

City of Athens
City Council Meeting
October 6th, 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 the Alderman were present.

Mayor Reichert asked Library Director Ginger Newingham for the library report.

There is an upcoming Book Sale. A tree was picked to be planted for the Christmas Tree Event Date for event is December 4th with tree lighting to be at 4:30.

Mayor Reichert asked Chief Becker for the Police report.

All vehicles maintenance is up to date. Research has indicated no new electric vehicles ordered would be anticipated to arrive before mid-late 2023. Would like to proceed with another Dodge Durango purchase. Nichols Dodge in Petersburg stated Dodge had opened the ordering window for 2023 Durango squad cars. The Dodge Durango the council approved, and we ordered last spring was cancelled by Dodge. The plan if allowed is to go ahead with the 2023 Durango order based on the vote earlier this year to order the 2022. As part of the fleet rotation plan, the intention is to sell the 2018 Ford F150 to supplement the purchase price of the new squad and pay the remainder from the LESO funds.

We are still seeking candidates to enroll into the parttime police academy. Currently have two interested with one having passed the power-test and the other testing October 8.

Activity during the month, Athens officers responded to 116 calls for service, conducted 21 traffic stops, issued 10 citations and 11 verbal warnings. There were two traffic crashes during the month.

During the month there were three ordinance violation warnings issued and one citation.

Mayflower Court unauthorized burning warning, North Main Tall Grass Warning, Pine Ridge Lane Tall Grass Warning, Hargrave Street Possession of Cannabis Citation.

Mayor Reichert asked Treasurer Derrick Fritz for Treasure report and Public Works Report.

Treasurers Report

Transfers were made from the General Fund to the Alternate Bond Fund for the WTP (\$40,000.00) and the WWTP (\$20,200.00). \$11,382.63 was transferred to the General

Fund to pay for engineering services on Well #8. \$1,000.00 was transferred to the Meter Deposit Fund from the General Fund. Motor Fuel received \$7,064.71 in tax revenues. The Video Gaming Fund received \$4,100.65 in tax revenues and \$1,800.00 was transferred from the VGF to the Streets Savings. With the Well #8 project getting underway we will need to pay for the easement for the property that was previously agreed on. Once our attorney and Mr. Lucca's attorney finish the contracts that check will be issued for \$35,000.00.

Public Works Report

Streets: We spent several days getting snow removal equipment serviced and in working order. Other than normal wear items such as cutting edges for the plows were replaced the gear box on the salt spreader. After pricing all the parts, it was more cost effective to replace the entire gear box and motor rather than rebuilding the old one. Several days were spent on a drainage project on Adams Street.

Sewer: Ordered a bladder for one of the expansion tanks. The cost was approximately \$3,600.00. The bladder arrived and we will install it next week.

Water: We continued flushing hydrants. We have made it south of Cantrall. We will continue this next spring and finish the remainder of the system. We had a water main break in Presidential Lake Estates on 10-10-22. Construction of Well #8 is set to begin the 2nd week of November as long as all the materials have arrived. The construction process should take 2-3 weeks.

Mayor Reichert asked Alderman Lantz for the Cemetery report. Nothing to report.

Mayor Reichert asked for the Office Managers report.

Shut offs will be done on Wednesday October 5th.

The auditor is finishing some things in the office and then he will be back to wrap our audit up.

The new billing system is going well. We sent the bills out on September 30th and customers will see the new bill layout with this bill.

New Business

Ann Smith from Menard County Housing, there is currently a 4-year waiting list for housing in Athens, looking into development of the old ballpark.

Request for a yield sign at Railroad & Lynwood will be brought back up.

Trick or Treating hours Monday October 31st from 5:00-8:00 PM

Updates to Rotary Pavilion

Appointment of new council member in Ward 3 moved to Mondays Agenda.

Old Business

Solar for sewer plant discussion with Kurt from Hanson Professional Services.

Solar power purchase agreement locks in a base rate – net meter replaces 98% of the power used. No upfront cost term 25 years with expected annual savings of 19,000 a year. Epson Solar teams with Hanson Professional Services. Letter of intent needed to proceed.

Lilli Willis from Athens FFA presented 5K at the park December 3rd, with proceeds going to toys for tots. Event will be published on social media and flyers to be printed.

Old restaurant building update by Tim Rathbone. Drawing a request for a project of adding a roof over the sidewalk and grass area on Main Street. Three apartments almost ready, adding decks and finishing plumbing. Mr. Rathbone is asking for permission to tarp the building. Now has required permits hanging on door. Council requested a copy of engineer report that was done when wall fell. Council requested Mr. Rathbone to be present monthly to provide updates.

City wide clean up completed only received a couple of calls.

Skunk issue seems to be slowing down.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32PM