

The Athens City Council Committee Meeting Wednesday July 3, 2024

The City of Athens Council met for a regularly scheduled council committee meeting on Wednesday July 3, 2024. Mayor Chris Reichert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The roll call indicated that Alderman Angela Thompson, Alderman Amy Chernowsky, and Alderman Greg Hoffman were present. Also in attendance was City Clerk Rhonda Ethell.

The treasurer and public works report were tabled until Monday July 8, 2024, meeting.

Monica Brumm gave the office manager a report. Reported that there were 7 shut offs for the month of June, 156 disconnect notices and 1703 mailed out. Reported that the festivities for the 4th of July Celebration were on tract. Advised the auditors would be here August 12. Advised of an available grant for the business district but deadline is July 22 and would need to get plans drawn up before submitting so we would have to pass on that grant. Advised of meeting with RCAP regarding IEPA SRF loan and is continuing to work on the filing system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cemetery Committee: Discussion was had on the bids for the tree removal. The Cemetery Committee is recommending Central Illinois Tree Service. Council members would like 2 more bids before Monday for the vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was had on financing for purchasing a sludge press for the sewer plant. Advised grant financing available and can work with a company call the Fairness Factory, cost to have grant written, but if purchase press from PWTech, they will pay the grant writing costs.

Discussion was had on garbage permits. Look into the cost of the permits and do they need to be raised.

Discussion was had replacement of the Grocery Tax that the state will be eliminating in 2026. There will be a loss of \$20,000 to \$25,000. The mayor would like the council to think about what we can do to replace the income lost without having to cut a service we currently have, like brush pickup, part-time summer help, fireworks, etc.

The City Attorney presented a sample of an employee handbook, to update the current one. The mayor would like the council to review and will appoint a committee on Monday to bring recommendations back to the board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion was had on a solar ordinance. The mayor asked the council to read over the ordinance and he would assign a committee on Monday to bring recommendations. He asked them to also think about a permit fee for solar.

Public Comment

Ann Smith with CCDC spoke about different programs for Menard County that are available.

The meeting adjourned 7:44 pm.