

Athens City Council
Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 6, 2017

Those in attendance were Mayor Bob Dowell, Clerk Cindy McFarland, and Aldermen: Larry Buhr, Ron Canterbury, Tom Croft Sr., Tom Herman, and Harry Nichols. Alderman Chris Basso was absent. Persons in the audience included Gary Richardson, Shirley Hall, Linda Wasilewski, Violet Wiker, Emma Wiker, Ellen Wiker, Jeff Wiker, Ryan Seifert, Darin Fritz, Cory Taylor, and Chief Tim Becker.

Chief Tim Becker presented the police report. Chief Becker stated that during the month of June there were 9 ordinance warnings, and officers responded to 127 calls for service, conducted 66 traffic stops, and issued 18 traffic citations and 48 verbal warnings. Mayor Dowell went on to the Streets and Alleys report, and the Water/Sewer Report. Treasurer Ryan Seifert presented the Treasurer Report, and Alderman Canterbury presented the Cemetery Report. Alderman Canterbury said that the Cemetery was vandalized between July 1st & 3rd. Two benches were tipped over and moved off the slabs, but were not harmed.

Next, Emma Wiker spoke about the Animal Abuse Protection Program. The 3rd Annual Dog Walk will be held at the Athens Community Park on July 15th, from 10am until noon. The cost is \$5 per dog and all proceeds go to help abused or abandoned animals in Menard County.

The Athens Municipal Library asked that the city become a sponsor for the Reading by Design summer reading program to promote literacy among young people in our community. The Library also provided a list of Athens ledgers, journals, and reports that will be returned/donated to the City of Athens from the Library Special Collections Room.

Mayor Dowell said that Tom Herman from Affordable Shred is available this year on fall clean-up day for citizens to safely dispose of personal papers and bills. This will be on Monday's agenda to be paid from the gaming fund.

Next on the agenda were the bids for Boars Nest entrance on Route 29. After advertising for further bids for 10 additional days, only 1 bid was submitted. The Mayor would like to move forward with this project. The vote to accept the bid from Keppler Environmental will be added to Monday's agenda.

Next was a discussion on the vote to adopt Ordinances from IPWMAN and Sterling Codifiers. This vote will be on Monday's agenda.

Mayor Dowell went on to discuss phone audit information provided by Cory Taylor. Switching to Agility Communications for phone service would be a cost savings of approximately \$14,000 annually. This vote will be added to Monday's agenda. Mayor Dowell said he would like to look at other utilities used by the city to audit for possible additional savings.

Next was an update on a few old business topics. Water Operator Greg Sellinger's contract has been approved by the EPA. The previous letter from IDOT can be disregarded as we now have a budget. The gas leak problem on Clover Court is being investigated by JULIE. It appears that it was mismarked. Chief Becker gave an update on problem properties. HSHS will not be opening a clinic in Athens. Mayor Dowell will continue to work on this issue possibly working with Memorial or Springfield Clinic. Alderman Nichols also suggested Prairie Health.

New Business – Alderman Buhr asked about the new Miss Kitty's Chuckwagon on Main Street. Discussion noted that the food cart does have proper licensing, the Health Department has approved, and this new business will bring additional revenue to the city.

Public Comments – Darin Fritz said he thinks it would be a good idea to create a Chamber of Commerce to assist our community businesses in working together. Darin also requested a change in the liquor ordinance to allow earlier liquor consumption on Sundays. Darin noted that Mimosas and Bloody Mary bars on Sunday mornings are trending now. This amendment will be added to Monday's agenda. This will be for a trial period until January 1st, 2018.

Mayor Dowell asked if there were any other Public Comments. There were none.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Herman, to enter into executive session for personnel matters at 8:04pm. All ayes. Motion passed.

Council left to the conference room and returned at 8:38pm.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to return to regular session at 8:39pm. All ayes. Motion passed.

Council reviewed the bills and ended the meeting at 8:49pm.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.