

Athens City Council
Committee Meeting
April 6, 2017

Those in attendance were Mayor Donald Neisler, Clerk Debra Richardson, Treasurer Ryan Seifert and Aldermen: Anita Bednarko, Larry Buhr, Ron Canterbury, Tom Croft Sr., Bobbie Dowell and Harry Nichols. Persons in the audience included Police Chief Tim Becker, Charles Herman, Kenneth and Jo Babcock, Gary Richardson, Merle Messersmith, Rex Kieffer, Karissa Carls, Operator Robin Cawley, Steve Sanderfield, Justina Gudgel, Brett Harlan, Judi Harlan, Jack Harlan, Shirley Hall and Shirley Wasilewski.

Treasurer Ryan Seifert addressed the council. He stated that he had transferred monies for the bonds on March 20, 2017 and accounts are on a general increase.

Operator Robin Cawley reported that there is lots of cleaning going on at the water plant. She has been trying to contact filter rehab companies, but is not having much luck. Cawley indicated that they have continued with sludge removal at the wastewater plant and have installed the UV's and the standpipe repair has been completed. She reported that there would need to be an IDOT water main relocate on Route 29. Cawley stated that two individuals on Jefferies Road and one on S. Cantrall Creek Road are interested in water service. Cawley indicated that the City could consider making a loop to Strode Road.

Police Chief Tim Becker presented the police report. Chief Becker stated that there was one ordinance warning issued, 97 calls for service, 63 traffic stops, 24 citations issued and 39 verbal warnings for the month of March.

Dowell indicated that he spoke with Cory Taylor from Agility Technology and was told that they would not need to house any equipment at city hall. He stated that the offer for phone service for the City is still on the table. Dowell reported that he would be meeting with Taylor on Sunday evening.

Mayor Neisler recommended to the council that the City hire Kyle E. McGinnis, CPA to do the annual audit. He informed the council that the price would be \$20,600.00, which is an increase of \$800.00 over last year.

Judi Harlan addressed the council regarding the Census Bureau updates and is seeking council approval for the Boundary Quality Assessment and Reconciliation Program. She stated that Menard County would like City approval and it would allow Athens to update the local GIS boundaries. Harlan stated that Huey Halcomb would like for the City to sell him 25 feet of City property. She stated that the garage has been on the property even before Brian Halcomb purchased the property.

Mayor Neisler stated that the Ansar Shrine Circus is requesting the City purchase an ad in their program book at a cost of \$125.00.

Dowell stated that the "Thank You Veterans" should be ready in 10 days.

Mayor Neisler reported that the council needed to pass a resolution for IMRF retirement fund to indicate that the healthcare insurance is pre-tax.

Mayor Neisler stated that Karissa Carls and Justina Gudgel would be going to CUSI training in Jonesboro, Arkansas for two days in June. He indicated that this training would be for the water billing system.

Nichols asked that the City recognize Officer Ben Hollis for his service to the community as a police officer. He recommended that the City purchase a plaque or a gift certificate to show their appreciation.

Mayor Neisler introduced Kenneth Babcock. Babcock addressed the council concerning a request for the City to alleviate the flooding problems on his property on Maple Street. He stated that they have had flooding issues since the subdivision development began in Prairieland. Babcock indicated that when the retention pond is full, the water runs onto him. Babcock noted that several years ago one of the City engineers had looked at the situation and determined that there was not a problem. Babcock indicated that they would like to sell their home and he cannot honestly sell the home knowing that there is a problem. He reported that there is a 3-foot culvert on one side and a 12-inch drainage pipe that runs along the railroad. He suggested that the City place a box that would help slow down the water flow. Babcock provided pictures for the council to review. Mayor Neisler stated that the City should have the engineer look at the pictures and maybe get with Brandon Keppler about the issue.

Linda Wasilewski presented the council with a bid to remove a large oak tree from the West Cemetery. She stated that some tombstones would need to be moved before the work would begin. Dowell asked if the contractor is insured in the case that the tombstones are damaged. Wasilewski stated that Minor is fully insured. Croft recommended that the City pay for the expense of taking down the tree from the video gaming fund.

Mayor Neisler asked if the council requested an executive session for any reason. There were no requests voiced.

Council reviewed bills and meeting ended at 7:51 PM.