



Approved Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

6:00pm Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Ruch called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Ruch; Councilwoman Devine; Councilwoman Kramer; Councilwoman Porter; City Clerk/Treasurer-Lori Yarbrough; Public Works-vacant. Not Present: Councilman McDaniel; Zach Jones, Attorney and Rand Wichman, City Planner.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) APPROVAL OF THE February 18th REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Kramer, that we approve the last regular meeting minutes for the 18th, without amendments.

***DISCUSSION** All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

2) APPROVAL of the Bills Motion by Kramer, to approve paying the February/March bills as submitted without amendments. *DISCUSSION-All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM

3) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Accept for the Annual Renewal for the Back-Up Water Operator Agreement. No changes, staff request renewal for one more year; but he is looking to finally give it up so we need to start looking into some other options soon. **Motion by Devine, to approve the annual renewal of the Back-Up Water Agreement as presented.** *DISCUSSION – Roll Call: Devine-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes. **Motion Passed. ACTION ITEM**

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL of Annual/Merit Increases for all 2 City Employees, Lori and Lisa. Mayor – shared that within this last year he has seen how much Lori does and both the ladies give 1000% and he knows Lori is topped out, can we get her anymore? Lori explained the last time the council looked at the scale, last year, they knew that she was reaching the top so that is why last year you added 5 years but at 3%. The council said they should go with what they already decided last year, and maybe later in the year the council can bring the conversation back up for other options. Then the following motion was made: **Motion by Devine, to approve the annual increase of 3% for Lori Yarbrough & 5% for Lisa Lawson; no cola increases this year; this is effective March 1st, 2025.** *DISCUSSION- *this is based upon the previously determined pay scale chart and the Mayors recommendation.* Roll Call: Devine-yes; Porter-yes; Kramer-yes; **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

ANNOUNCEMENTS City Council – Devine asked 1) about the people selling puppies near Kays 76 Station and wanted to know if they got a business license. – Staff shared that yes business licenses are required, but that location might technically be on state right of way and not city. But staff does talk with them if they seem to be there more than just a day or two. 2) She also wanted to know if everyone that was required to get put on separate meters has done so yet. Staff shared- the last 2 duplexes on Davis have not yet connected to those new meters, and the other one has been numerous conversations back and forth trying to work on it. Staff will send out notices again, see what we can do about it. Kramer – 1) Feels we have been spending a lot of time on code enforcement in the past couple of years, she would like to see with a fresh new

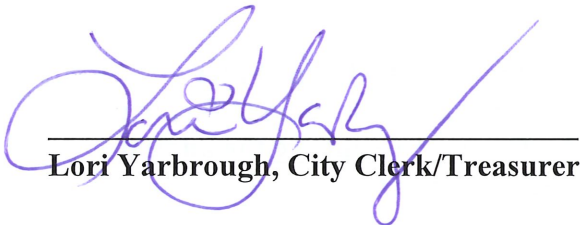
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employee, that the new water meters get installed and maybe a better process when someone new moves into the city that would be nice to offer a community welcome of some type. 2) Swell and ditch differences and Rand said we haven't set those requirements; she would like to discuss this more at a meeting or in a workshop soon. Mayor – Introduced the new Public Works/Water Operator, Pete Weigman. Pete briefly spoke, sharing he's taking notes and appreciates the opportunity to work for a small community, as he is from Alaska originally. He is excited to be a part of the city. Staff – Lori – 1) AIC District meeting April 22nd 2) HB 326 Idaho Walk Bike Alliance and asks you to look at it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Lisa Arnold & Lynn Paslay, from the Lakeland Joint School District – came to share information about an upcoming Town Hall meeting they are holding at the Athol Elementary School on Wednesday, April 9th from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. They and some school board members will be present to discuss and answer questions regarding their upcoming levy they are running on May 20th. They had a short question and answer time with the council and thanked the city council for their time and hoped to see everyone at the town hall and show their new united community sweatshirts, we are Lakeland serving a very rural widespread district.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:00pm

ATTEST:


Steven Ruch, Mayor
Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at Council on 3/18/2025