

**Approved Minutes**

## **Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting**

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

**6:00pm Regular Council Meeting**

---

**Mayor Ruch called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and did roll call.**

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor Ruch; Councilwoman Kramer; Councilwoman Porter; Councilman McDaniel; Councilwoman Devine; Attorney, Zach Jones; City Clerk/Treasurer-Lori Yarbrough; Public Works-Pete Weigman and Rand Wichman, City Planner.

### **REPORTS:**

**TREASURY REPORT** - Lori submitted the February 2025 report. Lori read the ending STCU Checking account balance on the report was \$116,343.30; the ending Savings/Money Market account was \$101,663.32; and the ending LGIP account balance was \$1,423,009.29. The PIFCU Money Market is \$98,774.44 and the savings were \$39,111.53.

**WATER REPORT**- Lori submitted a written report and then shared that there was not a full month of well-read since the Water Operator position was vacant. She also noted they would not be processing the late fee just yet because the post office had some problems this month and returned to us about 50 plus bills all shredded up. She is not sure what the problem was, but it is the first time there have been that many, generally a random one or two. They will continue to monitor.

**PLANNER REPORT** – Rand submitted a written report and recapped: the Area of Impact Map the county has responded back sharing an idea or two they were wanting to know if the city was ok with, Rand shared his overall concern with the likelihood of it not being compliant with the laws and that they can't really give the city the authority they are discussing; he felt maybe the council should have a brief workshop to discuss this a bit more. Code amendments, Rand had made significant progress in updating the sign requirements in the code, feels we code be ready for a workshop with the council after the city attorney has reviewed it. Council agreed.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **1) APPROVAL OF THE March 4<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion by Kramer that we approve the last regular meeting minutes for the 4<sup>th</sup>, without amendments.**

**\*NO DISCUSSION NEEDED.** All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

#### **2) APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by McDaniel that we approve paying the**

**March/April bills as submitted without amendments. \*DISCUSSION-All in favor-none opposed. Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

**3) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL for the Transfer of the Beer & Wine license on premises at 29801 N Old Hwy 95. Motion by Devine to approve the transfer of Beer & Wine alcohol licenses to the new Iron Pizza owners. Roll Call: Porter-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Devine-yes. Motion passes.**

**ACTION ITEM**

*NOTE: The City will make reasonable accommodations for anyone attending this meeting who require special assistance for hearing, physical or other impairments. Please contact the City Clerk at (208) 683-2101 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting date and time.*

4) **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL** for the Transfer of the Beer, Wine & Liquor licenses at 30625 N Old Hwy 95. Motion by Devine to approve the transfer of the beer, wine & liquor licenses to the new owners of the Farragut Bar & Grill dba Tandoori Grill. \*DISCUSSION Roll Call: McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Devine-yes; Porter-yes. Motion passed. **ACTION ITEM**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

5) **FIRE and EMS Impact Fee Discussion** about whether the city should continue the Joint Power Agreement to collect Impact Fees for both Fire and Emergency Services.

**-Timberlake Fire – Kody Wright addressed the council; he gave a document he had prepared with questions and answers to the council. He briefly discussed why the city collecting Fire and EMS Impact fees are important and help them. He also added it addresses new growth and helps new growth to pay their fair share. They strive to be good stewards of public funds, and they try to spend wisely. Then Jay Wojnoski from Kootenai County Emergency Medical Services System spoke briefly regarding how their calls have increased as the population increases; they have to be planning for growth, and this is the legal mechanism the state has given them to help do just that. The council then asked a few additional questions and thanked them for their time. NO ACTION ITEM**

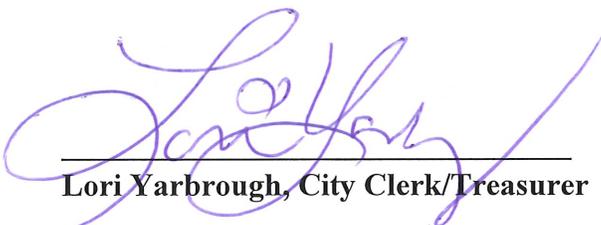
**PUBLIC COMMENTS: none**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: City Councilwoman Porter** – asked if anything more has been researched regarding a back-up community center generator; staff responded they had not, but once Lori get Pete up to speed, we will be sure to gather information on it. She also wanted to know why they haven't seen any sheriff call reports; staff said the sheriff's office hasn't been sending them; Lori will inquire why that might be. Lastly, she wanted to know if Lori heard anything more on her getting a wired hard line for checking her email and getting Microsoft on her laptop. / **Mayor** – none. / **Staff** – Lori 1) shared we did not get awarded the LHRIP grant for Davis Lane; there was 89 applications, and we missed the cut by about 10 (25 awarded applications). 2) City hall closed Thursday for the quarterly clerks meeting in Wallace. 3) The IT and phones are all completed and moved over just working out the bugs. 4) Kramer asked about the Restroom in the park; Lori shared they are still planning on getting it completed before Athol Daze but have to wait until the grant gets funded before any work can begin. It won't get funded until probably May after the Environmental Review is done. They will keep the council posted. Pete 1) Been busy getting organized over his first week, he has a big list of to-dos. 2) Wednesday starts the Bennet Well pump replacement project getting prepared for that; 3) He shut down the residential water hauling station and got the device mailed out and the plan is still to get it back and up and running by the end of the week or Saturday at the latest. 4) Wanted to share his gratefulness to Lori, Bob Wachter, Shane McDaniel and everyone who has been so welcoming he things he really going to like it hear and is happy to be a part of the team. That's why everyone in the room is here, because we are a team and are here for the community. 5) Met with Idaho Rural Water guys who are getting the study material and class information to begin working on his water license.

**ADJOURNMENT at 7:20pm**

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Steven Ruch, Mayor**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer**

Approved at Council on 4/1/25