total of \$20k ear-marked for future equipment fund, in the event you want to purchase something. As a last note in the total Equity fund accounts, Equipment fund line we have a combined \$86k.* *DISCUSSION Roll Call Vote: McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes. Motion passed. **ACTION ITEM**

ANNOUNCEMENTS City Council – Councilman McDaniel- shared he has been talking with Panhandle Health District (PHD) and they have asked if the City was interesting in adopting a Critical Material Rule with PHD similar to what CDA and Post Falls have done. He will gather some information, and he and Lori will meet with PHD to get more information and will plan to take it to the council to see if it is something we are interested in doing. He does think that they are likely better equipped to handle situations of hazardous waste materials than the city. / **Mayor-** Knows Dave Morland is looking for a place to put a small office building for his garbage business office was wondering if Dans RV (Country Corner) could be used; staff shared not allowed there but he could speak with Mel and Jeanette Bertsch for the lot next to the post office or possibly the old Little Town Market building. / **Staff Updates Lori** – none. **Pete** – none.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:12pm

ATTEST:

Steven Ruch, Mayor

Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at Council on