

Athens City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 13, 2017

Mayor Dowell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7pm at Athens City Hall. The Mayor asked if any Veteran present would like to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. All stood and Alderman Tom Herman led the pledge.

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 Ryne Crowe, Gary Richardson, Norm Flowers, Treasurer Ryan Seifert, and Chief Tim Becker.

Mayor Dowell wished Alderman Basso a happy birthday. Then the mayor stated that we would deviate from the agenda in order for Norm Flowers to speak. Norm said that he would like to thank the city on behalf of the Menard County American Legion Post 129 for their support of military veterans and their families in our community. Norm presented a plaque to the mayor as a token of appreciation. The mayor read the plaque and passed it around for all present to view.

Next Ryne Crowe presented the water report and the council took a moment to review the streets report and the water report. Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Basso, to approve the police, treasurers', water and wastewater, streets and alleys report, and cemetery report. Ayes: Basso, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Present: Buhr. Reports approved, motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Herman, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2017 Committee Meeting and the October 9, 2017 Regular Meeting. Ayes: Basso, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Present: Buhr. Minutes approved, motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Herman, to approve the payment of the bills. Ayes: Basso, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Present: Buhr. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Basso, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve hiring Nicole McCormick to fill the Utility Billing Clerk's position at \$10.25 per hour to start, reviewed after 90 days. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Croft, to pass Resolution 03-2017 for the 2018 Motor Fuel Tax in the amount of \$55,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Herman, to accept the bid from Metro-Ag for sludge removal for \$.055 per gallon 1st year, \$.058 per gallon 2nd year. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the vote to accept the bid from High Prairie for the submersible pump for \$2065. The Mayor said that Alderman Croft had used due diligence and met with Connor Company and found that their bid had not been a wholesale bid. Their bid was actually \$1666.67. The Mayor thanked Alderman Croft for finding this savings for the city. Motion made

by Alderman Herman, seconded by Alderman Basso, to accept the bid from Connor Company for the submersible pump for the amount of \$1666.67. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to approve the elimination of the Athens Fire Department's water/sewer bill at the corporate rate of approximately \$47-\$57 per month. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Herman, to approve Ordinance amendment 12-2017 for City Code Chapter 1 General Penalties. This amendment states that prior to the sale of any city owned property or issuance of any city license or permit, all outstanding fees, fines, assessments, judgements or debts owed to the city must have been paid in full. Motion passed unanimously.

Next was discussion about the employee/council Christmas Party. The Mayor read off examples of some of the catering quotes. Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve the employee/council Christmas Party, catering not to exceed \$16 per person. Motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor then read the Order for Hearing on Compliance regarding the Meyer property. This was in response to a question posed by a citizen at the Thursday night Council Meeting. The Mayor asked if anyone had any questions. Alderman Herman asked how many problem properties we have in town. The Mayor replied that these were 32 properties to begin with. The city is trying hard to work with property owners who have had problem properties for a long time.

Alderman Buhr asked for an update on the Boars Nest entrance. The Mayor replied that IDOT has received the certified plans but they have not been approved yet. Alderman Basso asked about the Halcomb property that the city was to have surveyed. The Mayor said that Klingers will be sending a quote. There was also discussion about the readiness of city trucks for the upcoming winter, salt blend mix used by the city, washing the water towers, the sound level of the weather siren, street light upkeep and repair by Ameren, and making Athens a Storm-Ready Community.

Mayor Dowell said that would conclude our agenda this evening. Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Croft, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Motion passed unanimously.