

Approved Minutes

Regular City of Athol City Council Meeting

Held in the Council Room in City Hall

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Council Meeting

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

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Ruch; Councilwoman Devine; Councilman McDaniel; Councilwoman Porter; Councilwoman Kramer; City Clerk/Treasurer-Lori Yarbrough; Public Works-Pete Weigman; Nick Peterson, Attorney and Rand Wichman, City Planner.

REPORTS:

TREASURY REPORT – Lori submitted the October 2025 report; Lori read the ending STCU Checking account balance on the report was \$47,301.87; the ending Savings/Money Market account was \$42,197.86; and the ending LGIP account balance was \$1,692,879.11. The PIFCU Money Market is \$157,131.60 and the savings were \$55,745.19.

WATER REPORT- Lori submitted a written report. Lori shared the October usage was 4,268,041 million gallons; coin haulers were 341,700 gallons. October billed utilities were \$23,508.00, overage of \$1,446.00 and collected was \$37,370.53. Lori said approximately 37 late accounts and maybe 6 or 7 shut off notices.

PLANNER REPORT – Rand submitted a written report and recapped the bigger two items: the Area of Impact, Rand attended the county's meetings but said unfortunately he had to point out to them that they hadn't met the legal notices, and the county will now have to redo the meetings and post again correctly, it's the law. He gave a brief understanding of the meeting and how he felt it went, the county says they hope to get this finished in January or February. Sheep Springs Road- Rand has made a bit of progress and has obtained the current easement records and feels the idea the council recommended of swapping should be an agreeable deal with ITD. He will begin working on those steps next to secure an easement with ITD that will cover the cemetery road better in exchange for Sheep Springs.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) **APPROVAL OF THE November 4th meeting minutes:**

Motion by Kramer, that we approve the meeting minutes for the 4th, without amendments.

***DISCUSSION *** All in favor-any opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

2) **APPROVAL OF BILLS AS SUBMITTED: Motion by McDaniel that we approve paying the October/November bills as submitted without amendments.** ***DISCUSSION-**All in favor-any opposed. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

PUBLIC HEARING: – On Proposed City Fee Resolution 2026-01

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:23pm to take and consider public comments on the adoption of City Fee Resolution 2026-01. The Mayor to remind everyone to please speak loud and

***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.*

clear- it is being recorded, if you want to speak, come up to the podium one at a time. He asked a second time, hearing none he closed the public hearing at 6:27pm.

ACTION ITEMS Continued:

3) DISCUSSION/ADOPTION of City Fee Resolution 2026-01 an update of the City Fee Schedule - Lori briefly outlined the proposed changes, then council began their discussion. Porter shared that she still does not support raising the water rates, nor did she want to increase the building rental fee. There was a short conversation amongst the other council and Lori shared a rough estimate of revenues and expenses related to the building and listed a number of projects both large and small in nature. Then the following motion was made: **Motion by Porter, to adopt the Fee Resolution as presented except for the building rental increases, and to be effective today, except for the water billing rates to be effective January 2026 water usage billing period.** *DISCUSSION Lori shared this means the January billing means water used from 12/23-1/23/2026 due by February 13th; and that all other fees become effective the date of this passing. **Roll Call:** Kramer-no; McDaniel-no; Porter-yes; Devine-no. **Motion failed. ACTION ITEM**

Then the following motion was made: Motion by Kramer, to adopt the Fee Resolution as presented and to be effective today, except for the water billing rates to be effective January 2026 water usage billing period. *DISCUSSION Lori reminded them of the change to begin for the January billing; water used from 12/23-1/23/2026 and due by February 13th; and that all other fees become effective the date of this passing. Porter still wanted it on record that she does not support the **Roll Call:** Kramer-yes; McDaniel-yes; Porter-no; Devine-yes; **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

4) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL for the Transfer of the Beer & Wine license on premises at 6300 E Highway 54. Lori shared they have presented their state and county license and would recommend approving. **Motion by Devine to approve the transfer of Beer & Wine alcohol licenses to Small Stop Athol LLC, the new owners of the gas station formerly the Crossroads.** **Roll Call:** McDaniel-yes; Porter-yes; Devine-yes; Kramer-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

5) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to join IdWARN a Utilities Helping Utilities Network that promotes statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance for public and private drinking water/wastewater utilities. Pete started this discussion by recapping that this is a mutual aid agreement, and he feels it is important for the city to join this network. Over 100 plus other city utilities belong to this network around Idaho. Porter was concerned over several areas in the agreement and just felt it unnecessary to join; the other council shared since there was no cost or actual commitment that they did not see a reason to not join. After a short discussion and clarification from the attorney the following motion was made: **MOTION by Porter, to deny the request for the city to join the IdWARN network.** *DISCUSSION **Roll Call Vote:** Porter-yes; Devine-no; McDaniel-no; Kramer-no. **Motion Failed. ACTION ITEM**

Then the following motion was made: MOTION by McDaniel, to approve the request for the city to join the IdWARN network and authorize the mayor's signature on the agreement. *DISCUSSION **Roll Call Vote:** Porter-no; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes. **Motion Passed. ACTION ITEM**

6) DISCUSSION/APPROVAL to accept the Election Canvas Results for the November 4, 2025 Elections for the City Council positions. Motion by Devine to accept the November 4th 2025 Election Canvas results. *DISCUSSION – Seat 3 goes to Cindi Devine with 34 votes and Shane McDaniel for Seat 4 won with 50 votes. **Roll Call Vote:** Porter-yes; Devine-yes; McDaniel-yes; Kramer-yes. **Motion passed. ACTION ITEM**

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Idaho Code 74-206(1)(f) “to Discuss litigation with the City Attorney

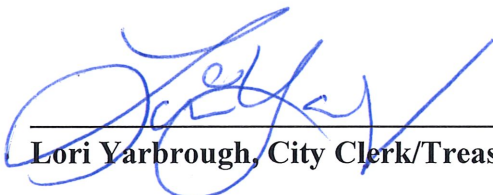
Mayor Ruch shared since we did not have our regular attorney present that there would not be an executive session today; he will provide the council with a memo by the end of the week via email.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: **City Councilman McDaniel** – shared the grader was done and back, cost will be around \$8500.00. **Councilwoman Devine** – wanted to know about the new spring bouncer doggy toy in the park; she heard it was broken or taken. Pete shared it was broken, but they did not get it fully out of the park. He and Lori were reviewing camera footage and found three young boys who broke it and will work to identify who they are. This led to a short discussion on whether staff should mention this in the city newsletter to share and spread the word for parents to try and watch kids better as the city just spent \$1,000 on replacing this new toy for the kids. / **Mayor** – none. / **Staff Lori-** 1) City Christmas Dinner Wednesday, Dec 10th at 6:00pm. 2) Tree Lighting- Saturday November 29th gathering begins at 4pm with the lights going on at 4:30pm. Burning barrels will be there, Athol Baptist Church will be providing music and cocoa/coffee; Idaho Gun again sponsoring the FREE pony rides for the event. 3) Also, Bob Rickel signed his agreement for snow plowing help again this winter, and that Bob Wachter does not want to really help with snow removal we posted another temporary winter operations help. Pete- 1) Shared a letter he drafted up that we plan to put into the city newsletter regarding the water system, as previously discussed that we planned to do.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

ADJOURNMENT at 7:22pm

ATTEST:



Lori Yarbrough, City Clerk/Treasurer



Steven Ruch, Mayor

Approved at Council on 12/2/2025

