

Minutes of the Regular Athens Town Board Meeting Held November 7, 2022 at the Town Hall

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

Guests: Jason Ross, Lyle Reynolds, Curt Carpenter, AJ Ondrey, Rebecca Mauriala-Kuehn, Billy Larson, Tom Heinen, Ellie Guider, David & Delena Opsane, Jeremy & Amber Young, Mike Warring

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

M/S Amy Peterson/Todd Christensen to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Action items were reviewed. Those remaining were:

Dave B. will check out electronic storage software.

Dave H. will put the garden tractor on public surplus website.

Mike will check out FEMA grant.

Approve Agenda

M/S Chris Olson/Amy Peterson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Lyle Reynolds gave a county update.

Mike Warring gave a county update.

Planning & Zoning

-Jeremy Young spoke about problems with a driveway easement.

They are selling their home and the bank does not like the fact that they share a driveway entrance with their neighbors. They have a private easement which may no longer be valid. The land was originally owned by two brothers. In 1998 the town ordinance was changed to not allow shared driveways. They could apply for a variance but would need to show practical difficulty.

M/S Todd Christensen/Amy Peterson to recognize the easement based on a finding of fact that the township issued building permits for the homes, and failed to follow up on the driveway split. Motion passed unanimously, based on follow up attorney counsel.

-There was a video presentation by Metro Sales about scanning and electronic storage. Dave B and Mike will meet one half hour before P&Z meeting to discuss this issue.

-Dennis Davis presented a letter to the board requesting that the Erickson Farm not be zoned commercial to preserve its historical status. This will be referred to P&Z.

-A discussion was held about the rezoning of Hwy 65.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Todd Christensen to approve Ordinance 22-05 amending the land use map creating the highway 65 commercial corridor district. Motion passed 4-1 with Amy Peterson voting nay.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Todd Christensen to approve Ordinance 22-06 amending the town code relating to creating the highway 65 commercial corridor district. Motion passed 4-1 with Amy Peterson voting nay.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Chris Olson to approve Resolution 22-07 approving publication of summary of above ordinance. Motion passed 4-0 with Amy Peterson abstaining.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Chris Olson to approve Ordinance 22-07 establishing a moratorium on rezoning properties located in the highway 65 corridor. Motion passed unanimously.

Peter Tiede sent a letter regarding ROW issues.

-Mike has been working with Dan Poppie on the Website.

M/S Dave Beckstrom/Amy Peterson funding up to 5000.00 to redo the website and for a new web host. Motion passed unanimously.

-Mike will check out Municode Codification. It is for zoning ordinances, keeps history and changes.

-Mike needs help with office stuff. Diane will try to help with this.

Roads

-Packard and Larch have both been graveled.

-In the spring we crown, gravel and chloride. In the fall we crown and gravel.

-Not pleased with the sealcoating and striping done last year.

They will be redoing it in the spring at no charge.

-Chris is checking out the process of chip sealing gravel roads. It is approximately one fifth the cost of paving.

-We are still waiting on quotes for signs. We traded some with the county.

-Connexus took down trees too far and may replace some trees for residents.

-We have received positive feedback on the child safety sign installed on Naples.

Fire

-The hiring event at the fire station went well. We received a nice thank you note for our food donation.

Parks

-No update.

Clerk's Report

- The Board of Canvass meeting will be held on Tuesday November 15th at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall.
- Things for the election are ready for tomorrow.
- There is an opening for a MAT officer. Anyone interested, see Diane.
- Diane contacted Peter Tiede as we were charged for a resident calling him. We do not pay for residents to contact our attorney.

Treasurer's Report

- M/S Amy Peterson/Chris Olson to approve the Treasurer's Report, Claims List for Approval, and Net Pay Account Distribution Report & IRS (checks 7808-7831 plus IRS totaling 47,124.60). Motion passed unanimously.
- Marlys gave a budget report.
 - Marlys mentioned that we should return Jason Ross' escrow.

Steve will service the lawn mower.

M/S Todd Christensen/Dave Beckstrom to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carpenter	Athens Township Clerk
_____	Date _____