



Unapproved Draft Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

**Tuesday, September 15, 2026
Council Meeting**

Workshop Agenda:

This was a general discussion regarding: the Area of Impact with the county and Impact Fees. This discussion was with Lance Sayers with Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) and Leon Duce, City of Rathdrum Administrator, formerly with AIC. Lance and Leon both lead discussions that offered more understanding of why and how these topics are important.

NO ACTION ITEMS

Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 881 2948 3923 Passcode: 270769

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88129483923?pwd=fMQRWqK6WuliDi2mxR6Y57xsoPSlVk.1>

Location: City Hall, Downstairs Council Chambers, 30355 N 3rd St., Athol, ID 83801

Mayor Ruch called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

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

REPORTS:

TREASURY REPORT – Lori submitted the August 2026 report; Lori read the ending STCU Checking account balance on the report which was \$40,114.66; the ending Savings/Money Market account was \$52,542.73; and the ending LGIP account balance was \$1,978,007.99. The PIFCU Money Market was \$119,875.43 and the savings were \$84,223.15. Lori also shared that she did one transfer in the month from the checking account back to the money market account for \$35,000.00.

WATER REPORT- Lori submitted a written report and shared the August usage was 12,398,710 gallons; coin haulers used 770,912 gallons. August billed utilities were \$25,376.00, overage \$11,350.00, and monies collected were \$31,966.86. Lori said she hadn't applied late fees yet because the due date was today; she thinks there will be about 30ish this month. Pete added that he did some hydrant flushing this month to keep the system healthy.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) **APPROVAL OF the September 1st meeting minutes. Motion by Devine, that we approve the meeting minutes for the September 1st regular meeting without amendments.**

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

- 2) **APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by Devine that we approve paying the August/September bills as submitted without amendments.** *DISCUSSION- All in favor-none opposed. **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.*

PRESENTATION: The Fiscal Year Audit Presentation by Toni Hackwith, Alpine Summitt CPA via zoom. Toni went through the audit highlighting the basics of the finished fiscal year 2025 Financial Statement. She cited there were positive ending balances in each fund and no findings noted. Lori will make this available on the city's website or in the office: council was provided with a paper copy at the start of this meeting.

3) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL Motion by McDaniel to accept the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Audit, present by Toni Hackwith, with Alpine Summitt CPA. *DISCUSSION – Roll Call: Devine-yes; Porter-yes; Blackwell-yes; McDaniel-yes; **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

By request of Councilwoman Porter, the Mayor agreed to move this item up on the agenda.

Discussion on KRATOM by Kootenai County Coroner Dr. Duke Johnson, M.D. Dr. Johnson introduced himself and began his presentation. He stated Kratom is thirteen times more powerful than morphine and overdoses are a problem. This is currently sold over the counter in convenience stores and vape shops. There are 9 states that have outlawed the sale of Kratom and 15 others that have enacted restrictions. It is currently an uncontrolled industry. While he believes at the state level they are working on a law, his hope is that cities will follow the county and begin enacting laws to encourage the state to do something sooner.

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Purchase an Excavator: Pete to explain he found this opportunity to purchase a brand new 2024 Excavator with zero man hours and he thought it was a good opportunity, and it was worth bringing it to the council for a discussion. He shared that this is an option for the city that in a few years we could also sell it and believes it would hold its value; this helps him get the remaining water meters switched over without needing to coordinate the time to rent a machine as he had been doing. Pete said would rather see the city invest in a new tractor with a few implements, after a short discussion the following motion was made: **Motion by Porter to deny the purchase of the 2024 excavator.** *DISCUSSION Roll Call Vote: McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes; Blackwell-yes; Devine-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

5) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to buy 30 more MiNET nodes (Battery pack & antenna) for the Water Meters: Pete explained that he believed this was the last he will need for the meter replacements, and it should give him about 10 extras to have on hand. While he won't use them all quite yet, it could wait until spring; he knows the prices have already gone up since our last order and was told they will likely go up again, so he is asking to purchase them now at the lower cost. *DISCUSSION **Motion by McDaniel to approve 30 more MiNET nodes for the water meters; not to exceed \$4,000.00.** Roll Call Vote: Porter-yes; Blackwell-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

PUBLIC HEARING: on the Status of Funded Activities: The City of Athol received an Idaho Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$177,000 from the Idaho Dept. of Commerce. The Public Hearing was conducted by Kristina Gillespie-Jaques with Great West Engineering via zoom and began at 7:07pm. She gave a review of project activities, a new permeant restroom building facility in the city park, and accomplishments to date, a summary of all expenditures to date, and then gave a general description of the remaining work to get finished. The project is close to substantial completion and is at least over 60-70% complete; it's a modular building and it has arrived and has been placed, just a few minor items to finish up. No changes to date have been made to the scope of work, or budget, but there was an adjustment in the schedule due to the timeline of the restroom being manufactured, paired with a small miscommunication amongst the engineering firm for the building paint colors. It did take a bit longer than we expected, but it is here now and we hope to

have it completed by the end of this month. City staff mentioned the installation of heaters was missing and that is getting corrected and they plan to do a walk through with the contractor to get the project closed out soon. With no other comments the public hearing closed at 7:40pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: City Council – Councilwoman Porter – Inquired about her street getting some utility poles installed and wanted to know why they were not being placed underground. Pete shared that Davis Lane had so many other utilities that were in the way that he thought was best way to go. / **Mayor – none.** / **Staff – Lori** – Reminded council that city hall will be closed next week, as they were going to the annual clerk’s conference in CDA. 2) There was a flooding incident in the basement of city hall with water and staff are working with ICRMP and following their lead on next steps. **Pete** – Reported that the new fence at the cemetery has been installed and is done.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:51pm

ATTEST:

Steven Ruch, Mayor

Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at Council on