

The Athens City Council Committee Meeting Thursday January 9, 2025

The City of Athens Council met for a regularly scheduled council committee meeting on Thursday January 9, 2025. Mayor Chris Reichert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The roll call indicated that Alderman Amy Chernowsky, 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, Treasurer Derrick Fritz, Police Chief Ben Harmening and City Attorney John Hoblit.

Chief Harmening gave the police report for November. During the month of November officers responded to 87 calls for service, 34 traffic stops, 10 traffic citations. 4 notice to abates were corrected and no new ordinance violations were issued.

Derrick Fritz gave the Treasurer's Report. Advised of balances in all accounts, transfers made and asked that the Business District Committee meet soon to discuss possible projects.

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

Mayor Reichert advised that the Office Managers Report was in the packet and that Monica would be available Monday if there were any questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park – Alderman Puma advised that he had met with a couple playground equipment reps regarding update our park equipment. There are grants available from these companies. Mayor Reichert advised that the park committee had met with engineers and an overall conceptual drawing is being done and will hopefully have something in February.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mayor Reichert asked the council to think about a re-design of the committee structure and rules for the committees. He would like to see these committees meet at least quarterly, and that if they have to meet more than 4 times per year then the members would receive special meeting pay. Would like to have this in place by May 1st, 2025.
- Annual audit was completed and submitted. Only recommendations from the auditors were to have segregation of duties and to increase fidelity bond from \$1.9 million to \$2.3 million to include the library. State that the auditing firm would have one more year before retiring and we would have to look for other auditors.
- Discussion was had on the road leading to Pleasant Run Day Care. The city owns the road and parts of parking lots. Discussion was had on how to handle the upkeep of things.

- Discussion was had on extending hours for liquor licensee's stay open on New Year's Eve, Glory Days, and the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Item will be voted on in February.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mayor opened the floor for discussion on the bids for the City-Wide Garbage Removal Services. Discussion had and a vote will be held at the council meeting on Monday.
- Mayor opened the floor for discussion on the bids for the City-Wide Tree Trimming bids. Discussion was had and vote will be held at the council meeting on Monday.
- Discussion was had on the Grocery Tax Ordinance.

Mayor Comments:

Mayor was contacted about a possible fund-raising idea for a comedian from Mason City Comedy Show cost was \$900 to bring them here, and basic charge was \$20 per ticket.

Discussion was had on the sidewalks by the Vet's office being a hazard due to un-level concrete. Public works will pull up the unlevel concrete and fill it with rock for now.

Discussion was had on the process for ordinance violations.

Public Comment

No public comment

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.