MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on August 13, 2024, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

Present: President Scott Riley, Vice-President Sharon Sporn, President Pro Tem Joanne Polzella, Council members Walter Chaykosky, Matthew Patton, Anthony Smith, Robert Williams and Mayor Francis Roupp III.

President Scott Riley led in the Salute to the Flag.

President Scott Riley called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

President Scott Riley 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

No one present to address Council at 6:34PM.

PRESIDENT RILEY

MONTHLY BILLS

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Polzella that the August 2024 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$122,516.13**
Sewer Fund **$67,364.50**
Fire Fund **$488.37** – Loan Payment #58

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Williams that the minutes of the regular meeting on July 08, 2024 be approved as written. Motion carried.

MINUTES

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Smith that the minutes of the special meeting on August 01, 2024 be approved as written. Motion carried.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Riley called for an Executive Session to discuss litigation and real estate.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Vice-President Sporn stated:

The Shade Tree Commission will meet on August 19, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

The Borough of Athens was awarded the Tree Pennsylvania Fall Bare Root Tree Grant which will provide 20 trees to the residents.

SHORT TERM RENTAL TAX

Council held a brief discussion on the benefits of enacting a short term rental tax on properties such as AirBnb. This topic was tabled until next meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

President Pro Tem Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on August 02, 2024.

Zoning Permits Issued: 3
Zoning Permits Denied: 1
Zoning Permits to Date: 28

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2024): 115

Contractor Permits through 07/31/2024

Issued: 87 Pending: 2 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission met August 12, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building for a public hearing regarding the 2024 comprehensive plan.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – DWELLING, DOUBLE-WIDE TRAILER

Council authorized Solicitor Foster to draft an amendment to change the language of Dwelling, double-wide trailer/home permanent from a Special Use to a Permitted Use.

DRIVEWAYS AND SIDEWALKS

Council held a brief discussion on driveways and sidewalks. The Code Officer will provide them with minimum standards for their approval.

RUMMAGE SALE ORDINANCE

Council held a brief discussion but this topic is tabled until next month.

PUBLIC – reopened at 6:57PM

Mary Robbins, 119 S Main Street addressed Council with her concerns regarding a neighboring property. Mrs. Robbins noted various code violations, parking issues including parking in the church parking lot as well as loitering. Mrs. Robbins stated she has filed numerous police and code reports and would like Council to look into these ongoing issues.

Mayor Roupp entered the meeting at 6:59PM.

CT Weber, 118 S Main Street, Athens Methodist Church representative stated that he has given permission for some of the neighboring properties to utilize certain parking spaces in the church parking lot. Mr. Weber offered Council the ability to view the camera feed from outside the church to see any potential violations from the neighboring property.

Mrs. Robbins requested an update on the study for the No Parking 3:00AM to 6:00AM, wondering when that ordinance will be ready.

The Borough Manager explained that the study is still in the process and that these concerns tonight are helpful and will be considered as the study continues.

President Riley stated that Council, the Police Chief, Code Officer and Borough Manager will look into Mrs. Robbins concerns.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Council Member Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on August 01, 2024.

CHANGE ORDER # 1 – 2024 PAVING PROJECT

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Patton that change order #1 extending the project completion date to October 31, 2024 for the 2024 paving project be approved. Motion carried.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Council Member Patton stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on August 09, 2024.

Monthly Report

Month of July		Total for the Year
187	Total Number of Calls:	1,050
0	Felony Arrests:	13
4	Misdemeanor Arrests:	29
1	Non-Traffic Arrests:	24
8	Traffic Citations:	40
13	Traffic/Parking Reports:	130
0	Truancy Reports:	16
4	PFA Violations	22
50	Parking Tickets/Warnings	82
	Mileage:	
572	2017 Tahoe	88,876 Overall
1,362	2019 Tahoe	51,105 Overall
810	2023 Tahoe	11,822 Overall

	District Court:	
0	Criminal Cases:	18
5	Traffic Cases:	36
1	Non-traffic Cases:	22
0	Truancy	16
6	Total Cases	144

NO PARKING 3AM TO 6AM

The Borough Manager and Chief of Police are continuing to work on the parking restrictions ordinance and will be recommending changes to Council.

Council member Williams has requested a draft of the changes/recommendations be provided to Council at their September meeting.

POLICE VEHICLE GPS UNITS

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Smith that Resolution 2014 – 2, GPS Units in Police Vehicles be rescinded due to non-use. Motion carried.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council member Chaykosky stated:

DEP FLOOD PROTECTION GRANT

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Williams that the DEP flood protection conduit grant agreement be approved. Motion carried.

SUPPORT LETTER - ATHENS TOWNSHIP PARKS DEPARTMENT

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Smith that the Borough Manager be authorized to draft a letter of support to Athens Township Parks and Recreation department regarding the expansion of Tozer's Landing. Motion carried.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Smith stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for July was made available to Council on August 12, 2024.

Chief Polzella stated the Fire Department is looking to purchase an enclosed trailer that will be placed on the equipment insurance with the Borough.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on August 07, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START – 7:36PM
STOP – 8:02PM

ADJOURN

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Smith that the meeting be adjourned at 8:02PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Tara R. Campbell, Secretary