

The Athens City Council Committee Meeting Thursday February 08, 2024

The City of Athens Council met for a regularly scheduled council committee meeting on Thursday February 08, 2024. Mayor Chris Reichert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The roll call indicated that Alderman Angela Thompson, Alderman Greg Hoffmann, Alderman Kevin Puma, Alderman John Tobias, Alderman Amy Chernowsky, and Alderman Rachel Lantz were present. Also in attendance was Public Works Director and Treasurer Derrick Fritz and City Clerk Rhonda Ethell.

Derrick Fritz gave the treasurer's report and provided the council with the budget versus actual numbers for year to date.

Derrick Fritz gave the Public Works report. Advised that still working on finding a solution to the blowers at the sewer plant. Advised to replace the two blowers is \$14,000 apiece. Advised that they had to thaw out several frozen meters during the cold snap in January, and that they have approximately 1400 EPA lead line surveys to complete.

Monica Brumm gave the office manager a report. Gave update on the number of water disconnect notices and the number of shut offs done during the month. Advised that it was added as an option for the police department on the phone tree.

Mayor Reichert read the report from Menard County Animal Control. Questions were raised by the council regarding the actual number of days they patrolled and why the city must pay since this is on personal tax bills. Mayor Reichert was going to research.

NEW BUSINESS:

Alderman Tobias and Alderman Puma gave a water committee recommendation to change the water and sewer ordinance. Changes would include dropping the minimum water usage from 2000 gallons to 1000 gallons, and increasing the standard 2% for 2024, then in 2025 rates would increase 4% or Consumer Price Index, whichever is greater. And having just one out-of-town water rate rather than two, starting May 2024. They advised the reason for the needed increase was the rate study was done and showed that we were actually losing money. Discussion was also had on increasing the rates for Menard Rural Water.

The mayor advised that would move into Public Comment before old business and there was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS:

Alderman Hoffman gave the Liquor Committee update stating they were wanting to follow the state's guidelines on the classifications for things and separating out the gaming licenses. Advised that they would be meeting to discuss the number of licenses and would get things firmed up to make a recommendation to the council. Discussion was had on changing the due date of the liquor licenses and would need to extend the current licensing.

Alderman Thompson stated there was no update for the business district committee they will be meeting in April, so will have an update then.

The council went into Executive Session at 7:43 pm as per Section 5ILCS120/2(c)(1) – Personnel issues.

Council adjourned Executive Session at 8:03 pm

The meeting adjourned 7:48 pm.