

City of Athens
City Council Committee Meeting
September 8th, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Welcome given by Mayor Reichert. Roll call was taken by Clerk Rhonda Ethell. All Alderman were present with the exception of Alderman Armbruster.

Mayor Reichert asked Chief Becker for the Police report.

All vehicle maintenance is up to date. Compiling information to provide the council next month regarding next square car purchase. Information to be provided will include fully electric police vehicle options.

Part-time roster is shrinking due to three officers taking full-time jobs with the Illinois State Police and another as Chief of Grandview Police Department. Attempting to identify desirable candidates to send to the part-time academy. While the academy costs are reimbursable by the state, the academy is now eleven months long so the pipeline of getting officers hired to working a patrol shift is at least a year.

During the month, Athens officers responded to 125 calls for service, conducted 27 traffic stops, issued 9 citations and 18 verbal warnings. There were two traffic crashes during the month.

During the month there was 10 ordinance violation warnings, and three citations were issued.

W Washington St Inoperable Vehicle warning

W Washington St Tall Grass Warning

W Little Housing Code Violation Placard

Mayflower CT Housing Code Violation Placard

W Washington Tall Grass Warning

W Washington Tall Grass Citation

N Taylor Inoperable Vehicle Citation

N Taylor Tall Grass Warning

W Jackson Inoperable Vehicle and Rubbish Warning

W Jefferson Housing Code Violation Placard

West Jefferson Rubbish

West Jefferson juvenile banned from park for fighting.

Lumber St Possession of Cannabis Citation.

Mayor Reichert asked Treasurer Derrick Fritz for the Treasurers report and Public Works report.

We saw our first installment of tax payments for the year. Approximately \$110,000.00 was received from the Menard County Treasurer's Office. Transfers were made from the General Fund to the Alternate Bond Fund for the WTP (\$36,000.00) and the WWTP (\$20,200.00). \$41,000.00 was transferred from the ABF to the General Fund to pay Prairie State for the valve project at the Water Plant. \$1,000.00 was transferred to the Meter Deposit Fund from the General Fund. Motor Fuel received \$6,927.63 in tax revenues, while the Video Gaming Fund received \$3540.01 in tax revenues. After the Low Prairie payment was made \$175 was transferred to the Streets fund. \$9,000.00 was transferred from the Gaming Fund to the General Fund to pay for the July 3rd fireworks show

Public Works report

Streets: We received an approval letter from IDOT for this year's MFT program. It was dated 8-25-2022 but was not received until 9-2-22. We are required to advertise the bids for 11 days. I am requesting Council approval for Mayor Reichert and me to accept the lowest bid for the materials. I hope we can start that project the week of 9-19-2022. The guys spent several days cleaning the 36" x 36" box culvert under Springfield Rd. We will need to replace a culvert that is under a driveway to complete this project properly. The new City Limits signs have been placed.

Sewer: We repaired another water leak at the sewer plant. Post air was power washed.

Water: The notice of award for Well #8 has been signed and returned. Once materials have been secured for the project a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled. The submersible pump in Well #5 is inoperable. I have been in contact with Brotcke. To keep costs down we are going to use the pump for the new well in Well #5 until the new well is complete. You might have noticed 3 invoices recently from Midwest Meter. This is for transponders for our meters. They have only been replaced as the batteries quit working or the transponder is damaged. There are a few instances every month that the transponder is replaced because of damage from lawn mowers or other damage that is from human error. I am asking for council approval to charge the customer for the new transponder for damages that are not from normal wear.

Vehicles: 2012 F350 - Tires and oil change at Bert's

Mayor Reichert asked Alderman Lantz for the Cemetery report. Report to be given on Monday.

Mayor Reichert asked for the Office Managers report.

- Meter shut offs were done September 7 with a total of 17 customers disconnected. Currently 5 are still off.
- The auditor started on Tuesday and will be here for a few weeks to complete the audit.
- We switched over to the new billing system as of September 1st. It is going pretty good with just a minor hiccups. So far, we really like it, and the customer service has been great! People not liking the service fee.
- The city wide clean up starts the 19th

Mayor Reichert asked Ginger Newingham for the library report

Approval for budget to be on agenda for Monday

December 4th will be the Community Christmas Tree Lighting

Blood Drive with the National Honor Society with be October 4 10-3

New Business

Tree Inventory for the City presented by Ruth Oliver – No cost to the City extension provides, volunteers do the survey.

Water line to their property- Judy Harlan, water pit for 100 E Monroe is an issue could cause major issues if something happens.

Changing meeting dates for 2023 to the 1st Monday will be moved to Mondays Agenda

Old Business

City wide clean up Starting September 19th for people using A-team City Garbage Contract.

Solar energy proposal- Bid from Hanson Professional Services.

Public comments

Linda questioned the truck parked on North side of house on Adams Street

Gary discussed that the city has a skunk problem.

Meeting Adjourned @8:20 PM