

Athens City Council  
Regular Meeting  
February 13, 2017

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 were Gary Richardson, Merle Messersmith, Police Chief Becker, Darin Fritz, Linda Wasilewski and Rex Kieffer.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Buhr, to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2017, Regular Meeting. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

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

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

Mayor Neisler reported that Brent Freesmeyer had presented the plan for the Athens Water Supply, which included the removal of the emergency generator unit.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Buhr, to approve the water supply facilities plan as presented by Klingner and Associates. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Neisler recommended that the council consider the hiring of part time help for the summer season to help with mowing. Dowell asked if they needed to consider the hiring of one or two persons. Mayor Neisler stated that at this time they should consider one person who would be available to start the first part of April. He suggested that the council may need to think about two persons depending on the needs and that those persons would be limited to working just under 1,000 hours. Dowell questioned the salary amount. Mayor Neisler recommended at least \$10.00 an hour. Nichols indicated that maybe the City should consider part time hiring and having the City take care of the mowing of the West Cemetery. Mayor Neisler indicated that it might take two days to mow the cemetery each week. Buhr asked how the mower situation is. Chief Becker stated that the equipment is good. Linda Wasilewski stated that the brush needed to be removed from the west side fencing. Canterbury asked if the part time help would be dedicated to the cemetery mowing only. Nichols stated that it seems that the City needs part time help in different areas and they would be used where needed. Mayor Neisler indicated that he would leave it up to Don Squires to decide. Nichols stated that the West Cemetery did look nice last year and he does not want to see it neglected. Buhr stated that if the City would take over the mowing at the West Cemetery then the cemetery board would not have to run an advertisement. Croft suggested that the City check into having the tombstones fixed. Buhr stated that they must hire a responsible person for the mowing of the cemetery. Chief Becker indicated that the Boy Scouts might be able to help with the tombstone repairs.

Darin Fritz stated that Steve Roth has a machine that shreds brush and could possibility take out the brush with one swipe for \$125.00. Croft suggested that the City check into the cost of having the brush removed.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to authorize the hiring of two part time summer employees at \$10.00 an hour, keeping them under the 1,000 hours limit,

to include the mowing of the West Cemetery. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Buhr, to extend the West Cemetery farm lease with Steve Digiovanna to November 30, 2017. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Croft, to authorize the expenditure of \$6,000.00 for the July 1, 2017, fireworks display from Central States Fireworks, to be disbursed from the Video Gaming fund. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft and Nichols. Dowell voted present due to his association with Central States Fireworks. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to authorize a donation of \$2,500.00 to the American Legion Post 129 to be used towards the Fourth of July celebration, with funds being expensed from the Video Gaming fund. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to authorize a donation of \$250.00, to be expensed from the Video Gaming fund for the Athens Lions Club, to be used towards the Easter Egg Hunt to be held on April 15, 2017. Ayes: Bednarko, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Fritz asked if the City is able to invest the monies in the Video Gaming fund. Mayor Neisler stated that the banks are not paying much interest on CD's at this time. Mayor Neisler stated that when he was treasurer he invested City monies in several CD's, but they paid interest good back then. Dowell asked when the council would be working on the budget. Mayor Neisler indicated that he hopes to work on the budget in March and April.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.