

Athens City Council
Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 10, 2017

Those in attendance were Mayor Pro-tem Butch Nichols, Clerk Cindy McFarland, and Aldermen: Larry Buhr, and Tom Herman. Mayor Bob Dowell, and Aldermen Chris Basso, Ron Canterbury, and Tom Croft Sr. were absent. Persons in the audience included Gary Richardson, Merle Messersmith, Rex Kieffer, Ryne Crowe, Don Fontone, Treasurer Ryan Seifert, Chief Tim Becker and Linda Wasilewski.

Chief Tim Becker presented the police report. Under vehicles-fleet management, Chief Becker is asking City Council approval for retiring and trading in the 2012 F150 and replacing it with a 2018 model to be paid from the LESO Fund and traffic fine funds for a final cost of \$20,729 which was included in the current budget year. This purchase will be on the agenda for vote on Monday.

Treasurer Ryan Seifert presented the treasurer's report and Ryne Crowe presented the water/sewer report. Ryne went on to explain that some of the new smart meters have been implemented and he suggested that the city purchase 26 additional smart meters for the cost of \$6,250. This purchase will be on the agenda for vote on Monday.

Mayor Pro-tem Nichols went on to say that the Library Board is asking for the approval of the appointment of Marina Caruso, Linda Pedigo, and Cheryl Keller to the Library Board. This will be on the agenda for Monday. He added that Library Director Donna Cunningham sent thanks for the city's generous donation to the library.

Also on the agenda for Monday will be the vote to renew the Animal Control Contract for a term of 1 year at the cost of \$3,828.28.

Next, Don Fontone from Constellation Energy Services addressed the council to speak about municipal aggregation for electric-Central Illinois Municipal Aggregation (CIMA). There would be no cost to the city and would offer citizens a choice of another retail electrical supplier. This would require the city council to pass a resolution and will be on the agenda for Monday.

The Athens Fall Festival was next on the agenda. Mayor Pro-tem Nichols said that Mayor Dowell had noted that plans are progressing well.

Next Mayor Pro-tem Nichols stated that the property at 101 Adams has been cited.

Next on the agenda was an update on the Prairie Drive (Boars Nest) entrance. Chief Becker said that IDOT wants a stamped engineer plan for the Boars Nest entrance.

Alderman Buhr said that he would like the city to donate \$1000 to the American Legion's Veterans Appreciation Dinner to be paid from the Gaming Fund. This is a wonderful dinner and program that will be held on November 9, 2017 at Roots Banquet Hall and all veterans should attend. The vote to approve this donation will be on Monday's agenda.

Next on the agenda was the Menard County Housing Back to School supply donation (\$1000) to be paid from the Gaming Fund. This will be added to Monday's agenda for vote.

Mayor Pro-tem Nichols asked if the city phones have been transitioned to Agility Communications. Chief Becker replied in the affirmative; there were a couple bugs at first but all have been worked out.

Public comments: Linda Wasilewski said that she had seen a few fox in the city and wondered if anyone else had seen any around town. Chief Becker said that he would contact DNR. Animal Control does not handle wild animals.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Herman, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion passed. Council reviewed the bills and ended the meeting at 7:35pm.