

MINUTES- VILLAGE OF ATHENS

MARCH 27, 2024

PRESENT: Mayor Amy Serrago, Trustee Gail Lasher, Trustee Rob Scott and Trustee Josh Lipsman

ABSENT: Trustee Alison Phoenix

Village Attorney Tal Rappleyea and Clerk-Treasurer Mary Jo Wynne were also present.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC:

1. *Ellen Roth, representing the Athens Cultural Center*, attended the meeting to answer any questions the VB may have regarding the Facility Use Applications put before the VB this evening for approval. She recapped the busy year they had last year and the busy year they are looking forward to this year. Ms. Roth noted that this year is the Cultural Center's 20th anniversary.
2. *Rebecca Lorrick and her sister attended the meeting as residents of N. Franklin Street*. They had previously submitted documents regarding a drainage issue several neighbors are having in their yards on this part of the street. There are a few properties affected by what they state is a damaged drainage system in the back of their yards. It has been an ongoing problem for many, many years. The question is who owns the drain?

The mayor noted that the Village Attorney is working on a title search to find out who owns the property where the drain is located. The Village Attorney stated that if the drain is not owned by the village, then the village cannot fix it with public funds. It is against the law to give public monies to private owners.

Someone in the public spoke out that it was a plugged or broken pipe.

Ms. Lorrick asked that if the title search shows no one owning it then what comes next.

Another public attendee asked "if the neighbors get together and rent a machine, dig the trench, put the pipe in etc. can we direct the pipe into the village system?"

The Attorney replied that they can if the system will allow it.

Ms. Lorrick asked how long the title search should take.

The lawyer stated that we should get it back soon.

The mayor reiterated that first we will 'unpack' the mystery of who owns the property and if the village owns it then we will deal with it and if the village does not own it then we can help as much as we are able to.

3. *Nancy Poylo, resident of Montgomery Street*, attended the meeting to discuss the correspondence on tonight's agenda regarding the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse 150th Anniversary.

This will be a big event in this area, and there will be a lot of boats going past the Riverfront Park. Is the village going to have anything in the park for the event?

The Mayor mentioned that HALPS is in charge of planning events. It does not give the village a lot of time

to plan a big event but if she would like to spearhead the event that would be great.

Trustee Lipsman noted that he is on HALPS (Hudson Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society) and they are presently making all kinds of plans and it is being updated continuously. However, he thanked her for bringing it to the VB's attention.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Facility Use Application: closing a section of Water Street. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor approving the application as submitted.
2. Facility Use Application: closing a section of Second Street. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor approving the application as submitted.
3. Facility Use Application: Riverfront Park. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all in favor, approving the application as submitted.
4. Outdoor Entertainment Permit. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center. A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all in favor approving the application as submitted.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes from Village Board Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board approve minutes from meeting held on March 13th, 2024

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

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

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

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Scott

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Hudson Athens Lighthouse-Kathleen Tan. Re: 150th Anniversary

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Tentative Budget sent to the VB
2. Set Public Hearing date for the Budget – April 24, 2024 at 6:00PM
3. Greene Computer quotes for WWTP
4. Organizational Meeting – set for April 3, 2024 6:30PM

The Mayor noted that the RFP for the LWRP is completed and that there will be a public hearing set for the same night as the Public Hearing for the budget for the proposed amendments to the Short-term rental Law (April 24, 2024).

The Mayor also mentioned that she has been corresponding with the Rec. Director regarding the Summer youth program.

The Lamont Proposal for engineering services regarding the study for the Community Center building has been received just prior to this meeting.

Trustee Scott updated the VB on the Dog Park's new fence renovation and asked for a **MOTION** to

purchase some equipment for the park using funds in the DOG PARK reserve fund.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, all in favor of purchasing \$3,092.00 worth of equipment to enhance the Athens Dog Park.

The Mayor noted that this is Trustee Scott's last VB meeting and it has been a pleasure, once again, working with him. The VB agreed.

Trustee Scott noted that it has been a pleasure working with everyone here.

'Signing off'.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, a.i.f.
7:50 PM