

Athens City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 14, 2018

Mayor Dowell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7pm at Athens City Hall. Clerk Cindy McFarland called roll. Present were Aldermen: Chris Basso, Larry Buhr, Ron Canterbury, Tom Croft Sr., Tom Herman, and Butch Nichols. Also in attendance were Linda Wasilewski, Gary Richardson, Treasurer Ryan Seifert, William Singer, Missy Hodgdon, Norman Flowers, Police Chief Tim Becker, Fire Chief Joe Crowe, Michael Lockwood, Hayley Yoakum, and Linda Pierceall. The Mayor asked if any Veteran present would like to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. All stood, and Missy Hodgdon led the pledge.

First on the voting agenda was the vote to accept the April reports. Motion was made by Alderman Herman, seconded by Alderman Buhr, to approve the police, treasurers', water and wastewater, streets and alleys, and office manager's reports. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Next, the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the April meeting minutes Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2018 Committee Meeting and the April 16, 2018 Regular Council Meeting. All ayes. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Canterbury to approve the payment of the April bills. All ayes. Motion passed.

Next on the voting agenda was the purchase of sewer equipment. Motion made by Alderman Basso, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to approve the purchase of controllers, cables, probes, and junction boxes from Pedrotti Company for \$9393. All ayes. Motion passed.

Next was the vote to purchase water equipment. Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Herman to approve the purchase of mixer parts from Hagedorn & Gannon for \$2380. All ayes. Motion passed.

Opening up another Class A liquor license that would amend our current liquor license ordinance was next on the agenda. Motion made by Alderman Basso, seconded by Alderman Croft, to approve Ayes: Basso, Buhr, and Croft. Nays: Canterbury, Herman and Nichols. Motion tied. The tie-breaking vote from Mayor Dowell was yes. Motion passed.

With the approval of the additional liquor license, the Mayor went on to the next agenda item, the issuance of a Class A liquor license to American Legion Post 129. Motion made by Alderman Basso, seconded by Alderman Croft. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, and Croft. Nays: Canterbury, Herman and Nichols. Motion tied. The Mayor said that he has had a lot of people contact him about this; with many more being in favor than against. The tie-breaking vote from Mayor Dowell was yes. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Nichols to approve the donation of \$2500 to the American Legion for the Salute to America celebration to be paid from the gaming fund. All ayes. Motion passed.

Next on the agenda was the contract for the fireworks show. The Mayor said that the council had discussed on Thursday the possibility of increasing the spend for this event from \$6000 to \$10,000, however this is quite a big increase. Alderman Nichols said that he agreed this was quite a large increase and made the motion to enter into a contract with Central States Fireworks for the Salute to America event, in the amount of \$6000 to be paid from the gaming fund. Alderman Canterbury seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Herman to approve a \$1200 donation to the Athens Youth Council for start-up fees and expenses to be paid from the gaming fund. All ayes. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Basso, to accept the Library Budget which will be on file for 30 days. All ayes. Motion passed.

Next the Mayor asked for a motion to declare city property at 412 South Mill Street as surplus property and accept sealed bids. The city has \$4200 into the property. The law states that we must get 85% of the appraised value or what the tax value holds. The minimum bid of \$4200 would meet this requirement. Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Basso, to declare this property surplus property and accept sealed bids starting at \$4200. All ayes. Motion passed.

Next of the agenda was the vote to extend Greg Sellinger's contract as Water Operator until May 2019, same contract as last year, each side would need to give 30-day written notice to end the contract. Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to extend this contract. All ayes. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Herman, seconded by Alderman Canterbury to approve a \$250 donation to the Athens Public Library for the summer reading program to be paid from the gaming fund. All ayes. Motion passed.

The Mayor said that was everything on the agenda for tonight and asked the council if they had anything else to discuss or if there were any public comments. Alderman Buhr said that he received a call about safety issues at the bulk water building. Mayor Dowell said that he has been in contact with Ameren about the lighting and he has also been researching other safety possibilities. Alderman Basso asked about possibly adding flood lights to the side of the building. Mayor Dowell said that we will try to get it lit up by the end of the week and try to have other alternative safety proposals for next month. Alderman Buhr asked about properties in town that are set to be torn down. Mayor Dowell said that the Grant's Café building is scheduled to be torn down soon as well as a property on E. Madison and another behind the park. The Squires property has been taken by a tax company. The Public Health Department went to the house fire property across the street to take care of the issue with the swimming pool in the back yard. Chief Becker has posted that property to have it condemned and torn down. A person in the audience stood up and said that she lives next to the Squires property and it is just horrible. The grass is very high and there are animals living inside the house. The Mayor said that he has been in contact with the tax company and he thought they were going to fix it up. Mayor Dowell will follow up.

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming. Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Basso, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28pm. Motion passed unanimously.