Unapproved Draft Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Council Meeting

Location: City Hall, Downstairs Council Chambers, 30355 N 3rd St., Athol, ID 83801
Mayor Ruch called the meeting to order at 6:09 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 Terrun Zolman (via zoom), Attorney for regular attorney Nick Peterson.

REPORTS:

TREASURY REPORT – Lori submitted the September 2026 report; Lori read the ending STCU Checking account balance on the report which was $28,907.53; the ending Savings/Money Market account was $32,580.75; and the ending LGIP account balance was $1,973,563.55. The P1FCU Money Market was $119,997.81 and the savings were $87,056.16. Lori also shared that she did one transfer in the month from the savings/money market account to the checking account for $20,000.00.

WATER REPORT- Lori submitted a written report and shared the September usage was 7,005,898 gallons; coin haulers use dropped to 341,673 gallons. September billed utilities were $25,376.00, overage $3,932.00, and monies collected were $35,040.61. Lori said she hadn't applied late fees yet; she thinks there will be about 30ish this month. Pete added that he performed hydrant flushing to keep the system healthy. There are 2 hydrants that need some repair, and he will get that done.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) **APPROVAL OF the October 6th meeting minutes. Motion by McDaniel, that we approve the meeting minutes for the regular meeting on October 6th without amendments.** *DISCUSSION * All in favor-any opposed. **Motion passed**. ACTION ITEM

2) **APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by McDaniel that we approve paving the September/October bills as submitted without amendments.** *DISCUSSION- All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed**. ACTION ITEM

3) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Accept the Order of Decision for the Owens/Freemont Right-of-Way Vacation:** Rand answered any questions. **Motion by Devine to approve the Order of Decision with the condition of approval and authorize the mayor's signature**. *DISCUSSION Roll Call Vote: McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes; Blackwell-yes; **Motion passed.** ACTION ITEM

4) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Suspend the Reading of the Rules for the Owens/Freemont Public Right-of-way Vacation Ordinance: Motion by Devine to approve suspending the rules requiring a first and second reading of the order and move for its adoption by title only.** *DISCUSSION- **Roll Call:** Porter-yes; Devine-yes; Blackwell-yes; McDaniel-yes. **Motion passed.** ACTION ITEM

Mayor then read the proposed ordinance by title: ORD #453 - AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED 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.

OWENS / FREEMONT AVE. - PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY VACATION AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHOL, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, PROVIDING FOR THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1 OF THIS ORDINANCE TO BE VACATED, CONSISTING OF CITY OWNED STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR FREEMONT AVENUE, WITHIN BENNETT'S SECOND ADDITION TO ATHOL; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

5) MOTION by Devine, to approve the passing of ORDINANCE #453 while under the suspension of the reading of the rules, this is the Owens/Freemont Ave. Public Right-of-way Vacation Ordinance and to direct the clerk to publish by summary only incorporating the title as to the body of the summary. *DISCUSSION **Roll Call Vote:** Devine-yes; Blackwell-yes; McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes. **Motion Passed.** ACTION ITEM

6) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL Motion by McDaniel to approve using Keller Associates to complete a Grant application for a Street Project; not to exceed $2,000.00. *DISCUSSION – This would be paid from Professional Services. **Roll Call:** Blackwell-yes; McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes; **Motion passed.** ACTION ITEM

7) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Purchase a new Tractor: Pete started by sharing various utilizations of the new tractor, he had arranged for the salesman to be present for the council to ask questions. It is a Kubota B26 and the total price includes a tilt snowplow blade, auger, a backhoe, and rear rotary cutter. It was on display outside for the council to view. There was a short discussion regarding using the current 30-year-old tractor for trade in or keep it. After a short discussion the following motion was made: **Motion by McDaniel to approve the purchase of a new Tractor; not to exceed $59,000.00.** *DISCUSSION This is to be paid from the equipment fund with a 30/70 split. Using money in the current budget and the rest from equity funds. **Roll Call Vote:** McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes; Blackwell-yes; Devine-yes. **Motion passed.** ACTION ITEM

8) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Install an Awning for the new Restroom in the Park: Pete shared that he asked the current stage contractor, Summitt 49 for a bid, since they are close and will be on site; also, there is a time constraint to use the remaining ARPA funds for this project. **Motion by McDaniel to approve installing an awning on the restroom in the park; not to exceed $20,000.00.** *DISCUSSION **Roll Call Vote:** Porter-yes; Blackwell-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes. **Motion passed.** ACTION ITEM

9) DISCUSSION/STAFF DIRECTION on Enforcement of Unpermitted Right-of-Way Encroachments on Alice Court in Colton Acres: Staff asked for this item to be tabled as the regular attorney, Nick, could not be present. NO DISCUSSION/ACTION TAKEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: City Council – Councilwoman Porter – Shared she heard of a grant that might help the city with getting a generator to run the community center building; she will share with the staff to investigate further. / **Mayor – none.** / **Staff – Lori –** the flooring due to the flooding incident in the basement of city hall is going well. 2) She will be going on a vacation, but Amanda will be holding down the office. 3) There is a training coming up regarding transparency if anyone is interested let her know so she can get you registered. **Pete –** none.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:10pm

ATTEST:

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Steven Ruch, Mayor

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Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at Council on