

Athens City Council  
Regular Meeting  
January 11, 2016

Mayor Donald Neisler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at Athens City Hall.

All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Debra Richardson called roll. Present were Aldermen: Anita Bednarko, Ron Canterbury, Tom Croft Sr., Bobbie Dowell and Harry Nichols. Alderman Larry Buhr was absent. Also in attendance were Bobby Patel, Asnathi Arikati, Gary Richardson, Merle Messersmith, Rex Kieffer, Michael Armitage, Darin Fritz, Jim Ley and Anna Tabit.

Mayor Neisler informed everyone that the council would need to have an executive session regarding a letter he had received today.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2016 Regular meeting. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Bednarko, to approve the police, treasurers', water and wastewater, and streets and alleys reports. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to authorize the payment of bills. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Neisler stated that Darin Fritz, owner of the Boar's Nest, has requested that the City take over the entrance, utility easement and road to the north side of the Boar's Nest, in exchange for property at the south end of Zepher Drive, owned by the City. Alderman Dowell requested that the motion include ensuring that drainage of all properties is explored.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to authorize Darin Fritz, owner of the Boar's Nest to exchange property (330' by 60' utility easement on north side) for (263' of south end of Zephyr Drive), owned by the City of Athens, with Darin Fritz paying for the cost of the transfer of deeds and surveying of the property. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to approve the liquor license for Athens Village Market. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Bednarko, to authorize the purchase of a water bill barcode scanner at a cost of \$515.00. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to authorize an agreement with Klingner & Associates for engineering services for the wastewater treatment plant in the amount of \$5,000.00. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to authorize an agreement with Klingner & Associates for engineering services for Well #7, which includes Klingner filing an application with IEPA for a low interest loan at a cost of \$6,000.00. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Neisler stated that Resolution 01-2016 would need to be passed in accordance with the additional infrastructure and enlargement of Circle Drive in Athens and is to be recorded with the County.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to pass **RESOLUTION 01-2016, AMENDING ORDINANCE 07-76, DEDICATION OF MENARD COUNTY HOUSING, PARCEL #1, ATHENS, ILLINOIS**. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Canterbury to authorize a salary increase for Michelle Becker to \$12.85 an hour. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to authorize the City to ensure that drainage of all properties at High Prairie subdivision is explored. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to authorize that everything necessary is done to start the bid letting process for High Prairie subdivision. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Neisler opened the meeting for public comments.

Zoning Administrator Judi Harlan reported that she has contacted Michael Meyer by voice mail and text message and told him that he needed to get the guttering placed on the garage, since it is causing the changing of water flow. Harlan informed Meyer that he could be taken to court on the issue if it was not resolved. Harlan stated that she also told Meyer that his building permit had expired and that he is currently in violation of City ordinances because of his mess. Harlan reported that there were nineteen building permits issued in 2015 with revenues of \$2,479.95. Harlan indicated that Meyer had two building permits, one for the garage and one for the back porch, which he tore off and did not rebuild. Alderman Nichols asked about another building permit on Primm Street that the owners did not follow specifications. Harlan noted that she is still looking into the matter.

Darin Fritz asked the council if they have a contact person that he can work with on getting the properties surveyed. Mayor Neisler indicated that Fritz could work with Chief Becker on the issue.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Dowell to enter into executive session for litigation at 7:26 PM. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Council returned to meeting room at 7:35 PM.

Merle Messersmith asked the council what was the status on the Meyer property. Alderman Dowell stated that Meyer would be issued fines soon.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to authorize Mayor Neisler to negotiate the wastewater contract pay with Stephen Sanderfield, up to \$2,000.00 a month. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Neisler indicated that he had received a letter from IEPA stating that the current wastewater operator contract would not be accepted unless the operator would be on site a minimum of three days per week.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Croft, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: Bednarko, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.