

## **The Athens City Council Committee Meeting Thursday December 5, 2024**

The City of Athens Council met for a regularly scheduled council committee meeting on Thursday December 5, 2024. Mayor Pro-Tem, Amy Chernowsky called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The roll call indicated that Alderman Rachel Lantz, Alderman Kevin Puma, Alderman Kyra Leinberger, Alderman Greg Hoffman, and Alderman Angella Thompson were present. Also in attendance was City Clerk Rhonda Ethell, Derrick Fritz, and Police Chief Ben Harmening.

A resident asked the council about putting a toy swap up by the public bathrooms at City Hall, starting next week and finishing the weekend before Christmas. The council will discuss and vote on it at Monday's meeting.

Chief Harmening gave the police report for November. During the month of November officers responded to 124 calls for service, 39 traffic stops, issued 5 traffic citations, responded to 3 traffic crashes, investigated 8 ordinance violations, served 5 notices to abate.

Derrick Fritz gave the Treasurer's Report. Advised of balances in all accounts, transfers made and forwarded tax levy ordinances.

Derrick Fritz gave the Public Works report. Gave updates on activities done for the street department, sewer department, water department, and reported on vehicles.

Monica Brumm gave the Office Manager's report. Gave updates on the water billing for November, advised the auditor finished should be getting the year-end report soon. Advised of status of SRF loan, election petitions went smoothly and will be submitting the certification of ballot shortly.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

No Committee Reports

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Preservations Foundation - Presenter not available to attend.
- Discussion on Treasurer Appointment - Tabled until Monday.
- The Council reviewed the tax levy for the Road District and will vote on it at Monday's meeting.
- The Council reviewed the corporate tax levy and will vote on it at Monday's meeting.
- Mayor Pro-Tem advised that would like the council to consider donating \$1000 to the Toys for Tots drive and to the Athens Lions Club for their Christmas Toy Event. It will be put on the agenda for Monday's meeting for a vote.
- The Council reviewed the Motor Fuel Tax Startup Resolution and will be put on Monday's agenda for a vote.

- The Council reviewed the Resolution for abating the \$1,600,000 General Obligation Bond and it will be voted on at Monday's meeting.
- The Council reviewed the Resolution for abating \$1,300,000 General Obligation Bond and it will be voted on at Monday's meeting.
- The Council reviewed the proposed Ordinance #12-2024 regarding baseline building codes that must be in place by January 1. This Ordinance will be placed on the Monday agenda for a vote.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Discussion was had on Ordinance #07-2024 to vacate alley east of 212 W North Grand, 908 & 906 N Williams, 207 W Bell and West of 911 & 905 N Taylor Street. Mayor Pro-Tem wants the council to consider removing the 2 dead trees that are on the property, and then vote to vacate the alley. The Ordinance will be placed on Monday's Agenda for a vote.
- Discussion was had on Ordinance #08-2024 implementing a municipal grocery retailers' occupation tax and a municipal grocery service occupation tax, to replace the current 1% grocery tax that the state will be removing as of January 1, 2026. This ordinance must be passed no later than October 1, 2025, to be in effect January 1, 2026. This will be placed on the January agenda to vote on.
- Discussion was had on Ordinance #11-2024, and ordinance amending creating 1-6-3 of the Athens City Code in which the meeting dates will change. After discussion, the council would like to have the meetings switched to the 2nd Thursday of the month and the following Wednesdays. Ordinance will be revised and placed on Monday's agenda for vote.

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### **Mayor Comments:**

Reminder that on Monday January 9, 2024, the bid opening for tree trimming and waste removal will be held at 6:30 pm before the meeting if anyone would like to attend.

### **Public Comment**

Jackie Lindsay spoke during public comment.

A motion was made by Alderman Lantz and seconded by Alderman Thompson to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.