

Athens City Council  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, May 8, 2017

Mayor Don Neisler called the meeting to order at 7pm at Athens City Hall.

All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Debra Richardson called roll. Present were Alderman: Larry Buhr, Ron Canterbury, Tom Croft Sr., Bobbie Dowell and Harry Nichols. Alderman Bednarko was absent. Also in attendance were Beth Sutherland, Lisa Dowell, Logan Dowell, John Miller, Clara Miller, Carson Dowell, Betty Dowell, Bob Dowell, Connie Pillsbury, Kaleigh Pillsbury, Keith Pillsbury, Justina Gudgel, Brett Harlan, Judi Harlan, Jack Harlan, Karissa Carls, Rex Kieffer, Merle Messersmith, Gabe Richardson, Deni Wilson, Linda Wasilewski, Gary Richardson, Jason Oller, Rob Morris, Vickie Sandner, Cindy McFarland, Cameron Crowe, Charles Herman, Joseph Crowe, John Hines, Kyle Olsen, BJ Fitschen, Michael Lockwood, Jeremy Foulk, Dalton Abrams-Meredith, Jason Foulk, Ashlee Bell, Ryne Crowe, Sheila Fitschen, Michelle Becker, Kate Becker, Police Chief Tim Becker, Andrew Gunderson, Gabe Grosboll, Jason Huffman, Ben Hollis, Mark Oller, Jerry Judd, Kevin Puma, Teresa Walsh-Puma, Velda Plopper and Kurt Messersmith.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2017, Regular Meeting and the April 27, 2017, Special Meeting. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Police Chief Tim Becker presented the police report. Chief Becker stated that Officer Dalton Meredith had completed training. Chief Becker read the appreciation letter to Officer Oller and present the gift card.

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

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Buhr to put the 2017-2018 budget on display. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Dowell to approve the water main extension on South Cantrall Creek Road & Jefferies Orchard Road. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Nichols to approve donation of \$600 to the Menard County Task Force, to be expensed from the video gaming fund. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

City codes-Alderman Nichols asked if the codes need to be approved tonight. He would like more time to look them over. Chief Becker stated that they are ready to go on-line. Tabled until next month.

Motion made by Alderman Dowell, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to pay for benches for the West Cemetery. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Dowell, to accept the resignation of Robin Cawley. Ayes: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Dowell and Nichols. Motion passed.

Swearing in of new city council members.

New Mayor, Bobbie G. Dowell, thanked everyone for their support.

New city council packets passed out to all city council members. Mayor Dowell stated that city council members will not be kept in the dark.

Mayor Dowell read the new elected official appointments to city committees. Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Buhr, to approve the committee appointments. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Dowell read his "100 day plan." He also passed a book of photos of problem properties in Athens.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Croft to approve the 2017-2018 City Council meeting dates. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve Denise Barr as City Attorney. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve Judi Harlan as Zoning Administrator. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Dowell asked if there were any public comments or questions. A man asked if it is against the law to shoot a gun on public property. Chief Becker stated that it is not.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Croft, to adjourn. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.