

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held August 7, 2023 at the Town Hall

Board members present: Dave Henderson, Todd Christensen, Chris Olson, Dave Beckstrom, Tom Heinen, Clerk Diane Carpenter, Treasurer Marlys Balfany, and Mike Jungbauer

Guests: Jason Ross, Curt Carpenter, Lyle Reynolds, Jackie Heinen, AJ Ondrey, William Stanley, Dean Thompson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

We have a board vacancy due to the resignation of Amy Peterson. The meeting was opened for nominations to fill the vacant seat. Chris Olson nominated Tom Heinen.

Dave Henderson nominated AJ Ondrey.

No other nominations were presented and nominations were closed.

The candidates gave speeches about qualifications to serve. AJ Ondrey stated that he was unable to serve at this time because of personal conflicts. Voting was held and Tom Heinen was elected by a unanimous vote. The oath of office was administered by the clerk and Tom took his place with the board for the remainder of the meeting.

No action items this month.

Approve Agenda

M/S Chris Olson/Dave Beckstrom to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle Reynolds gave a county update.

Planning & Zoning

- Mike explained changes to the residential zoning ordinance, which are marked in red. Changes included but were not limited to the following:

Building rights can now be sold, contiguous language was removed.

Home occupation restrictions were changed – you can now have up to three employees that do not live on the premises.

No CUP's will be issued in a residential area.

The description of one ton trucks was changed to single axle.

The setback for accessory buildings was changed from 30 feet to 10 feet on parcels of 2.5 acres or less.

No shipping containers in rural residential areas unless they meet building codes. -

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to approve Ordinance 5-23 regarding Rural residential. Motion passed unanimously. Roll Call vote.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to approve Resolution 8-23 regarding publication of the ordinance listed above. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike explained changes to the business zoning ordinance.

Changes again are marked in red and include but are not limited to the following:

Adult use cannot be barred, due to state law but location can be restricted.

Light industrial subdistrict should not have CUP's.

We will use the state noise pollution ordinance.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to approve Ordinance 6-23 amending chapter 20 Article V of the Town Code. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to approve Resolution 9-23 regarding publication of the above ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike is creating a data practices policy.

Violations

24941 Shanandoah- 100.00 fine

4263 249th Ave NE – sent warning letter

There will be a public hearing at the August P&Z meeting for James Sanchez for his roofing business.

The Highway 65 frontage road issue land is for sale.

We have finally received FEMA approval for lands in the township.

Scanning is still not done.

M/S Todd Christensen/Chris Olson to approve Mike renewing his notary commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Some lights are out on the sign as it was possibly struck by lightning. Mike will get quotes for repairs and check out insurance coverage.

Some of our past records have been lost in an email transition.

Roads

-We need rain before grading will help the roads much.

-Knife River is running behind and it looks like they will begin paving the first week in September.

-Some of the signs we received were made incorrectly.

Fire

-None.

Parks

- Things are progressing in preparation for the picnic.

M/S Todd Christensen/Tom Heinen to approve Amy Peterson as a park board member. Motion passed unanimously.

-Balance in the park fund is 75,179.54.

After the picnic, Tom Heinen will take over parks and Dave Henderson will handle fire.

Clerk's Report

-Remember that September meeting will be held on the 11th, due to Labor Day.

-We will be paying Tom Heinen for taking minutes at the last P&Z meeting in Diane's absence.

-We need some repairs done at the town hall on the kitchen sink and also with the sound system installation. Curt will take care of this.

Treasurer's Report-

M/S Chris Olson/Tom Heinen to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report & IRS (checks 8052-8070 plus IRS totaling 44,368.37). Motion passed unanimously. Check 8056 was not used and was voided. The clerk and the treasurer are in balance.

-Marlys gave a budget report.

M/S Tom Heinen/Chris Olson to adjourn the meeting at 9:25.

PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter

Athens Township Clerk

_____Date_____