

Athens City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2017

Mayor Bob Dowell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7pm at Athens City Hall.

All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Cindy McFarland called roll. Present were Alderman: Chris Basso, Larry Buhr, Ron Canterbury, Tom Croft Sr., Tom Herman and Harry Nichols. Also in attendance were Linda Wasilewski, Gary Richardson, Merle Messersmith, Rex Kieffer, Norm Flowers, Missy Hodgdon, Owen Iocca, Ryne Crowe, Robbie Bluett, and Linda Jo Doggett.

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

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

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Canterbury, to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2017 Committee Meeting, the May 8, 2017 Regular Meeting, and the May 12, 2017 Special Meeting. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Herman, to authorize purchase of a handheld police radar unit from Decatur Electronics at the cost of \$665 to be paid from the traffic fine funds. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Basso to make the city of Athens a Purple Heart Community. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Basso to approve the city of Athens to join the IPWMAN public works mutual aid program at the cost of \$100 annually. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Basso to approve the request for a liquor license in regards to a second gaming parlor. Ayes: Basso, Nichols. Nays: Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman. Motion failed.

Next was a discussion about the bids for the entrance of the Boars Nest. Alderman Basso raised his concern that there were only two bids, the disparity of the bids, and the lack of detail/breakdown of the bids. Motion made by Alderman Herman, seconded by Alderman Buhr, to accept the bid from Keppler Environmental in the amount of \$20,250. Ayes: Buhr, Herman. Nays: Basso, Canterbury, Croft, Nichols. Motion failed.

Discussion continued concerning advertising for further bids for the entrance of the Boars Nest. Motion made by Alderman Basso, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to approve advertising for further bids for 10 days. Ayes: Basso, Canterbury, Croft, Nichols. Nays: Buhr, Herman. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Basso, to approve the Athens City Ordinance Code Book. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to approve the new city budget. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Basso, to appoint Alderman Nichols as Mayor Pro-tem. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman. Abstain: Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Basso, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to authorize a pay increase for Ryne Crowe to \$15 per hour due to his taking on additional duties. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Nichols, to approve hiring of Michael Lockwood as a full time employee with a salary of \$10 per hour. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Nichols, seconded by Alderman Herman, to approve further advertising for a licensed water operator at the salary of \$55,000 per year. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Herman, seconded by Alderman Buhr, to authorize improvement of landscaping at the Welcome to Athens sign area not to exceed \$1000 to be paid from the gaming funds. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Canterbury, seconded by Alderman Basso, to move the fire hydrant on Clover Court. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Motion made by Alderman Buhr, seconded by Alderman Croft, to authorize a \$250 donation to the Animal Abuse Protective Program. Ayes: Basso, Buhr, Canterbury, Croft, Herman and Nichols. Motion passed.

Mayor Dowell introduced city employee Robbie Bluett, stating that Robbie helps out with just about everything around town and does a very good job.

Public comments: Norm Flowers said thank you to our veterans and for making Athens a Purple Heart Community. Mayor Dowell said that we cannot thank our veterans enough for all they have done for us.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.