

The Athens City Council Committee Meeting Thursday October 3, 2024

The City of Athens Council met for a regularly scheduled council committee meeting on Thursday October 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 Greg Hoffman, and Alderman Angella Thompson were present. Also in attendance was City Clerk Rhonda Ethell, City Attorney John Hoblit and Derrick Fritz and Police Chief Tim Becker

Tim Becker gave the police report stating that will be replacing the 2020 Tahoe with 2025 Pick Up, new officer has completed training and is on the road. Chief Becker advised council that Greenview will be cancelling the police coverage contract as of October 31, 2024.

Derrick Fritz gave the treasurers report. Asked council to think about the Grocery Tax. Advised that has started on the tax levy for the year but would like council opinion on if he should raise it the 5% that he can legally raise it.

Derrick Fitz gave the public works report. Advised council that all oil and chipped, they replaced gearbox on shredder, replaced tires on skid steer, installed 2 water taps, repairs for mixer motor damaged by solar guy have been repaired, getting price on a mixer tank. The water tower project has construction permits, waiting on getting a site for the new well, more tests must be completed and then RCAP can proceed with SRF paperwork.

Monica Brumm gave the Office Manager's report. Advised council that besides regular duties there were 9 shut off's, 198 disconnects and 1705 paper bills sent out. Advised of auditor status. Informed council that has 2 weeks left for the front file room clean up to be completed. Advised council that will be out for the next 2 weeks, the first week for training the second week will be vacation. Advised that the new IT people started on Thursday, and they are starting to migrate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cemetery Committee: Advised there would be a cemetery meeting on Monday at 6:15 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was had on the Dirks Development project out at Hargrave and 29. Mayor presented council with a recap and advised that he had reached out to Mr. Dirks so we can proceed forward on what needs to be done.

Mayor advised the council that there is an alley at 908 Williams that is no longer used as a public alley and would like to have the council vacate the alley. Attorney advised that would need to have 15-day notice, and a public hearing to do so.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor brought before the board the issue of implementing the 1% grocery tax that will be eliminated. He advised the council he would like to invite the public to a meeting in November and would like to

have it voted on in December. Attorney advised that there is also available a 1% sales tax for non-home rule municipalities that can only be used for capital improvements.

Discussion was had on the proposed solar ordinance, changes that were made were no inspections, must get a permit for the city for \$50 and remove the need for a structural engineer stamp and put in must follow national standard.

Mayor Comments:

- Trick or Treat hours will be Thursday, October 4 from 4:30-7:30 pm.
- Discussion had on traffic lines for Hargrave St. and Main St. to be done next year.
- Discussion had on putting out a bid packet to get a yearly per hour bid for Tree Contractors to trim, remove, and grind stumps per hour.
- Advised council that the garbage contract will be up in April, so the bid packet will be going back out for that.

Public Comment

Linda Wasilewski spoke during public comment.

Rex Kiefer spoke during public comment.

Regular meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.