

Athens City Council  
Regular Meeting  
April 13, 2015

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: Larry Buhr, Ron Canterbury, Harry Nichols and Deni Wilson. Aldermen Bobbie Dowell and Chris Reichert were absent. Also in attendance were Linda Wasilewski and Tom Croft Sr.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 regular meeting and March 13 and 19, 2015 special meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to approve the police, treasurers, water and sewer and street reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Buhr, to authorize the payment of the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Neisler reported that there was one bid received for the West Cemetery mowing and maintenance. Mayor Neisler stated that Lisa Basso had submitted a bid of \$3,700.00 for one year with the option to renew.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to authorize a contract with Lisa Basso for the mowing and maintenance of the West Cemetery for one year in the amount of \$3,700.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Nichols asked if the payments would be made on a monthly basis. Mayor Neisler stated that it had not been decided as of yet, but he will speak with Basso.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Wilson, to pass **ORDINANCE 02-2015, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR DAMAGE TO CITY OF ATHENS PROPERTY**. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to authorize a donation of \$250.00 from the video gaming fund for the Athens Municipal Library for the "Read to the Rhythm" program. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Neisler reported that he has been in contact with the owner of the post office building about the drainage work that needs to be done. Mayor Neisler stated that the building owner has requested detailed information about the project, which he has faxed to him. Mayor Neisler indicated that he would like the council to consider the authorization of the contract with Excavating Partners Inc., in the amount of \$6,760.00.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to authorize the contract with Excavating Partners Inc. in the amount of \$6,760.00, for the installation of a drop box and piping material at the rear of the Athens Post Office. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Neisler stated that each council member has been given a copy of a proposed Employee Handbook amendment. Mayor Neisler indicated that the change pertains to the addition of Easter as a holiday and allowing part-time employees who work on that day to be paid at one and one half times their normal compensation rate.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve a change to the Employee Handbook regarding holidays and part-time employees working a legal holiday. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Neisler informed the council that the New Salem Shrine Club has requested that they be allowed to place an organizational sign at the entrance to Athens. Mayor Neisler noted that the sign would be installed as an individual sign and not placed on the fencing with the others.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve the installation of a sign at the Route 29 entrance to Athens by Shriners International. Motion passed unanimously.

Alderman Nichols stated that he has been asked numerously about the City making the north side of Washington Street across from the post office a no parking area. Nichols indicated that persons are cutting the corner and mashing the culvert. Alderman Nichols asked if the City would consider placing reflectors at the corner. Mayor Neisler stated that he has spoken with the post office about cleaning up the north side of the building.

Alderman Wilson stated that she would like the City to consider converting the tennis courts into pickleball courts. Wilson indicated that pickleball has become a national phenomenon. Alderman Buhr suggested that the City purchase a new tennis court net. Buhr informed the council that he has been told that the City should consider selling the towers and lights from the A diamond, since the field is no longer used. Buhr stated that the pitching machine could also be sold. Alderman Buhr indicated that a replacement bulb for the towers costs approximately \$300.00. Mayor Neisler informed the council about the City receiving grant monies from IDNR for park recreation, and may be required to return money if the courts are ever closed. Alderman Canterbury stated that he would suggest the City looking into retractable netting.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.