

Village of Athens Board Meeting
May 11, 2022

Pledge

Meeting began at 6:30pm

Present: Mayor Serrago, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Poylo, Trustee Scott, and Trustee Lipsman

Athens Community Day –Dawn Palmateer and Michelle Santos from Lighthouse Church are co-chairing this year. They gave an overview of what will be going on June 11th and what they will need from the Village.

Department Heads:

1. **Water and Sewer**-Joe Meyers- He said that flows were up at both plants, but there is leakage out there. He asked if Anthony could get the listening crew back out and have them check out some spots.
2. **DPW**-Anthony Proper- absent
3. **Athens Volunteer Fire Department**-Wayne Butterworth-absent Trustee Lasher asked if Wayne could get the number of fire calls for the year. Trustee Lasher also said that the dinner at the banquet she attended was very good.
4. **Athens Police Department**- Chief Masse-absent- Sgt. Ruso was present. Trustee Lasher asked if the SRO police officer math mishap was being taken care of by the school. Mayor Serrago said that the swearing in of the new sergeants would be at the May 25th meeting as Sgt. Cole could not be here tonight.
5. **Code Enforcement**- Jeff Ruso- Jeff said that one summons/violation was scheduled for court. We did discuss allowing reductions of fines for property owners if they take care of their violation. There was a discussion on who decides the fines and what an ACOD is. Trustee Lasher asked if they could keep track of the people getting violations so the same people are not allowed to do over and over again. Mayor Serrago asked if the complaint on Second Street was taken care of. Sgt. Ruso said that it is a neighbor dispute. He also said he would have 1 officer on for Community Day.

Applications:

1. Facility Use Application: Riverside Park. Applicant: Zion Lutheran Church-Reverend Elizabeth George
Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee Poylo
Record of Vote: all were in favor
2. Facility Use Application. Village Firehouse. Applicant: Village Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee-Todd Bernard
Offered by: Trustee Lipsman
Seconded by: Trustee Poylo
Record of Vote: all were in favor
3. Facility Use Application: Second Street between Franklin and Washington Streets. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center-Jeremy Bloom Director---**Tabled until May 25th meeting**
4. Facility Use Application: Billboard on 385. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center-Jeremy Bloom Director- **Tabled until May 25th meeting.**

Resolutions:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented on the Abstracts
BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board approves the payment of vouchers as presented:
Offered by: Trustee Scott
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Record of Vote: all were in favor

Correspondence:

1. Office of the State Comptroller. Re: \$50.00 in fines to the Village from the Town of Athens Court.
2. Greene County. Re: Award of fuel oil bid to Bottini.
3. Greene County. Re: Referrals to the County Planning Board.

Mayor Serrago went over the correspondence.

Business:

1. Quotes from Lamont Engineers for work to be done.

Jason Preisner sent quotes for camera work to be done. They were American Underground for \$11,532.00 and Arold Construction Company for \$19,770.00. Jason recommended Arold and believes they will do a good job.

A **MOTION** was made to accept the bid from Arold Construction Company at \$19,770.00.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Poylo

Record of Vote: all were in favor

2. Athens Community Solar Proposal.

Trustee Lipsman explained this program. This would save municipalities money if they signed up. As much as 10 percent. He said there were 2 choices Power market and Ambien. Trustee Lipsman believes that Power Market to be the better one to go with.

A **MOTION** was made to sign up with Power Market to save the municipality money.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: All were in favor

3. Rates for the EV charging stations.

After a brief discussion the board decided that an hourly rate of \$1.00 would probably be best. It can be changed if need be.

A **Motion** was made to charge \$1.00 per hour for use of the EV charging stations.

Offered by: Trustee Poylo

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: all were in favor

4. CAC proposed Tree Law

An initial discussion took place about the Tree Law. Board members wanted to discuss before the public hearing. Various questions were asked. Mayor Serrago said she has a lot of questions and would like to review the old tree law. She thanks everyone for all the hard work that went into the new proposed law. She is concerned as this law is very long and could be confusing to the average resident. She is also concerned about people's private property. Trustee Lipsman said that it is a definite work in progress. Mayor Serrago wants more time to go over this. She said she needs to involve the Village Attorney as well. Mayor Serrago would like to bring this back up at the May 25th meeting.

Trustee Lasher- She said she needs a letter from the Village for the Athens Sportsman's Club to sell beer at the Street Festival. She also mentioned that May 21st is the prom and she heard that our park may be used for pictures as the park in Coxsackie is closed.

Trustee Poylo- she said there will be Wi-Fi in the park by the end of the month. She will bring the proposal back to the next meeting. She is still working on the light to be installed and mentioned that

there are still lights on in the Van Loon house. She said there is n progression on the punch list as Anthony is on vacation. She is getting information on heat pumps and setting up the air study.
Trustee Scott- did not have anything at this time.

Trustee Lipsman- He said the Village received the Greenway grant for \$8,000.00 to be able to get more trees. The Village will need to give \$2,000.00, the Friends of Athens will need to give \$2,000.00 and the rest will be in volunteer time as this is a matching funds grant. He reminded everyone that PRIDE month is coming up. He said there will be a ceremony on June 1st and there was a request made to put it on a sign across from Stewarts. He also said that the Friends of Athens had a great cleanup day. He said he would like to see a multi-year capital plan now that the budget has passed.

Mayor Serrago said that is a great idea but there is a lot going on this month, so we will go back to it in maybe 2 months.

Trustee Lasher said that the police are no longer parking near the handicap entrance.

Trustee Poylo said that the DPW trimmed the tree and painted the yellow near the fire hydrants.

Mayor Serrago said that Jason Preisner will be at the next meeting.

There was a discussion over the sign by Stewarts and the possibility of purchasing a new one.

The meeting went into Executive Session to discuss the Community Center Lease.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by: Trustee Scott

Record of Vote: All were in favor to enter executive session.

The meeting went into Executive session at 8:01pm

The meeting exited Executive Session at 8:16pm Offered by: Trustee Lasher, seconded by: Trustee Poylo, all were in favor

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm offered by: Trustee Poylo, seconded by Trustee Scott, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Palmateer