



Unapproved Draft Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

6:00pm Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Ruch called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

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

REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS - Kevin submitted a written report, council reviewed, no comments.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) APPROVAL OF THE January 21st REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Kramer, that we approve the last regular meeting minutes for the 21st, without amendments.

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

2) APPROVAL of the Bills Motion by Devine, that we approve paying the January/February bills as submitted without amendments. *DISCUSSION- All in favor-none opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION**

ITEM

3) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to purchase Gym Sound Panels. Motion by Devine to direct staff in getting an order ready for the purchase of sound panels for the gym; rough estimate not to exceed \$10,000. *DISCUSSION – Lisa shared that Lori has been looking into the types of sound panels and got this information, we are looking today for a budget range to get a better figure to purchase some panels for the gym. After a short conversation the following motion was made: **Roll Call:** Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes. **Motion Passed. ACTION ITEM**

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to purchase a Microphone Sounds system for the council room. *DISCUSSION – Mayor Ruch gave a brief rundown of what he wants to buy and then the following motion was made. Motion by Devine to order the equipment necessary, and as presented for a microphone sound system for the council room; not to exceed \$1,000. Roll Call: McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes. **Motion Passed. ACTION ITEM**

ANNOUNCEMENTS **City Councilwoman Porter** invited the fire chief here to talk about their capability of fighting cell towers. It was clarified that he may speak under public comments, as he is not listed on the agenda. **Mayor –** Announced he would like to have a special meeting on Thursday, February 6th at 4:30 to discuss the IT matter. / **Staff Lisa** -none; **Kevin** – share he turned in his resignation to the Mayor, his last day with the city will be February 4th.

Public Comments:
Timberlake Fire Chief, Brandon Hermenet – The fire district does not have a ladder truck, and they are hoping to purchase a ladder truck with Impact Fees. So, if a fire were to happen on the water tower they couldn't fight it from the ground, they would shut the power down that would likely put the fire out.

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.

Ann Black/Blatt (?) many children from out of town come to school. She is concerned at how close the cell tower is to the school. She has a flyer for a free event for Wireless Awareness Expo: March 15th.

Page Ruch (city) Wanted to compliment Kevin on the work done on this council room.

Melanie Vanderfeer (county- Silver Meadows Loop) Expresses her concern on the cell tower as she has a granddaughter who goes to elementary school. Researching 5G for many years she fought another property of a tower on a property near Bayview. But recently found the Athol water tower turned to 5G, worries about health safety, sleep issues, forgetfulness, and personality changes all potentially being the cause, or just old age. Her family lives nearby and they are getting headaches now too. She doesn't know what the solution is, maybe the tower can get moved or put back to 3G or 4G. It is very concerning to her.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:30pm

ATTEST:

Steven Ruch, Mayor

Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at Council on