**The Athens City Council Meeting**

**Monday September 9, 2024**

The City of Athens Council met for a regularly scheduled council meeting on Monday September 9, 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, and Alderman Greg Hoffman, and Alderman Angella Thompson were present. Also in attendance was Police Chief Tim Becker, Librarian Ginger Newingham, City Attorney John Hoblit, and City Clerk Rhonda Ethell.

All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Tim Becker gave the police report. Advised all vehicle maintenance is up to date. The 2024 Durango squad car is at the upfitter for installation of police equipment. The next vehicle to leave the rotation will be the Tahoe. Advised that Officer Joe Ray is continuing field training with current officers. Nothing to report on equipment. Advised responded to 156 calls for service, conducted 26 traffic stops, issued 18 citations and 6 verbal warnings. Advised 1 ordinance violation warning was issued which was brought into compliance.

Ginger Newingham gave the library report. Advised winding summer down, has an upcoming library crawl in October, Home School program to start on Wednesday, Continuing with Story Hour, Will be hosting an Election Event and a Jigsaw competition.

Alderman Lantz gave the cemetery report. Advised that the tree was taken done. Advised that they were just advised that there was a law passed in 2012 in which all cemeteries must be registered and ours is not, working on what needs to be done to bring things into compliance.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Hoffman and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the paying of 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 the meeting minutes from August 8, 2024, and August 12, 2024. Motion was roll called all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Lantz and seconded by Alderman Leinberger to approve purchase of 3 laptop computers from Lloyd IT Services in the amount of $3,738.50. Motion was roll called, all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

Discussion was had on Ordinance #04-2024 – ORDINANCE CREATING 2-3 OF THE ATHENS CITY CODE “SOLICITORS”. A motion was made by Alderman Lantz and seconded by Alderman Leinberger to accept Ordinance #04-2024 – ORDINANCE CREATING 2-3 OF THE ATHENS CITY CODE “SOLICITORS”. Motion was roll called, all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

Discussion was had on Ordinance #05-2024 – ORDINANCE AMEDING 2-1-21 OF THE ATHENS CITY CODE. A motion was made by Alderman Chernowsky and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve Ordinance #05-2024 – ORDINANCE AMENDING 2-1-21 OF THE ATHENS CITY CODE. Motion was roll called, 4 “yes” votes – 2 “no” votes. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Lantz and seconded by Alderman Hofmann to appoint Ben Harmening as Police Chief with the retirement of the current police chief. Motion was roll called all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Alderman Hoffman to approve $1.44 p/hour raise for Deputy Clerk. 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 move the Thursday, November 7, 2024, Committee Meeting to Monday November 12th at 6:00 pm. Motion was roll called all present in favor voted aye. Motion passed.

**Public Comment:**

Jackie Lindsay, Kevin Puma, and Linda Wasilewski commented during public comment.

**Mayors Comments:**

Mayor Reichert advised would like to come up with a process for committees in case there are instances where an item cannot wait until the council meeting for approval. The mayor asked the council to think about a dollar amount they would be comfortable with so we can vote on it for the next meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.