

The Athens City Council Committee Meeting Thursday August 8, 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 Amy Chernowsky, Alderman Kevin Puma, Alderman Rachel Lantz, Alderman Kyra Leinberger, Alderman Angella Thompson were present. Also in attendance was City Clerk Rhonda Ethell, City Attorney John Hoblit and Derrick Fritz.

Derrick Fritz gave the public works report. Discussion was had on oil and chipping of the roads. Discussion on well maintenance. And advised that tires were replaced on 2024 F250 caused by debris in the roadway.

Derrick Fritz gave the treasurers report. Advised that all transfers have been made for the month and they reflect the increase in rates. Advised that IML had come out with a model ordinance for the 1% grocery tax issue.

Monica Brumm gave the Office Manager's report. Discussion was had on grant money available for park improvements from DNR. Advised spoke with engineers would take approximately \$5000 for them to help with the project, provide drawings and help see the grant through to completion. Discussion on the Safe Route to Schools grant and what would be needed. And advised that election packets would be available as of August 20, 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cemetery Committee: Discussion regarding a few more trees that need to be trimmed. Asked that a monthly budget be sent to the Cemetery Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was had on the draft solicitors permit ordinance. The attorney advised of his opinion and explained this was an issue that many municipalities were dealing with right now. There is language that would exempt non-profits, solicitors must register 1 week in advance, have hours of Monday through Friday 9am to sunset. Mayor asked the council to look over and advise of what they would like to see put into the ordinance and the rates to charge for the solicitors permits.

Discussion was had on the building permit violation at 610 W Eureka. Discussion was had on the amounts for fines.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion was had on a solar ordinance. Discussion was had on the draft ordinance and who from the council would be qualified to inspect solar. The mayor asked the council to continue to think about how to address the issues on inspection and cost of permit and advised he would reach out to other communities to see how they handled such issues.

Discussion on the handbook changes were not discussed.

Public Comment

Linda Wasilewski spoke during public comment.

The council went into executive session at 8:15 pm as per 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) personnel issues.
Executive session was adjourned at 8:32 pm

Regular meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.