

Athens City Council
Committee Meeting
April 7, 2016

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

Mayor Neisler introduced Cari Claussen to the council. Claussen addressed the council concerning her request for a zoning variance for her mothers' property, located at the west end of Little Street. Claussen indicated that her mother passed away in 2015 and she is having difficulty selling the property due to the fact that it includes a five-acre pasture, and current ordinances prevent the property from being used for livestock. She stated that there has been interest by persons wanting to be able to have horses on the property. This property is adjacent to agricultural property at this time. Mayor Neisler stated that he would be agreeable to looking into the matter.

Mayor Neisler presented the water and wastewater reports. Mayor Neisler indicated that the PLC went out on the lime tower at the water plant. The unit was replaced and is now running on automatic. Mayor Neisler stated that Robin Cawley is meeting with Brotcke Well and Pump to put together a service agreement on maintenance for the wells. Mayor Neisler indicated that the UV system at the wastewater plant is now working. Mayor Neisler reported that there has been a flow test taken on the Ethell / Hall water main extension, and Klingner & Associates will analyze the results. Mayor Neisler informed the council that there is an issue with a service line and meter pit located on Grist Mill. He indicated that the property owner has requested that the meter pit be removed from the yard and placed on an easement. Mayor Neisler stated that Mike McCarthy is working on an annual water report. Alderman Bednarko questioned why there were 38 days of service days on the past water bills. Bednarko, Canterbury and Croft all indicated that they had received numerous calls about high water bills. Mayor Neisler indicated that he thinks that they were having problems at the water plant during that time, but he would check into it.

Mayor Neisler presented the police report. He stated that Chief Becker has requested new tires for the Taurus squad car and a refurbished moving radar unit for the squad truck. There were 111 calls for service, 105 traffic stops, and 43 citations issued for the month of March.

Mayor Neisler presented the streets and alleys report. Mayor Neisler indicated that Don Squires had compiled the report. Alderman Buhr indicated that the streets department is very happy with the new floor saw that Alderman Croft helped in finding and purchasing. Mayor Neisler stated that on the back page of the streets report could be found the 2016 Maintenance program, with an estimate of \$56,000.00 for oiling and chipping. Mayor Neisler indicated that they will give Monroe Street a second coat of oil and will be grading up Polk Street and adding rock before oiling and chipping. Buhr indicated that the older white truck is in need of a bench seat. Canterbury suggested looking for a used seat.

Mayor Neisler indicated that they are working on estimates for a water main extension on Ethell Road.

Mayor Neisler reported that the City had spent \$5,100.00 on fireworks for 2015 and he would like for the council to consider expending monies for a display on June 2, 2016. Buhr stated that he would like to see the City bump the amount up to \$6,000.00. Mayor Neisler stated that the Athens library has requested a donation of \$100.00 for their summer reading program. The City audit costs will be \$19,600.00 for 2016 and the costs for Klingner & Associates to do the sludge permit would be \$3,000.00. Mayor Neisler stated that the previous permit was not renewed and they would need to have any farm field sample tested. Mayor Neisler indicated that the Ansar Shriners Circus has requested a donation for an ad in their program.

Council reviewed the bills and adjourned at 7:39 PM.