

Athens City Council
Committee Meeting
December 10, 2015

Those in attendance were Mayor Donald Neisler, Clerk Debra Richardson, Treasurer Darin Bowman and Aldermen: Anita Bednarko, Larry Buhr, Ron Canterbury, Tom Croft Sr., Bobbie Dowell and Harry Nichols. Persons in the audience included Gary Richardson, Linda Wasilewski, Rex Kieffer, Merle Messersmith and Keyan Kieffer.

Treasurer Darin Bowman presented the treasurers' report. Bowman indicated that there are some discrepancies in the report this month. He reported that they had received a DECO payment of \$240.00 in November. Bowman stated that there has been discussion on contacting the attorney about the account, but the borrower has been consistent with payments for several months. Bowman noted that the monthly transfers have been made and that the accounts are healthy. He noted that the State is supposed to start sending video gaming revenue again. He stated that the meter deposit account has a balance of approximately \$40,000.00.

Alderman Buhr reported that the white dump truck is being fixed at Irwin's Transmission and it was not a transmission problem, but something wrong with some switches. Alderman Bednarko requested that the City check about standing water on Robin Court.

Mayor Neisler presented the water and wastewater report. Mayor Neisler reported that Robin Cawley had taken the water test on Tuesday, but she does not have her results yet. Alderman Croft asked what was decided about Steve Digiovanna's water tap. Mayor Neisler stated that he did not know, but would check into it.

Alderman Dowell presented the police report. Dowell stated that part-time officer Anderson is leaving because he is moving out of state. Dowell indicated that the hours needed for police training would be increasing in mid 2016. He stated that Chief Becker would like to send Dalton Abrams-Meredith to the class that is starting in February. Dowell noted that there were numerous significant cases for the month of November.

Mayor Neisler stated that Zoning Administrator Judi Harlan was not available for a zoning report, but he would like to discuss the entrance at the Boar's Nest. Mayor Neisler reported that Alderman Nichols had requested a cost estimate on the street at the entrance at High Prairie. Mayor noted that Keppler Environmental had prepared a cost estimate for the entrance project, which includes fixing drainage issues, concrete approach and labor and excavating in the amount of \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Mayor Neisler indicated that IDOT might be willing to help with the drainage of the ditch. Alderman Buhr asked if the amount included the previously stated costs of a field and traffic study. Mayor Neisler stated that it did not, and \$15,950.00 for the study would be in addition to the estimate from Keppler Environmental. Alderman Nichols stated that the way he sees it, the City is giving some land in return for some land that will cost in excess of \$40,000.00. Nichols noted that the \$40,000.00 does not include the preparation of the road. Brandon Keppler stated that the road construction would not cost much. Alderman Nichols indicated that the cost for oiling and chipping would be substantial. Mayor Neisler stated that the oiling and chipping would be an expense, but the funds could be taken from the motor fund account.

Mayor Neisler indicated that Darin Fritz would be willing to pay for the surveying and transferring of the properties. Mayor stated that there are three businesses currently there and one planning to move there soon and they need to know where their entrance is going to be. Mayor noted that the sales and property taxes from these businesses would cover the costs of this project. Alderman Dowell stated that the Boar's Nest video gaming revenue would help cover the costs. Alderman Bednarko stated that she is understanding it to be said that no one is going to patronize these businesses if there is not a second entrance built and she does not see the City losing revenue from not putting the road in. Mayor Neisler stated that there could be a safety

issue with the fire department or ambulance not being able to get to the scene. Mayor Neisler stated that what they do today is important to the future. He indicated that Fritz would take care of the surveying and transferring of the deeds. Alderman Nichols questioned if the City should give the property away behind the Boar's Nest, because the City may need it in the future. Mayor Neisler stated that Mike Irwin with IDOT would be available to meet the early part of January. He reported that the City has the \$40,000.00 to take care of the project and it will benefit the City down the road. Mayor indicated that this would be tabled until January, when Mike Irwin will be available.

Mayor Neisler informed the council that the tax levies would need to be passed on Monday night so he can deliver them to the City's attorney on Tuesday. He indicated that there was a question from the library about their tax levy percentage, but that matter had been taken care of.

Mayor Neisler stated that the Village Market has changed hands and because of that they have applied for a new liquor license. Mayor reported that Chief Becker had done the background check on the applicants, with no criminal history being found. Alderman Dowell noted that the applicants are not citizens of the United States. Alderman Canterbury noted that one applicant skipped the citizenship question. There was discussion about whether a liquor license applicant must reside within the City limits and be a U.S. citizen. Mayor Neisler stated that he would research the license issue.

Mayor Neisler asked the council to consider giving employee Christmas bonuses.

Mayor Neisler opened the meeting for public comments. No one addressed the council.

Mayor Neisler stated that he would like to have an executive session.

Council left for conference room for executive session at 7:37 PM.

Council returned to meeting room to review bills at 7:57 PM.