

Athens City Council
Committee Meeting
May 4, 2017

Those in attendance were Mayor Donald Neisler, Clerk Debra Richardson, Treasurer Ryan Seifert and Aldermen: Larry Buhr, Ron Canterbury, Tom Croft Sr., Bobbie Dowell and Harry Nichols. Alderman Anita Bednarko arrived at 7:10 PM. Persons in the audience included Karissa Carls, Justina Gudgel, Brett Harlan, Operator Robin Cawley, Rex Kieffer, Merle Messersmith, Gary Richardson, Cindy McFarland and Linda Wasilewski.

No one was available to present the police report. Mayor Neisler suggested that the council members read the report.

Treasurer Ryan Seifert presented the treasurers' report. Seifert stated that funds were transferred for the high yield bonds and the general checking balance is up slightly.

Mayor Neisler reported that on the streets and alleys report Don Squires includes the plans to help slow the water that flows onto the Babcock property on Maple Street. He informed the council that there was a chemical spill on Main Street and the City was involved in the cleanup. Buhr stated that on Monroe Street a concrete truck had flushed the truck and stopped up the culvert. Dowell stated that he had driven by the Babcock property during the rains and the berm seemed to be helping. Buhr asked if the City would be able to run drainage pipe in the area to alleviate the problem. Mayor Neisler stated that if there is drainage run that there would need to be engineering and an environmental study done.

Operator Robin Cawley presented the water and wastewater report. Cawley indicated that they are still working on the cleaning at the water plant. She stated that the generator at the water plant had been serviced. Cawley reported that she has begun the disinfecting season at the wastewater plant and she has had issues with the recent rains. She stated that the generator was serviced at the wastewater plant. Cawley indicated that they are working on mowing and spraying of the weeds. She stated that there were fourteen shut-offs done in April. Cawley reported that they have been having problems with some of the larger meters. Cawley noted that HD Supply gave her a quote for changing out some of those meters.

Mayor Neisler informed the council that he had received a letter of resignation from Robin Cawley effective May 13, 2017. Mayor Neisler read segments of the letter.

Buhr questioned the quote from Ditch Witch for a new hammerhead mole at a cost of \$5,150.00. Cawley indicated that the mole equipment that they currently have is in need of repairs and it is so old that parts cannot be found. She stated that the mole is used to drill under roads for water services. Cawley reported that they use this piece of equipment with almost every water service.

Mayor Neisler stated that he had some new figures for the budget from the bonds at Heartland. He stated that he had readjusted some of the line item amounts. Mayor Neisler stated that the interest on the bond would be \$47,958.00. Mayor Neisler indicated that the last page includes an overview of the balance of each department.

Mayor Neisler stated that the Menard County School and Community Task Force has asked the City to consider a donation to help cover the costs of a teen institute. He indicated that they would like to send nine students from Athens, and the cost is \$319.00 per student.

Bednarko questioned if there were any other bids requested for the purchase price of a hammerhead mole. Cawley indicated that there are no markings on the mole to indicate parts numbers or the brand. Nichols stated that Croft would check into getting repair parts.

Mayor Neisler stated that there are three taps for the South Cantrall Creek Road and Jefferies Road water main extension. He reported that the cost would be \$4,000.00 per service with the projected revenue being \$31.36 per month minimum. Mayor Neisler suggested that the City use an interdepartmental loan to do the project and add three water customers. Nichols asked if any one had spoken with those persons on the cost. Cawley stated that she did not have the figures earlier. She noted that the one on South Cantrall Creek definitely wants water and the others have expressed interest. Bednarko questioned the project cost of \$34,000.00 and the projected return of \$26,529.00 after ten years. Mayor Neisler stated that the City is in the business of selling water.

Mayor Neisler informed the council that the large notebooks in front of them are the results of the codification of the City of Athens ordinances which have been in the works for the past several years. He stated that the Code would need to be passed at the Monday night meeting. Nichols asked if the Code had been reviewed in its entirety. Mayor Neisler stated that himself and Chief Becker had been involved in the context of it.

Mayor Neisler presented the council with a copy of the letter that was given to Officer Ben Hollis thanking him for his service to the community. He indicated that Hollis was presented with a gift certificate also.

Mayor Neisler indicated that there is a copy of the Athens Library budget in the council's paperwork.

Linda Wasilewski thanked the council for the money that was given for the maintenance of the West Cemetery. She stated that they would like to purchase two benches, at a cost of \$59.00 each, to be placed in the West Cemetery. Bednarko asked if the cost would be taken out of the West Cemetery fund. Wasilewski stated that the cemetery fund would pay for the benches.

Cawley asked the council how they would like to set up for Steve Sanderfield to purchase supplies for the wastewater plant. She suggested that the City place him on the City charge accounts. Cawley stated that she would show Sanderfield how to do the ordering. Mayor Neisler stated that the council would need to decide what needed to be done. Chris Basso questioned placing Sanderfield on a charge account without him being a City employee.

Council reviewed the bills and meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.