

## **The Athens City Council Meeting Monday July 8, 2024**

The City of Athens Council met for a regularly scheduled council meeting on Monday July 8, 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, and Alderman Greg Hoffman, were present. Also in attendance was Sargent Shelly Widger, Derrick Fritz and City Clerk Rhonda Ethell.

All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Samantha O'Neill gave a presentation regarding beautifying main street and adding planters. A motion to approve project was made by Alderman Chernowsky and seconded by Alderman Lantz. Motion roll called all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

Mayor Reichert recommended the appointment of Kyra Leinberger as Alderman for the vacant Ward 3 seat. A motion to approve the appointment of Kyra Leinberger as Alderman for ward 3, was made by Alderman Lantz and seconded by Alderman Hoffman. Motion roll called all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

Sargeant Widger gave the police report for June. There were 150 calls for service, 54 traffic stops, 17 citations issued and 37 verbal warnings, 6 ordinance violations. The new squad car is in transit, new recruit progressing satisfactorily at academy.

Derrick Fritz gave the public works report. Reported that received approval for the MFT program from the state and that the board will have to hold a special meeting to vote on the bids. Reported the status of the wells. Advised that they will continue to do hydrant flushing. Advised that they have started to paint hydrants and curbs. Advised council that would need to purchase a new locator for \$6,900 to get mapping done.

Derrick Fritz gave the treasurer report. Gave balances and advised transfers were made. Discussion was had on money in savings and bond payments and purchase of sludge press.

No library report was given this month.

Discussion was had on the solar permit ordinance. Mayor Reichert appointed Alderman Kevin Puma and Derrick Fritz to review the ordinance and bring recommendations back to the board.

Mayor Reichert appointed Alderman Chernowsky and Alderman Leinberger to review the proposed employee handbook and bring recommendations back to the board.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Hofmann and seconded by Alderman Chernowsky to approve the paying of bills. 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 the meeting minutes from June 6, 2024, and June 10, 2024. Motion was roll called all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Puma and seconded by Alderman Lantz to approve the purchase of a sludge press not to exceed \$315,000. Motion was roll called all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Lantz and seconded by Alderman Chernowsky to approve the cemetery recommendation of Central Illinois Tree Service to remove the dead tree from the West Cemetery for \$2,200. Motion was roll called all present in favor voted aye, motion passed.

The mayor read a thank you note regarding the fireworks and for the city employees doing a good job picking up brush and making the town look nice.

**Public Comment:**

Jackie Lindsay advised of a matching grant available through IDNR for items at the park.

Linda Wasilewski advised there was a bush that needed trimmed at the corner of Lynwood and Main.

A motion was made by Alderman Chernowsky to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.