



Unapproved Draft Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Council Meeting

Mayor Ruch was not present. Council President Shane McDaniel ran the meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

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

REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Pete submitted a written report and shared he is down to 44 water meters left to change over to radio read, won't be doing anymore until spring, it's getting too cold. Councilwoman Porter asked if there will be new flags put up at the cemetery; Pete commented he and Lori are looking at ordering new ones soon. Councilwoman Devine wanted to add she thought the new rocks at the park bathroom looks good.

ACTION ITEMS:

Councilman McDaniel asked to entertain a motion to approve amending the agenda and add action item #7, a liquor license transfer to Sweet Lou's. Motion by Porter to approve amending the agenda to add action item #7, the transfer of a liquor license. All in favor- none opposed. **Motion passed.**

- 1) **APPROVAL OF the September 15th meeting minutes. Motion by Devine, that we approve the meeting minutes for the September 15th regular meeting 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 September/October bills as submitted without amendments.** *DISCUSSION- Lori identified a few bills that are not normally on the list and are year-end or project related. All in favor- none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

- 3) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Continue a "Fit and Fall" Type Class without Panhandle Health District:** Lori shared that Panhandle Health District has given the Class Leaders notice of discontinuing the Athol Fit and Fall Proof Class, with Friday October 2nd being the last class. Leaders of the class are present tonight and are asking to be allowed to continue the class, at no cost for the space rental. This is a class that has been happening 3 days a week for over 12 years; they have as many as 50 participants with average class attendance being between 30 to 40 people. One of the leaders, Shannon Thornton, spoke and shared she knows they strayed off the PHD class course, but feels it better fits the group in attendance; doing so allows for a bit more personalization. She is asking the council to allow the free use of the gym to continue, and everyone will sign new waivers for the city. After a short discussion, the following motion was made: **Motion by Blackwell to waive the rental fee and allow the exercise class to continue using the gym 3 days a week, if they sign the**

***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.*

liability waiver approved by the city attorney. *DISCUSSION Roll Call Vote: Blackwell-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

4) APPROVAL/DISCUSSION for Improvements to the Park Stage: Pete solicited bids and has received three. He gave a short explanation of the quotes and offered to answer any questions from the council. **Motion by Porter, to approve the stage improvements and let Pete decide which company to use(DFCI or Summit 49); not to exceed \$39,000.00.** *DISCUSSION The council had a few clarifying questions on things like whether they are providing new floor joists and whether they are using pressure-treated wood, so that is why they allowed Pete to make the determination once he received clarification from the two of the bids. Lori added this could be partially paid from accounts #6453 Park Maintenance and #6450 Building Improvements; and that there was approx. \$4,000 from Athol Daze 2026 that council was considering applying for these improvements. It will not be quite enough to fully cover the costs, but there is always a little extra from other line items; enough that she feels the city could cover without concerns. Roll Call Vote: **Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes; Blackwell-yes. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

5) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Purchase a Fan for Confined Spaces: Pete explained his concern for safety of air flow when in confined spaces and after a short discussion the council made the following motion: **Motion by Devine, to approve the purchase of a fan; not to exceed \$600.00.** *DISCUSSION Roll Call Vote: McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes; Blackwell-yes; Devine-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

6) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Purchase Flooring for the Community Center due to Water Damage: Lori explained she followed the guidance of ICRMP and the insurance adjuster and she received two bids for the flooring work, as well as adding additional work for the restrooms and the food bank hall. They are not part of the insurance claim, but felt it makes the most sense to update those areas at the same time. She reminded the council that the city will be responsible for their \$10,000 deductible and any additions (restrooms/food bank halls). After a short discussion, the following motion was made: **Motion by Blackwell, to approve the purchase flooring for the kitchen, main room, both restrooms, and the food bank hall with DT Flooring; not to exceed \$16,000.00.** *DISCUSSION The assumed being the city portion not to exceed \$16,000.00. The Roll Call Vote: Porter-yes; Blackwell-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

7) (Amended Item) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL of a Transferred Liquor License for Sweet Lou's: Lori explained that Sweet Lou's has purchased the liquor license from JD Resort, aka Chan Karupiah that was currently licensed for Tandoori Grill. She is not sure if the restaurant is still open. Sweet Lou's has presented the city with the appropriate state and county license and recommends council approval for the transfer. **Motion by Devine to approve the transfer of liquor license from Farragut Bar dba Tandoori Grill to Sweet Lou's.** *DISCUSSION Roll Call Vote: Blackwell-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

DISCUSSION: Mountainview Cemetery Clean-Up Review: Pete brought up a slide show to demonstrate before and after pictures of the cleanup work that was completed this week. He had approximately 16 plus individuals from the American Legion family and a few others up there most of the day doing clean up and raking; he calculated there was approximately 65 man hours put in on that day. There were no action items or decisions made by council; this was a discussion and opportunity to let the council know how the cleanup went.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: City Council – none. Mayor – none. / Staff – Lori – 1) Shared they have started their work with Civic Review, getting forms and information over to them to begin building our

permits platform 2) Lori plans to begin working on an Asset policy to bring before the council as recommended by the auditors; as well as begin reviewing the inventory lists 3) Staff will begin prepping for the fiscal year 2026 audit 4) Trunk or Treat is just around the corner on Halloween in the Super 1 parking lot 5pm to 6:30pm, we always could use more trunks to hand out candy for the kids 5) Staff is beginning to plan the annual Tree Lighting event, Lori is hoping to expand this year a little more and offer a free event similar to how it was being done when we had a local Chamber of Commerce. 6) Lori will begin working on the Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) close-out for the city park restroom; it is complete and should open for public use soon. 7) Lori also needs to complete the ARPA funds to close out by December. There's still lots to do and will keep us busy in the office. Pete- none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Misty Rusk a county resident and the Cda EDC (Economic Development Corporation) Executive Director- She offered if any council or staff are interested in attending a listening breakfast, next Tuesday, she will get you a ticket. Also shared that while she was listening to the city discuss flooring, she recalls they personally liked Crock coating over Epoxy coating and thought it was also cheaper.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:42pm

ATTEST:

Steven Ruch, Mayor

Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at Council on