

Athens City Council
Regular Meeting
August 10, 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: Anita Bednarko, Larry Buhr, Ron Canterbury, Tom Croft Sr., Bobbie Dowell and Harry Nichols. Also in attendance was William Glass with First Midstate Inc., Linda Wasilewski, Rex Kieffer, Shawn Lash and Zoning Administrator Judi Harlan.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2015 Regular meeting. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Neisler presented Ordinance 09-2015, authorizing and providing for the issue of General Obligation Refunding Bonds. Alderman Buhr questioned the current interest rates on bonds. William Glass stated that since the last meeting there has been little change, but the rate is holding at 2.20%. Glass indicated that the rate would be set at the time of the approval of the final ordinance in November or December of 2015.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to approve **ORDINANCE 09-2015, AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$4,000,000.00, GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2015, OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, MENARD COUNTY, ILLINOIS.** Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Bednarko, to approve the police, treasurers, water and wastewater and streets and alleys reports. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Buhr, to authorize the payment of the bills. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to approve the replacement of the application for a building permit for the Athens Zoning Ordinance. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Alderman Dowell stated that he would like to thank Judi Harlan for her continued diligence in carrying out the duties as Zoning Administrator.

Mayor Neisler indicated that he would like the council to consider the purchase of a new dump truck and the repairing of the current truck. Mayor Neisler reported that the cost estimate for the replacement of the rear end would be approximately \$3,000.00. Alderman Nichols asked if they were looking for a used rear end. Alderman Croft stated that the truck should be repaired and that the replacing of a rear end is done all the time. Croft stated that he would like to check the tag off the rear end and then check around. He informed the council that even though the truck is ten years old there is still value in it, but employees should be expected to take care of all equipment.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Buhr, to authorize Mayor Neisler to spend up to \$3,000.00 on a used rear end and have Alderman Croft check and approve the part to be installed. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Neisler stated that when the City sells some of the LESO equipment, there would be enough money to pay for a new dump truck. Mayor Neisler noted that there is \$95,000.00 in the water meter deposit account, which could be used to purchase a truck and then pay back the

account after the sale of equipment. Alderman Nichols asked if there were plans to trade the maroon truck. Mayor Neisler stated that if the City purchases a new truck there would be no need for the maroon truck. Mayor Neisler stated that the \$62,000.00 for a new diesel truck would include a plow and salt spreader. Alderman Croft suggested that the truck be equipped with an hour meter.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Nichols to authorized a salary increase for Robert Beard to \$45,760.00 annually. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Dowell and Nichols. Nays: Canterbury and Croft. Motion passed.

Alderman Nichols asked if anyone knew what business was going in next to the post office. Judi Harlan stated that Chris Basso has opened a shirt screening business in the building.

Alderman Nichols stated that he feels that the City should do their research of the High Prairie entrance issue. Nichols stated that there would need to be some legal surveying done and the cost could be expensive. Nichols informed the council that the subdivision has always been commercial. Harlan stated that an IDOT employee has informed her that the entrance can never be approved and an IDOT engineer has told her that the entrance is okay. Harlan stated that she plans to go to the courthouse to get copies of the plat. Alderman Nichols stated that he gets complaints on the condition of the entrance frequently. Mayor Neisler stated that the City might be wise to vacate the entire subdivision.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.