**City of Athens**
**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**
**Date:** July 10, 2025
**Time:** 7:00 PM
**Location:** Athens City Hall

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Chris Reichert

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:**

* Alderman Chernowsky
* Alderman Puma
* Alderman Lantz
* Alderman Leinberger
* Alderman Hoffman

**Absent:**

* Alderman Ethell

**Also Present:**

* Police Chief Harmening
* City Manager Derrick Fritz
* Deputy Clerk Monica Brumm
* Librarian Ginger Newingham

**III. Reports**

* **Police Report:** Presented by Chief Harmening gave update on vehicles. During the month of May officers responded to 129 calls for service, conducted 34 traffic stops and issued 19 traffic citations. Investigated 7 ordinance violations and issued 2 ordinance citations. 5 ordinance violations were corrected during abatement period.
* **Public Works Report:** Presented by City Manager Derrick Fritz advised that the street department continued to prep for the oil and chipping. Bids have come in for oil and chipping. Still working on permit process for dewatering press and advised smoke testing was underway to identify areas of infiltration. Notice was sent to the current contract sewer operator terminating the contract and Robbie will be assuming those duties on 8/1/25. Still flushing hydrants and received results from the well drilling done in April and they are not suitable for our needs and will continue to work with the engineers on finding another location. Gave update on vehicles. Discussion was had on the dewatering process and the reasons for taking so long to get accomplished.
* **Treasurer’s Report:** Presented by City Manager Derrick Fritz. Gave the balances in each account, advised monthly transfers were made.
* **Office Manager Report:** Presented by Deputy Clerk Monica Brumm. Sent out 200 late notices, had 19 shut offs. Advised of the meeting with new water billing software and worked on events for the 5th of July celebration.
* **Library Report:** Presented by Librarian Ginger Newingham. Gave an update on happenings at the library. The question was asked about new computers and Ginger advised they are wonderful and working.

**IV. Committee Reports**

* **No Reports for Public Works, Internal Affairs, Public Safety, Library, or Liquor Committees.**
* **Commerce and Community Affairs Committee Update:** Provided by Alderman Chernowsky. Advised of the success of the 5th of July Celebration and advised that the Business District is working on a festival on September 6th for Music & Merchants on Main. The next meeting for that event is 7/17/25 at 6 pm. Discussion was had when the 2026 Freedom Festival will be held.
* **Cemetery Committee –** Will be meeting Monday 07/14/25. Discussion was had on the status of the benches in the Cemetery and if there is enough funding in the Cemetery Budget.

**IV. Discussion Items**

* Each council member reviewed a copy of animal control contract with Menard County Animal Control for $4,019.68 to be voted on at the Monday meeting.
* Each council member reviewed a copy of the Bid Sheets for the oil and chipping of certain roads. The recommendation from the Engineers was to go with IRC for $138,896.50. Discussion was had about what the budget allowed and what the other bid was. Discussion was also had on putting a crosswalk on Main Street at the Hargrave intersection.
* Discussion was had on special meeting pay and what constituted a special meeting and how many meetings needed to be had before special pay kicked in.
* Mayor advised he had been approached about having a food truck park that would be “semi-permanent” basis. Will be checking into logistics with the Health Department and other City’s to get ideas on ordinances.
* A question was asked regarding issues with the post office on mail service and them wanting to relocate. The mayor advised that he never heard back from the officials regarding the issues we were having with the delivery service, and they have reached out regarding trying to find a new place here in Athens to relocate.
* The question was asked about the flyers for the smoke testing and why it was not put out using the city-wide alert system. It was advised because there were only certain areas being tested and not the entire system.
* City Manager Fritz advised the council that he is reviewing the subdivision ordinance the attorney sent over and will be forwarded to the council for review.
* Discussion was had on amending the temporary housing ordinance to include the addition of fines. The ordinance will be voted on at the Monday meeting.

**V. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

**VI. Executive Session**

The mayor called the meeting into executive session at 7:30 PM.
The executive session concluded at 7:53 PM.

The regular meeting resumed at 7:53 PM.

**VII. Adjournment**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.