

Athens City Council  
Regular Meeting  
April 10, 2017

Mayor Donald Neisler called the meeting to order a 7:00 PM at Athens City Hall.

All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Debra Richardson called roll. Present were Aldermen: Larry Buhr, Ron Canterbury, Tom Croft Sr., Bobbie Dowell and Harry Nichols. Alderman Bednarko was absent. Also in attendance were Shirley Hall, Linda Wasilewski, Gary Richardson, Cindy McFarland, Rex Kieffer, Merle Messersmith, Treasurer Ryan Seifert, Police Chief Tim Becker, Karissa Carls and Chris Basso.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2017, Regular Meeting. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

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

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to authorize the hiring of Kyle E. McGinnis, CPA for the City of Athens audit, at a cost of \$20,600.00. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Neisler stated that Don Squires had spoken with engineer Brent Freesmeyer about the Kenneth Babcock drainage problem. Chief Becker indicated that the plan is to place a larger culvert and a box in to help with the problem.

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

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve for Menard County to make updates to the Consolidated Boundary and Annexation Survey for the Census 2020 program. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Croft, to authorize the removal of an oak tree in the West Cemetery, at a cost of \$2,800.00 to \$3,500.00, to be expensed from the video gaming fund. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Neisler indicated that the City would like to purchase a plaque for Officer Ben Hollis in recognition for his years of service to the community. Nichols recommended that the City provide a gift certificate for Hollis in honor of his service.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to authorize the purchase of a gift certificate in the amount of \$60.00. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Neisler stated that he would like to send Karissa Carls and Justina Gudgel to training at CUSI, in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He indicated that there is no cost for the training and expenses are estimated to be \$500.00 for travel and lodging.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Buhr, to authorize sending office staff to training at CUSI, at a cost of approximately \$500.00. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Croft, to authorize the engineering of drainage at the Babcock property on Maple Street. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Neisler recommended that the council authorize the engineering of the cost and revenue return for a water main extension on South Cantrall Creek Road and Jefferies Road. Nichols indicated that the cost of the extension has already been done. He asked that the revenue return be done and presented at the May meeting. Mayor Neisler stated that the Johnson Road extension was done with both customers paying \$4,000.00.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to authorize the purchase of an ad in the Ansar Shrine Circus program, at a cost of \$125.00, to be expensed from the video gaming fund. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Dowell stated that he had spoken with the Agility Technology and they would like permission to access the water towers to check what is on the towers and if their system would be able to be used. He indicated that their attorney would draw up the contract, with the City's attorney reviewing the contract. Dowell stated that the company would check into free phone service for the City. He reported that they would include the City on the insurance policy. Mayor Neisler stated that a City employee should be on site when the company is allowed access to the towers.

Buhr stated that the Stahl Foundation board is having their first meeting tonight.

Linda Wasilewski thanked the council for paying for the tree removal in the West Cemetery. Croft thanked both Shirley Hall and Wasilewski for their dedication in caring for the West Cemetery.

Dowell asked if there was any information on contacting Harold Monroe about his property on Jefferson Street. Chief Becker indicated that Monroe lives in Springfield and the City attorney has been in contact with his daughter.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.