

## **The Athens City Council Meeting Monday April 11, 2024**

The City of Athens Council met for a regularly scheduled council committee meeting on Monday April 11, 2024. Mayor Chris Reichert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The roll call indicated that Alderman Greg Hoffmann, Alderman Amy Chernowsky, Alderman Angella Thompson, Alderman Kevin Puma, and Alderman Rachel Lantz were present. Also in attendance was Police Chief Tim Becker, Library Director Ginger Newingham and City Clerk Rhonda Ethell.

All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Library Director Ginger Newingham gave the library report. Advised that had Pre-K and Kindergarten classes for tours. They handed out 250 pairs of solar eclipse glasses, and they ran out. They have an upcoming tea party, a cub scout tour in the special collections room, a tour for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders for them to get their library cards, a blood drive, and an ICash Event all coming up in the next month. A question was asked regarding what the budget line item for the library building maintenance was for. She advised that \$5,000 was put in the budget just in case that the building had repairs that needed to be made such as replacing an air conditioner, window, etc.

Chief Tim Becker gave the police report for March. Advised that there is a new officer that is going to the academy and has adjusted shifts to make sure there is coverage as needed. He is asking for approval to purchase a new squad car to be paid out of the Police Mobilization Fund. Advised there were 166 calls for service for the month of March.

Discussion was had the advice of legal counsel to start putting into place a solar ordinance. Examples of other towns and the county ordinance will be emailed to each Alderman to review, and more discussion will be had at the May meeting.

Discussion was had on the proposed resolution to be voted on regarding the removal of the 1% grocery tax proposed by Governor Pritzker. The resolution states the City of Athens opposes the removal of this tax as it would result in the loss of approximately \$27,500.00 for the city.

### **Public Comments**

Mayor Reichert opened the meeting up for public comment.

Steve Johnson asked if there were meeting minutes or discussion notes regarding the tree service located on Main Street. He would like a copy of those minutes. The Deputy Clerk advised she would review the minutes and follow up.

Linda Wasilewski asked what was going to be done with the abandoned houses in town, and there were a couple of places in town that had unlicensed buses and trucks. Chief Becker stated he would get that information from her and would follow up.

A motion was made by Alderman Lantz and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to move into executive session at 7:20 pm.

Executive session ended at 7:34 pm and a motion was made by Alderman Lantz and seconded by Alderman Chernowsky to resume the regular meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve the police, library, public works, treasurer, and office manager reports. Motion was roll called, all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Lantz and seconded by Alderman Puma to approve the payment of the bills. Motion was roll called, all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Chernowsky and seconded by Alderman Lantz to approve Ordinance # 01-2024 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AND ESTIMATE OF REVENUES OF THE CITY OF ATHENS ROAD DISTRICT NO. 13, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CORPORATE YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2025. Motion was roll called, all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Puma to approve Ordinance #02-2024 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, ILLINOIS FOR THE CORPORATE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2024. Motion was roll called, all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Lantz and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve Ordinance #03-2024 ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WATER AND SEWER CODES. Motion was roll called, all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

Resolution 08-2024 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONTENT OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATHENS was not voted on or discussed.

A motion was made by Alderman Chernowsky and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve Resolution 09-2024 A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF REMOVAL OF THE 1% GROCERY TAX. Motion was roll called, all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.