



Unapproved Draft Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting
Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, April 1, 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; Councilman McDaniel; Councilwoman Kramer; Councilwoman Porter; City Clerk/Treasurer-Lori Yarbrough; and Public Works-Pete Weigman. Not Present: Zach Jones, Attorney and Rand Wichman, City Planner.

REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS – Pete briefly went through his written report and added a few additional items related to the new Bennett Well Pump replacement; and that he’s begun making a trash pile for a dump run, and he has been bringing branches and such for a burn pile up at the cemetery. The pipeline started clearing trees on Meadow Street. Also wants to mention he’s filling his calendar up fast with things to do. Councilwoman Kramer asked about the cemetery road improvements that were listed on his report; which then prompted a conversation about what action item #4 on the agenda was about.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) APPROVAL OF THE March 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 Devine, to approve paying the March/April bills as submitted without amendments.

***DISCUSSION-** Lori shared the couple that are uncommon one-time bills, related to the new Bennett pump replacement was done on time and for the exact cost. All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

3) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Accept for the Annual Renewal for the Park Lease

Agreement with the Athol Farmers Market. No changes, staff request a renewal for one more year. Lori shared, that the this might be the last year for the Farmer’s Market unless someone new decides to step up, its loosing speed. She and Pete had shared an idea they had to consider doing it once a month for a longer time into the evening, with less work for vendors and more of an event to draw people to, hoping to be able to keep the market going. The farmers market president will keep the city posted if they decide to go that route.

Motion by McDaniel, to approve the annual renewal of the Athol Farmer’s Market Agreement as presented. ***DISCUSSION – Roll Call:** Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes. **Motion Passed.**

ACTION ITEM

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to purchase gravel for the Cemetery road and misc. other locations. Since the council had got into this discussion during Pete’s report the council decided to make the following motion: **Motion by Porter, to postpone the purchase of gravel.** ***The DISCUSSION** was about what the best fix for the road was and how that fits into what we have saved so far for road improvements. They were also talking about maybe doing a smaller fix to dig a small trench to better drain the road. But either way we need to talk with the neighboring property and see if they are willing to work with the city to do a few

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of these fixes. **Roll Call:** McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes. - **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

5) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Remove a large tree from the 6th street city shop yard. Pete shared his concerns with the one big tree closest to the shop on 6th street. It's damaged and an obstacle for the delivery of gravel and such, but also if it falls it would take out the new SCADA water system that is in that corner of the shop. Pete shared the 3 bids he got from local businesses and the council agreed to go with the lowest bid, then the following motion was made: **Motion by McDaniel, to approve the costs related to the removal of a large tree at the 6th street shop; not to exceed \$450.00.** *DISCUSSION Roll Call Porter-yes; Kramer-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

6) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to Set Public Hearing Date for the County Notice & 1st Workshop Date Lori wanted to discuss budget, hearing timelines and looking at the calendar she recommends we list August 19th as our date for the budget public hearing. Staff is working on a date to have our first budget workshop, probably in the first part of May. **Motion by Devine, to direct the clerk to list August 19, 2025 as the 2025-26 Budget Hearing date and submit it to the county clerk.** *DISCUSSION Roll Call: Kramer-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

ANNOUNCEMENTS City Council – Kramer 1) She spoke to the fire chief; they are interested in moving it to the fire station. **Mayor** – Shared he's still waiting on the speakers for the sound system, they are on back order still. **Staff – Lori** – 1) Next Athol Daze planning meeting is April 16th at 2pm; the theme is: "Let the Good Time Roll". Grease Monkey will be hosting the car show again. **Pete** – nothing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Norma Jean Knowles -Bayview ID. – Read in the past minutes for March 4th that the council was discussing the matter regarding the people selling puppies in or near Super 1; she wanted to share that she believes it's a group of breeders that rotate around and that the city should try to do something more about it. Staff explained that the specific location in which they are at makes a difference for jurisdiction, which is generally all Idaho Transportation Department, making it harder for the city to do anything. But staff does, as time permits, tries to stop by making sure they are notified and that in general the city does require business licenses to do business in the city. **Shelly Standish- Bayview ID.** – Spoke and shared that she has called Kootenai County Animal control on them, because it's been cold, and they had no water. She was also upset with them being out there.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:00pm

ATTEST:

Steven Ruch, Mayor

Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at Council on