

Athens Village Board Meeting

April 14, 2021

Present: Mayor Serrago, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Lipsman, and Trustee Poylo Absent: Trustee Gabrielle

Meeting began at 6:30pm

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing #1

The proposed adoption of local law #4 overriding the property tax cap, if necessary, for the upcoming fiscal year June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022-Mayor Serrago asked 3 times if there were any comments from the public. There were no comments.

Closed Public Hearing

Public hearing #2

Public comment period for the Tentative budget for the Village of Athens for fiscal year June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022. Mayor Serrago asked if there were any comments.

Trustee Lipsman asked when board members may ask questions on the budget. He said he has commented, but does have some questions.

Mayor Serrago said she will look and find the answers. She said we will vote at the end of the month.

Bob Brunner asked if it was going up 12%

Mayor Serrago said that it hasn't been trimmed yet.

There were no other comments on the budget. Public comments were closed.

Closed Public Hearing

Regular Meeting began at 6:37pm.

Tal Rappleyea-Village Attorney

Tal spoke on the 1.5% levy in the budget. He said he filed the zoning law for mixed use waterfront. He has been working with code enforcement to catch up on real estate stuff. He is working on the Declaration/Executive law for restaurants to have dining outside.

Trustee Lipsman asked about the possible sale of the Community Center to the Town.

Mayor Serrago said she doesn't have anything on that right now.

Trustee Lipsman asked about the PILOT Program for Athens Gen.

Mayor Serrago said that comes up in 2022, so we will table that until the next meeting.

Anthony Proper-DPW

Anthony spoke about the DPW parking lot, he asked if they had to get bids or just prices.

Mayor Serrago said it needs to be bids because of the cost and it would need to be specific.

Attorney Rappleyea said if we go thru OGS and get state bids we don't need to go through that process.

Anthony said they fixed a water main and sewer line. They have been trying to fix one on Union Street but haven't been able to do that quite yet. They made a water hookup for the Community garden and put up the dog bags. He asked if there have been any suggestions on hiring another person.

Mayor Serrago said that MJ did put it in the budget.

Anthony said he would like to have an ad in the paper in May. He said his last vacation will begin May 1st for 3 weeks. He said he is getting a price on the culvert pipe for Union Street and will be using CHIPS money for this. He will get the price this year to get it done.

Wayne Butterworth-AVFD

Wayne said he has the turnout gear. He said he tried saving money with the bailout stub, but it did not work for the new year. Wayne said it is \$30,264.00 for 13 sets.

Mayor Serrago asked if there was still money in the budget.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Poylo, and all were in favor to spend \$3264.00 on the turnout gear for the AVFD.

Wayne said they will discuss a new truck next month or at the next meeting.

Roger Masse-APD

Roger was absent, but Officer Jeff Ruso attended. Officer Ruso said there was nothing substantial to report

Trustee Lasher said they need a new transmission in one of the police cars.

Officer Ruso said they are waiting for quotes.

Code Enforcement-Officer Jeff Ruso

Officer Ruso mentioned they are working with Mr. Melino and the residents at Brick Row. He said that the residents have concerns. He said that nothing has been approved yet. As far as village code and rules and regulations Melino is within his rights.

Attorney Rappleyea said that Maggie will check everything out. He said they are good at implementing. He said there will be an escrow fund for an engineer. He said we will watch things to follow and that Jason and Maggie will be meeting on that.

Trustee Lipsman said that if the property owners are within their rights that no approval or permits are needed. He is legal and by the books.

Officer Ruso said that an engineer is needed to do a wind survey. This is a construction requirement. The village will need to get an engineer. Town code has not done this so it isn't anything we could go off of. We need this in general.

Trustee Lipsman said can we piggy back with the Town if they are interested and split the cost?

Officer Ruso said he was going to suggest that. A company emailed and we checked and the State said we had to do it.

Mayor Serrago said that she would check this.

NorthDome-Seth

Seth said that the sewer plant was out of compliance this month again and attributes that to the rain. Last month we were out of compliance for 28 days. Hopefully, sewer repairs will help this

Trustee Lipsman said that we are potentially getting \$90,000.00 in stimulus money and there is a limited number of things it can be spent on.

Mayor Serrago said there would be further discussions on the stimulus money.

Trustee Lipsman said that NYCOM would be a good source to use.

APPLICATIONS:

Facility use applications:

1. APPLICANT: EJA PTO – 5K (re-visited – originally submitted for 3/10/21 meeting)

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, and all were in favor to approve the EJA PTO-5K.

2. APPLICANT: Dennis Murphy & Jess Cochrane. Athens Riverfront Park-October 9, 2021

This will be brought up at the next meeting as the board is looking for an end time and what COVID rules they will be following.

3. APPLICANT: Jeanie Gleason. Athens Riverfront Park – September 18, 2021

This will be brought up at the next meeting as there is a conflict with the Street Festival as they have mentioned having their event on that date.

Trustee Lasher said she spoke with the woman and I did suggest they hold the ceremony on their property.

Mayor Serrago said she thought we should go with the Street Festival using the park on that date.

Trustee Lipsman said that the Stewart House plans around the Street Festival and it is usually in July. He said these people contracted to have a wedding, people are traveling, and they have a fully booked hotel.

Trustee Lasher asked Josh if he was in favor of alienating a non for profit that contributes many things for the village.

Mayor Serrago said she will speak with the couple and come up with a solution. She is going to table this and reach out to Audrey at the Stewart House as well.

4. APPLICANT: Athens Cultural Center. Athens Riverfront Park – April through October classes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Poylo, seconded by Trustee Lasher and all were in favor of the Cultural Center using the Riverfront Park.

5. APPLICANT: Athens Street Festival- September 18, 2021.
Tabled until next meeting.

6. APPLICANT: Athens Cultural Center. Pavilion & Sidewalk- May 1, 2021

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Poylo and all were in favor to allow use of the pavilion and sidewalk to the Cultural Center.

Water/sewer connection applications:

1. APPLICANT: Michele LaCorte – 19 Murphy Drive. Water and Sewer.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, and all were in favor to allow a water and sewer hookup at 19 Murphy Drive.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, the Minutes from Village Board Organizational Meeting held on April 5, 2021 be approved:

Approved with the amendment of name change John to Josh and the year of 2023 put in.

Offered by: Trustee Poylo

Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman

Record of vote: AIF

2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented on Abstracts

General Fund-Abstract#2055, Vouchers 9920580-9920606 in the amount of \$75309.64

Water Fund-Abstract#10499, Vouchers 9920607-9920609 in the amount of \$24153048

Sewer Fund Abstract#10483, Vouchers 9920616-9920620 in the amount of \$21,113.80

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approves payment of the vouchers as presented:

Offered by: Trustee Poylo
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Record of vote: AIF

3. Proposed Resolution Approving Local Law #4 of 2021 overriding tax levy limit

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approves adopting local law #4 of 2021 overriding the tax levy limit established in general municipal law §3-c (as attached):

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Record of vote: AIF

3. Proposed Resolution Approving Local Law #5 of 2021 instituting One Way Parking on North Franklin Street

WHEREAS the Village Board has held a Public Hearing on October 28, 2020 in order to hear public comment regarding amending Article 220 Vehicles & Traffic local law §220-13 parking prohibited at all times in certain locations to add a new portion of N. Franklin St. to the list of streets on which parking is prohibited (as attached), and

After much deliberation by the Village Board and consult by various departments in the village, such as the AVFD, DPW and APD and taking into consideration emergency related matters it has been determined that in the best interests of the Village;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approves adopting local law #5 of 2021 amending Article 220 Vehicles & Traffic local law §220-13 parking prohibited at all times in certain locations to add a new portion of N. Franklin Street to the list of streets on which parking is prohibited (as attached):

Trustee Lasher would like to see the resident with the electric care given 3 month (90days) to install his driveway and if he has a hard time to come back to the board.

Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee Poylo
Trustee Gabrielle vote aye
Mayor Serrago votes aye
Trustee Lipsman votes opposed
Resolution passes

There was a brief discussion about safety and a liability concern. Also, a discussion on the width of the street. It was said that the parking law will become effective as soon as it is filed with the Secretary of State. Sign will go up when it goes through.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. American Legion Commander George Greiner. Re: Memorial Day Parade.

The board said that a COVID plan will need to be submitted.
Officer Ruso asked about extra people from the department for the parade.

Trustee Lasher said they will need coverage for the 5K as well.
Wayne said that the AVFD would help with the 5K as well.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, and all were in favor of the police department to provide officers for the Memorial day Parade, and the 5K.

2. Iroquois Report. Re: April 2021.
3. NYSPSC. Re: CASE 10-T-0139 Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. – Notice of Public Statement Hearing and Notice Seeking Public Comment.
4. Mid-Hudson Cable. Re: Annual Franchise Fee.
5. Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society. Re: Request for letter of support for grant money.
6. NYSPSC. Re: CASE 15-E-0743 and CASE 04-M-0159 Order regarding stray voltage testing of various facilities.
7. Public Comment from Annika Vogt received 3/25/21 regarding N. Franklin Parking Proposal.
8. Athens Performing Arts Corporation (APAC). Re: Plan for the 2021 concert series

There was a discussion on the APAC concert series. The Board would like the amount of people in the park to be less because of COVID.

Trustee Lipsman said maybe those that enter could have an Excelsior pass.

Mayor Serrago will speak with them and come back with information at another meeting.

Marya said she has been working with groups and she said there are formulas to use mathematically. She said she would forward the info to Mayor Serrago.

Trustee Lasher asked if they should book bands as they are waiting to do so.

New Business:

Electric Charging Station- Trustee Lipsman said they have the money to get the charging stations. This will be at no cost to the village. Should we buy or rent?

Trustee Lasher said we would get better maintenance if we buy.

Trustee Poylo asked about the lifespan if we buy and what age to upgrade at.

Mayor Serrago said we should buy.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, Trustee Lasher and all were in favor of purchasing and installing 4 electric charging stations for the village.

Athens Community Farm- have submitted a site plan for approval to grow veggies.

There was a discussion on insurance for the Community Farm. It was decided they should get insurance.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Poylo, seconded by Trustee Lasher and all were in favor for the Community Farm to get insurance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Trustee Lasher- Michael Black approached her about a motorcycle show on 07/03/2021 with the Cultural Center. He would like to have Washington St to Franklin St closed. He asked about the gym.

Trustee Lipsman- said he would like to thank the Paddock Club for the 385 cleanup, it is civil selflessness exemplified. He also said a resident asked about repairs to the NYS boat launch. They said there are ruts and potholes. Maybe we could intervene with the state?

Gave a reminder about the Conservation Advisory Council monthly meeting and that Michelle Hinchey will be there.

He also discussed the Climate Adaptive Design Studio and said this matches with the CAC and the implementation committee. He also discussed the Clean Energy Community and mentioned grants for infrastructure.

Mayor Serrago- Mentioned that opening day of little league will be this Saturday and said that she will be there around 11:30. She said she spoke with Jason from Lamont and Maggie about Brick Row. She said that we have received the information for Sgt. Tercasios retirement and that is positive for him and us. She also discussed when in person meeting may be held again. She said the positivity rate in Greene County keeps going up and down.

She said that the Town has asked to use the Firehouse for their meetings.

Trustee Lipsman said he thought it would be okay if masks were worn, social distancing and the use of sanitizer and contact tracing were done. He said we consistently ask for COVID plans from others.

Marya said that she attended a Town meeting in the past 2 months and it was overcrowded and there were people with no masks and it was extremely uncomfortable.

Trustee Poylo said she has been to meetings and they are not in sync.

Mayor Serrago said that we won't make a decision tonight, we will need a plan for them to follow.

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Poylo and all were in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:42pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Palmateer