

## **The Athens City Council Committee Meeting Thursday April 4, 2024**

The City of Athens Council met for a regularly scheduled council committee meeting on Thursday March 07, 2024. Mayor Pro-Tem Amy Chernowsky called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The roll call indicated that Alderman Angela Thompson, Alderman Kevin Puma, and Alderman Rachel Lantz were present. Also in attendance was Public Works Director and Treasurer Derrick Fritz and City Clerk Rhonda Ethell.

Derrick Fritz gave the treasurer's report and provided the council with the account balances and transfers completed.

Derrick Fritz gave the Public Works report. Advised the council he was looking into a new vac truck for the public works department, that the brush pick up program started officially on April 1<sup>st</sup>, a replacement blower was ordered for the sewer plant for a cost of \$8,500.00. UV system is required to be online by May 1<sup>st</sup>, repairs have been started. Gave update on well testing and future plans for the well repairs.

Monica Brumm gave the office manager a report. Advised that lead line surveys were completed. Advised 154 disconnect notices sent out, 1701 bills were mailed, gave the breakdown of the water bills, and advised of the adjustments made during the month. Discussion was had on issues that we are currently facing with the renting of the banquet hall and people not cleaning when leaving and possible suggestions on how to correct that issue. Advised all liquor licenses, gaming/gambling licenses were paid for, issued, and delivered. Advised would be gone April 5<sup>th</sup> for training. Advised that there would be upcoming discussion on permitting for solar and possible ordinance being drafted.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Cemetery Committee:** Working on getting someone to mow the West Cemetery for a month and advised that notice for bids have been published in the paper.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business discussed.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Discussion was had on the changes to the water/sewer codes. Amendments were made to Section 6-2-2E updating tap fees, Section 6-2-2F; updating reconnect fee, Section 6-2-6-A-1; Updating rates, Section 6-2-6-A-2a; Updating rates, Section 6-2-6-A-2-b; updating rates, Section 6-2-6-A-2-c, establishing new rates effective date, and automatic increase of rates each year, Section 6-2-8; updating rules for water leaks, Section 6-2A-5; to update reconnection fees, Section 6-3-4-F; updating reconnection fee, Section 6-3-7 to update rates, Section 6-3-7-C, establishing new rate effective date and automatic increases each year, Section 6-3-7-D-3 change the due date to current date and to update reconnect fee.

Discussion was had on Appropriation Drafts and any questions the council may have. Question raised on what was included in the line item regarding building maintenance for \$5,000 in the library budget. It will be addressed with the Library Director on Monday.

### **Public Comment**

Linda Wasilewski asked the council if garbage could be buried, things like tin cans. The council advised it could not. She addressed the council regarding when the building on Main that burnt would be cleaned up. Advised that it was possibly waiting on insurance.

Jackie Lindsay addressed the council stating that the budget was not on the website since 2020/2021. Deputy Clerk Monica Brumm advised that the new appropriations once passed would be posted within the required 10 days and would published in the paper. Also addressed the council regarding the water rate increase stating her concern for elderly residents that used 1000 gallons or less not being able to afford the increase. Also was concerned with how much water was wasted because of leaks in the system. Public Works Director Derrick Fritz advised that the water loss rate was under 20%. And she wanted the council to know she was opposed to the rates increasing. She also addressed the council with concerns over the new Business District Tax and what that was being spent on, and how long before the funds would be going for community improvements. And if a person had an issue, they wanted addressed, who do they go to.

A motion was made by Alderman Lantz and seconded by Alderman Puma to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:48 pm.