

Village of Athens Board Meeting
July 12, 2023

Present: Mayor Serrago, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Scott, Trustee Phoenix and Trustee Lipsman
Meeting began at 6:30pm with the pledge

PUBLIC:

Kristen Bates came to the meeting to discuss handicapped accessibility. She would like to see more parking for handicapped people in the Village so they may visit restaurants and different events throughout the year. She would like to see one on Second Street as she lives there and sometimes has a hard time with her groceries.

Mayor Serrago said she would like to get a group together to discuss accessibility for people that have disabilities.

There was a discussion about all the areas it could and would not be possible to put the parking spots.

A **MOTION** was made to create handicapped parking spaces between Franklin and Warren Street, the motion was offered by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all were in favor.

Department Heads

Northdome-Joe Myers

Joe said there has been a taste and odor issue since the drought and there is a lot of algae. He said that it was too late this year to do anything. He did say the Village may want to rent a harvester next year. He said it is a process that would be done over a few years. He said they would need to get the lily pads under control and possibly use copper sulfate which inhibits algae growth. Joe said that some hydrants should be flushed and that would help. Joe said he will have more information on a harvester at the next meeting.

Trustee Lipsman asked about the Sleepy Hollow Connectivity.

Mayor Serrago said that she would review minutes from 2016 as there is some uncertainty about what is exactly in the agreement.

Joe said this is a good time to talk about this.

DPW-Chris Sprague

He said this has been a busy month. He said the DPW has been working on drainage and blacktopping. He has also met with Jason from Lamont and discussed storm drains and catch basins. He spoke about some upcoming projects.

Mayor Serrago asked that weed whacking of the curbs be done.

Fire Department-Wayne Butterworth

Wayne said the open house went well. He spoke about some lines being on fire and Central Hudson had to tie them up. He asked if the bushes by the firehouse could be removed and replaced with flower boxes from the Garden Club.

Mayor Serrago said they could get an estimate from Flats Brothers as they are only mowing the lawn, but she asked whatever happened where the bushes were pulled around the parking lot.

Wayne said it was going to cost \$6,000.00-\$10,000.00 to build the wall so they would probably fill in with topsoil and plant grass.

Police Department-Jeff Ruso

He said there has been some speeding in high complaint areas, such as Union Street and there have been Facebook complaints for Schoharie Turnpike. He said that officers have been directed to these areas.

Code Enforcement-Jeff Ruso

He said that Ed Tercasio has taken some Short Term Rental and Energy Training. .

Mayor Serrago said that there is a sidewalk complaint on Second Street, Crossroads need to take care of the front of the building, there is a Dumpster back on Third Street and Home Sweet Home mowed their lawn once since getting a letter. She also let him know that there is a house on Church Street that is overgrown and has gone up for auction.

Jeff said 2 letters were sent out for sidewalk violations and they have 2 weeks to take care of.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Permit to Peddle Application. Applicant Joanne Stickles/Larry Hildenbrand. Happy Clown Ice Cream and Bake Shop, LLC and Kurb Dog Food Truck - A **MOTION** was made to allow the permit. Offered by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all were in favor.
2. Permit to Peddle Application. Applicant Roy D. Brown Iron Horse Cigar Depot-A **Motion** was made to allow the Iron Horse Cigar Depot to sell cigars in the park. Offered by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, Trustee Lipsman was a nay, this was passed by the majority.
3. Permit to Peddle Application. Wayne Butterworth Athens Volunteer Fire Department.-A **MOTION** was made to allow the Fire Department to sell Hot Dogs and Hamburgers during APAC. Offered by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Scott, all were in favor.
4. Facility Use Application-Athens Riverfront Park. Applicant : St. Patricks RC Church-A **MOTION** was made to allow the church to use the park on date requested. Offered by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Phoenix, all were in favor.

5. Facility Use Application-Athens Riverfront Park. Applicant: Athens Cultural Center- A **MOTION** was made to allow the use of the park on date requested. Offered by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Phoenix, all were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that minutes from the Village Board Meeting held on June 14th 2023 be approved:

Offered by:

Seconded by:

Record of Vote:

The minutes were not present for approval.

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

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

Offered by: Trustee Scott

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: all in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Jennifer Sokolov-Tenth House Health. Re: Accessible parking

OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion regarding Resolution supporting submission of a proposal to the Capital Region Economic Development Council and NYS Department of State for Funding Through then 2023 Consolidated Funding Application Round to update Village of Athens 2002 Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP).

Mayor Serrago said this is a matching grant. They would give 75% and the Village would match 25%. A **MOTION** was made that the Village of Athens would match with the 25%. Offered by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all were in favor

A **MOTION** was made to hire Margaret Irwin of Riverstreet Planning and Development Offered by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher, all were in favor.

Trustee Lasher- She thanked the DPW and the APD for their help with the Street Festival.

Trustee Scott—Has nothing for tonight.

Mayor Serrago brought up an issue with the Dog Park. Trustee Scott said he looked into equipment for the Dog Park and it isn't cheap. He said maybe they could get something for the park that would bolt into the ground so it would not disappear.

Trustee Phoenix said she has been getting estimates for the front door. So far she has one.

Trustee Lipsman spoke about the WEA grant. He said Jason will have it done by mid July.

Mayor Serrago said he is on time with it.

There was a discussion about the Green purchasing policy and procurement policy.

The Clerk asked about the salary for the Recreation Director and was told to give her \$1.00 more an hour this year. She also asked for the paperwork for the Beer Booth that was at the Street Festival.

Mayor Serrago also made it very clear that email will be switched to the .gov address . All Village matters will be on this address as the old email address will phase out.

George Greiner asked for some help from the Legion Hall. The Legion Hall has been rehabbed for water issues and they are still having problems through the wall. He said that a test of the water was done and there is chlorine in it.

Mayor Serrago said the next time leak detection people are here they will check the area out. She said the next step will be figured out.

A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Lipsman, and all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Palmateer
Deputy Clerk