

The Athens City Council Committee Meeting Tuesday November 12, 2024

The City of Athens Council met for a regularly scheduled council committee meeting on Tuesday November 12, 2024. Mayor Chris Reichert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The roll call indicated that Alderman Amy Chernowsky, Alderman Rachel Lantz, Alderman Kyra Leinberger, Alderman Greg Hoffman, and Alderman Angella Thompson were present. Also in attendance was City Clerk Rhonda Ethell, and Police Chief Ben Harmening.

All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ben Harmening gave the police report for October. Stated all vehicles maintenance was up to date. All officers have been informed of the status of mandated training. Equipment was ordered to outfit the newest vehicle. LESO funds were utilized, and all radar units were certified. Advised the council that during the month of October officers responded to 135 calls, conducted 45 traffic stops, issued 10 citations, responded to one traffic crash, and issued 2 city ordinance citations.

Mayor provided the council with the Treasurer Report and Public Works report. The council reviewed reports.

Monica Brumm gave the Office Manager's report. Advised the council that besides regular duties there were 22 shut off's, 158 disconnects and 1719 paper bills sent out. Advised of auditor status. Advised council of the status of the IT switchover, that would be filling out the SRF Loan application on Monday with the assistance of RCAP, accepting election petitions this week from 8-4:30 pm the rest of the week and from 8-5 pm on Monday, and was looking into the health insurance renewal and possible vision and dental plans.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cemetery Committee: Alderman Lantz gave the report on future plans for the Old West Cemetery including the exempt status, looking into GIS mapping, placing some memorial benches and possible holiday decorations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation from Sucker State Preservation Foundation was tabled until the December Meeting.

Discussion was had on the 2025 Meeting Schedule. Changing the days that the meetings take place. Suggestion of the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of each month might work out best for everyone. Will be voted on in the December meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor brought before the board the issue of implementing the 1% grocery tax that will be eliminated. The city gets approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year from this. Eliminating this will cut services such as brush and branch pickup, summer help and potential of fireworks. Provided sample copy of

the IML sample Ordinance to reinstate the 1% tax. Would like to vote on this in the December Meeting.

Mayor Comments:

Clerk Rhonda Ethell advised that the Community Christmas Tree Decorating would take place at the Library on November 24, 2024, at 1pm. All volunteers need and welcome.

Public Comment

Linda Wasilewski spoke during public comment.

The mayor called the meeting into executive session.

Executive session ended at 6:49 pm.

Discussion was had on the bid packets for garbage and trees. Deputy Clerk, Monica Brumm advised would be released tomorrow.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.