

Athens City Council  
Committee Meeting  
January 8, 2015

Those in attendance were Mayor Donald Neisler, Clerk Debra Richardson, Treasurer Darin Bowman and Aldermen: Larry Buhr, Ron Canterbury, Bobbie Dowell, Harry Nichols, Chris Reichert and Deni Wilson. Persons in the audience included Linda Wasilewski, Merle Messersmith, Rex Kieffer, Tom Croft Sr., Police Chief Tim Becker and Water and Sewer Operator Jason Upton.

Police Chief Tim Becker presented the police report. Chief Becker reported that the recall work had been completed on the Ford Interceptor, which was covered under the warranty. Chief Becker informed the council that this vehicle is in need of new tires. He has received an estimate of \$621.00 from Bert's Service. Chief Becker stated that he would like to purchase four new pistols for the department. One of the current pistols is in need of repair. The cost of the pistols would be \$469.00 each. Chief Becker indicated that he would like to begin seeking applicants to fill the vacancy of Officer Adam Jones. Becker reported that Officer's Binkley and Kaitschuk have resigned their part-time positions. Chief Becker stated that two citations were issued for abandoned vehicles and there were no significant reports for the month.

Darin Bowman presented the treasurers' report. Bowman indicated that the video gaming revenue for the month was \$2,681.00, with the balance on that account being approximately \$20,000.00. Bowman stated that the City received two payments for the DCEO loans. He informed the council that all bank transfers had been done for the month.

Jason Upton presented the water and sewer reports. Upton reported that the water plant produced 8,993,000 gallons for the month of December. He indicated that the City crew fixed a four inch main break in the Cantrall area. Upton stated that the S.C.A.D.A system has been installed and he is waiting for the programming. Upton informed the council that he and the mayor are planning to visit a water plant in Bloomington to see a C02 system in operation. Upton reported that the sewer plant is running good, but there was a problem with a gear box freezing up. Upton stated that there was a water main break at Monroe and Main. There was no need for a boil order. Upton indicated that the drainage issue on Washington Street would be done in the near future. He stated that there would be seven new catch basins installed.

Mayor Neisler stated that he has given the council members copies of the annual financial report. Mayor Neisler indicated that the City has been given a clean bill of health. Mayor Neisler reported that the net income for water and sewer are not paying for themselves. Alderman Nichols noted that the figures included depreciation. Alderman Nichols indicated that there was only one issue noted in the report that needs to be resolved.

Mayor Neisler stated that he is recommending the council approve a 5% water rate increase. Mayor Neisler indicated that the cost of the pinhole leaks and the cost of lime would increase 4-7%. Upton stated that the City gets six loads of lime each year. Mayor Neisler reported that the cost of the C02 installation will cost an additional \$160,000.00. He noted that the increase of the City's insurance went from \$63,000.00 to \$69,000.00. Alderman Nichols asked about the rates for Menard Rural Water. Alderman Buhr stated that the contract runs until 2017.

Mayor Neisler informed the council that the Athens library is having a 40th anniversary celebration on January 24, 2015. The library has requested that the City declare a proclamation for this occasion. Alderman Buhr recommended that the council make a donation to be used for the celebration. He suggested that the council donate \$250.00, to be taken from the video gaming fund.

Alderman Buhr asked about the council being given a street report for the committee meeting. Mayor Neisler stated that he would look into that further.

Alderman Buhr asked Chief Becker about the building on Main Street, which has the rear wall missing. Chief Becker stated that he has been in contact with the owner and she has stated that there are plans to begin the repairs soon. Chief Becker indicated that a citation would be in order if progress were not made soon.

Mayor Neisler stated that he had cancelled the original contract for the cutting of the trees at the old park and hiring someone else to cut them down.

Council reviewed bills and the meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.