MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on April 13, 2026, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

Present: President Matthew Patton, Vice-President Joanne Polzella, President Pro Tem Robert Williams, Council member Walter Chaykosky, Patrick Cotton, Sharon Sporn and Mayor Todd Babcock.

Absent: Council member Scott Riley

President Matthew Patton led in the Salute to the Flag.

President Matthew Patton called the meeting to order 7:00PM.

President Matthew Patton stated that this meeting is being tape recorded to assist the Borough Secretary in the preparation of the Minutes. When approved by Council the tapes will be reused and not preserved. If you have a recording device, please announce so at this time.

**PRESS**

No one present.

**PUBLIC**

Linda Politi, 118 Franklin Street, Sayre, Futurescapes committee member requested Council participate in a program called Kali's Mission. Ms. Politi explained the idea of Kali's Mission is to reduce the number of strays or feral cats in communities. The program works to set traps to capture the feral cats in town, collect the traps, take the cats to be spayed or neutered then return the cats to the exact spot in town which they were captured at. This program does not relocate the feral cats but the main goal is to lessen the strays or feral cats in communities. Ms. Politi's presence tonight was to ask Council if Kali's Mission is a program they'd be interested in for Athens Borough.

Council thanked Ms. Politi for the information, stating the program sounds like a great idea. Council will take it into consideration.

Joanne Babcock, 644 Glen Valley Road, Athens, Executive Director/Lead Forensic Interviewer of the Children's House Child Advocacy Center, informed Council that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month and provided Council with the background and services of the CHCAC. Ms. Babcock stated the Mission of the CHCAC is "to reduce trauma for children who have experienced abuse and for the families who support them by providing a safe, supportive environment and coordinating care through strong collaboration with community partners".

The CHCAC offers many services including case coordination and case tracking, forensic interviews, family advocacy, medical examinations, mental health, prevention education and outreach. Ms. Babcock stated more information can be found on their website: https://chcac.org

Council expressed their gratitude for Ms. Babcock volunteering her time to share this important information.

## PRESIDENT PATTON

## MONTHLY BILLS

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that the April 2026 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$26,667.31**
Sewer Fund **$1,459.50**
Fire Fund **$402.00** – Loan Payment #80
Fire Fund **$12,838.71** – Loan Payment #81

AYES: Chaykosky, Cotton, Polzella, Sporn, Williams, Patton
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Riley
Motion carried.

## MINUTES

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Cotton that the minutes of the regular meeting on March 09, 2026 be approved as written. Motion carried.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice-President Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on April 07, 2026.

Zoning Permits Issued: 5
Zoning Permits Denied: 0
Zoning Permits to Date: 6

**Customer Requests:** 18

**Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:**

Total to Date (2026): 96

**Contractor Permits:**

Issued: 22 Pending: 0 Void: 0

**P&Z MEETING**

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on April 08, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting will be held on July 08, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

**SOLAR PANEL DRAFT ORDINANCE**

Solicitor Foster presented Council with the draft ordinance for review.

**KALI'S MISSION**

Council tabled discussion until the May 11, 2026 meeting.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

President Pro Tem Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on April 07, 2026.

**PURCHASE OF AN AIR COMPRESSOR**

Council discussed the purchasing options between of an air compressor to be utilized by the Public Works Department. The Borough Manager provided two quotes and suggested buying a used or new air compressor from Brad. Co. Supply. Council requested the air compressor continue to be rented when needed but for the Borough Manager to look into the option of renting to own.

**POLICE COMMITTEE**

Council Member Sporn stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on April 02, 2026.

Monthly Report

| Month of March | | Total for the Year 2026 |
|---|---|---|
| 135 | Total Number of Calls: | 352 |
| 0 | Felony Arrests: | 3 |
| 2 | Misdemeanor Arrests: | 19 |
| 4 | Non-Traffic Arrests: | 8 |
| 8 | Traffic Citations: | 16 |
| 16 | Traffic/ Parking Reports: | 67 |
| 0 | Truancy Reports: | 0 |
| 3 | PFA Violations | 9 |
| 0 | Parking Tickets/Warnings | 0 |
| | Mileage: | |
| 237 | 2017 Tahoe | 101,936 Overall |
| 674 | 2019 Tahoe | 65,160 Overall |
| 658 | 2023 Tahoe | 33,145 Overall |
| | District Court: | |
| 3 | Criminal Cases: | 9 |
| 8 | Traffic Cases: | 18 |
| 5 | Non-traffic Cases: | 13 |
| 0 | Truancy | 0 |
| 16 | Total Cases: | 40 |

## POLICE REGIONALIZATION

President Patton asked Council for their thoughts on regionalizing the police department with other neighboring departments. President Pro Tem Sporn requested more time to obtain more information. Mayor Babcock, and Council members Williams and Cotton suggested Athens Borough move forward with open discussions with other departments. Council held a brief discussion before tabling the topic until further notice.

## COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

President Patton stated:

## SHADE TREE

The Shade Tree Commission met on March 16, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

**2026 BARE ROOT TREE GRANT**

The Shade Tree Committee members and the Public Works Department will be planting 20 bare root trees on April 15th and 16th. The trees were provided through a grant obtained from the Tree Pennsylvania PA Urban and Community Council Spring 2026 Bare Root Tree Program.

**BRADFORD COUNTY PROPOSED EMS SUSTAINABILITY FUNDING GRANT**

Council member Cotton stated a Meet and Greet will be held during EMS week in May where the Public can address their questions and concerns regarding the proposed EMS Sustainability Funding Grant. Council held a brief discussion and tabled the topic until the May 11, 2026 meeting.

**BRADFORD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION PROPOSED SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – DATA CENTERS**

Council discussed concerns regarding the proposed amendment and are seeking better clarification of certain sections. Council requested Solicitor Foster draft a letter of concerns to the County.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Council member Chaykosky stated:

**DONALD GUTHRIE FOUNDATION COMMUNITY BENEFIT GRANT**

The Donald Guthrie Foundation Community Benefit Grant application was denied. Futurescapes and the Borough Manager have submitted an application for the Donald Guthrie Foundation Community Benefit Grant requesting $5,496.50. The grant was to be used for necessary repairs to the Diahoga Walking Trail fence and trail surface.

**EMHR PARTNERSHIP MINI GRANT**

Futurescapes and the Borough Manager will be applying for funding through the EMHR Partnership Mini grant for fence repairs.

## FUTURESCAPE PARK PURCHASES

Futurescapes have provided the funding necessary to purchase the spare parts for the zip line in the amount of $2,578.96 and also the replacement mulch in the amount of $3,900 at the Athens Borough Park.

## FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Cotton stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for February was made available to Council on March 09, 2026.

The Fire Department's monthly report for March was made available to Council on April 06, 2026.

## MAYOR

Mayor Babcock requested Council discuss creating a policy and form for handling citizen concerns and allegations. The policy would outline the necessary steps to be followed by department heads when residents submit the proper form with their concerns and allegations. Concerns and allegations would be tracked through the Munilogic program. Council requested Solicitor Foster draft the policy and form.

## SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on April 10, 2026.

Solicitor Foster stated that the Bowen Zoning Appeal is resolved in favor of the Borough. Judge Williams found in our favor findings that no additional evidence could be submitted and found in our favor on the merits of the case. The appeal deadline has passed and the decision is final.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

**START:** 7:59PM
**STOP:** 8:50PM

## CELL TOWER PROPOSAL

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Polzella that Solicitor Foster be authorized to draft correspondence to American Cell Tower Corporation agreeing to a $420,000 cell tower sale settlement. Motion carried.

## PWD VEHICLE USAGE

It was moved by Patton and seconded by Sporn that the Public Works Department employees be authorized to utilize Borough vehicles during their 20 minute paid lunch. Motion carried.

## ADJOURN

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that the meeting be adjourned at 8:52PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Tara R. Campbell, Secretary