

Athens City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, October 9, 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 Butch Nichols led the pledge.

Clerk Cindy McFarland called roll. Present were Aldermen: Chris Basso, Ron Canterbury, Tom Croft Sr., Tom Herman, and Butch Nichols. Alderman Buhr was absent. Also in attendance were James Oller, Gary Richardson, Merle Messersmith, Linda Wasilewski, Shirley Hall, Mike Chrisman, and Chief Tim Becker.

Motion made by Alderman Herman, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to approve the police, treasurers', water and wastewater, and streets and alleys reports. There was no cemetery meeting or report for the month. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Herman, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2017 Committee Meeting and the September 11, 2017 Regular Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Herman, to approve the payment of the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Basso, seconded by Alderman Croft, to approve trick or treating hours for Halloween, October 31, 2017 to be 5:00 – 8:00pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Basso, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to pass Ordinance No. 11-2017 amending Athens City Code chapter 3, Ordinance No. 01-2013 Golf Cart ordinance, eliminating Section 5-3-7 so hours can be 24 hours daily. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve 2018 Fall Festival dates of September 27, 28, 29. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Basso, seconded by Alderman Croft, to approve having the Brian Halcomb property on the north end of Athens surveyed to determine the city line. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Basso, to approve providing the new Athens Area Food Pantry with water and sewer hook ups at no charge. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Herman, to approve offering the property located at 504 W. Jefferson up for sale, accepting sealed bids for 30 days. The attorney will draw up the contract. The minimum bid accepted will be no less than \$8650.13 plus all related closing costs. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Herman, to approve splitting the \$270.20 recycling proceeds from Ley Metals between the Athens Police Department and the Athens Fire Department for Halloween activities. Motion passed unanimously.

Next was discussion on the farm land lease south of town. Mayor Dowell spoke to former Mayor Neisler and that contract ends at the end of November. We cannot open for bids until that contract is up. The Mayor asked for a motion to table until next month. Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Herman, to table the farm land lease vote until next month. Motion passed unanimously.

Next the Mayor noted that each city employee had received a memo explaining expectations for driving city vehicles while utilizing cell phones. This memo included the State Statute for electronic communication devices. The city will be providing each city vehicle with a hands free device.

The Mayor asked if there was any new business or public comments. Alderman Herman said that he would like to have the same band back for the 4th of July celebration next year. Mayor Dowell said that the top band is not available but he will be working on this. Linda Wasilewski said that she would like a monthly Cemetery financial report. The Mayor said that he will provide this. Linda also said that we will need a new Cemetery mowing contract soon. The Mayor said that April is when that is usually done so we should put this out for bids in February.

Mayor Dowell said that would conclude our agenda this evening. Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to adjourn the meeting at 7:23pm. Motion passed unanimously.