MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on December 12, 2022 Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

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

Mayor Roupp led in the Salute to the Flag.

President Riley called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

President 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 devise please announce so at this time.

PRESS

No one present.

PUBLIC

No one present.

PRESIDENT RILEY

MONTHLY BILLS

It was moved by Molnar and seconded by Sporn that the December 2022 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$36,565.28**
Sewer Fund **$66,464.65**
Fire Fund **$670.29** – Loan Payment #34

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Sporn that the minutes of the regular meeting on November 14, 2022 be approved as written. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 722

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Williams that the Ordinance setting the tax rate for fiscal year 2023 be adopted as advertised on November 19, 2022. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 722

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ATHENS FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022.

SECTION NO. 1

That a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all property within the Borough of Athens subject to taxation for the Borough purposes for the fiscal year 2022 as follows:

General Purposes..... 18.75 mills

Library Purposes..... .25 mill

Fire Equipment Purposes..... 1.00 mills

Making a total tax rate of 20.00 mills for all Borough purposes on each dollar of assessed valuation.

ORDINANCE NO. 723

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Chaykosky that the Ordinance discontinuing contributions by either the Borough of Athens or the Police Force for the calendar year 2023 based on the Actuarial Valuation Report of the Police Pension Fund be adopted as advertised on November 19, 2022. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 723

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 22, POLICE PENSION FUND, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF ATHENS, COUNTY OF BRADFORD, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The Borough of Athens hereby ordains and enacts as follows:

Under Section 22-4, Contribution Rate of the Code of the Borough of Athens hereby deletes the following:

No contribution shall be required by either the Borough of Athens or the Police Force for the calendar year 2022 based on the Actuarial Valuation Report of the pension of the Police Pension fund.

Under Section 22-4, Contribution Rate of the Code of the Borough of Athens, hereby adds the following:

No contribution shall be required by either the Borough of Athens or the Police Force for the calendar year 2023 based on the Actuarial Valuation Report of the pension of the Police Pension Fund.

2023 BUDGET

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Chaykosky that the 2023 Budget be adopted. Motion carried.

2023 BUDGET

	2022	***2023***
1. General Fund	$1,733,130.00	$1,670,027.00
2. Library Fund	$ 12,500.00	$12,000.00
3. Street Maintenance Fund	$ 99,500.00	$99,400.00
4. Fire Equipment Fund	$ 50,000.00	$47,700.00
5. Sewer Revenue Fund	$1,042,550.00	$1,006,970.00
TOTAL	$2,937,680.00	$2,836,097.00

REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY

	2022	**2023**
1. General Fund	18.75 mills	18.75 mills
2. Fire Equipment Fund	1.00 mills	1.00 mills
3. Library Fund	.25 mills	.25 mills
TOTAL LEVY	20.00 mills	20.00 mills

SEWER RENT CHARGES

	2022	***2023***
1. Residential	$145.00/edu/quarter	$145.00/edu/quarter
2. Commercial/Public	$145.00/edu/quarter or $11.62/thousand gal water/quarter (whichever is greater)	$145.00/edu/quarter or $11.62/thousand gal water/quarter (whichever is greater)

ORDINANCE NO. 724

It was moved by Molnar and seconded by Sporn that the Code Adoption Ordinance as introduced by Mayor Roupp at the October 10, 2022 meeting be adopted as advertised on November 29, 2022. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 725

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that the Ordinance, Act 57 under the Local Tax Collection Law to allow for the waiver of the penalty for late payments of real estate taxes if the tax notice was not received be adopted as advertised on November 29, 2022. This new law is mandated by Governor Wolfe to protect new property owners who did not properly receive their tax bills during the first year after purchasing their homes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2022 – 3

It was moved by Molnar and seconded by Chaykosky that Resolution 2022 – 3, appointing Berkheimer as the local service tax collector for Athens Borough be adopted. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2022 – 4

It was moved by Molnar and seconded by Smith that Resolution 2022 – 4, authorizing Berkheimer to keep their costs for collection in addition to the commission of 1.75% of tax collected be adopted. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2022 – 5

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Smith that Resolution 2022 – 5, allowing Berkheimer to provide confidential information to the Secretary-Treasurer (Tara Campbell) and absolve them of any liability for disclosing this confidentiality be adopted. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2022 – 6

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Smith that Resolution 2022 – 6, allowing Berkheimer to serve as the Tax Hearing Officer for Athens Borough be adopted. Motion carried.

LOCAL SERVICE TAX AGREEMENT

It was moved be Chaykosky and seconded by Smith that the Local Service Tax Agreement between Athens Borough and Berkheimer Tax Administration be approved. Motion carried.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

No one called for an Executive Session.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Vice-President Molnar stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on December 08, 2022.

Month of November	Monthly Report	Total for the Year
106	Total Number of Calls:	1422
0	Felony Arrests:	4
0	Misdemeanor Arrests:	10
0	Non-Traffic Arrests:	9
0	Traffic Citations:	24
14	Traffic Reports:	187
6	Truancy Reports:	32
0	Parking Warnings:	13
0	Parking Tickets:	15
	Mileage	
39	2013 Tahoe	106,965 Overall
1,056	2017 Tahoe	73,655 Overall
711	2019 Tahoe	36,940 Overall
	District Court:	
11	Total Cases:	96
0	Criminal Cases:	18
1	Traffic Cases:	23
4	Non-traffic Cases:	20
0	PFA Violations:	3
6	Truancy Cases:	32

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

President Pro Tem Sporn stated:

The Shade Tree Commission met on November 21, 2022 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2022 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

HOMETOWN HERO BANNERS

The Borough Manager provided Council with options to keep the Hometown Hero Banner program active.

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Molnar with a Nay vote from Williams that Resolution No. 2022 – 7, fee schedule for the Hometown Hero Banner Program be adopted. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - 7

AND NOW, this 12th day of December, 2022, the Borough of Athens at a duly advertised meeting of the Borough Council adopts the foregoing Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Athens, is a body corporate and politic ex**i**sting by virtue of the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, (hereinafter referred to as "ATHENS BOROUGH"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Athens desires to schedule fees for the sale of a banner as part of the Hometown Heroes Banner Project. ;

WHEREAS, the Hometown Heroes Banner Program was developed to honor and recognize our local Veterans that have served and those currently serving active duty in the United States Military;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following schedule of fees shall be utilized in the administration of the Borough of Athens as follows:

Hometown Heroes Banner Program

Replacement Banner

Cost – a new banner plus lift rental fee $75.00

New Applicant

Cost – banner, bracket plus lift rental fee $185.00

Old Banner to Applicant

There will be no charge to return the old banner to the applicant

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Athens Borough Council on December 12, 2022, approves the foregoing Resolution as set forth above to be effective on January 01, 2023.

RESOLVED AND ENACTED this 12th day of December, 2022.

SHADE TREE REMOVAL

The Borough Manager notified Council of 17 shade trees that have been removed by the Electric Company due to the trees being a hindrance to power lines.

Council held a brief discussion regarding the removal of the stumps left behind on our homeowners' properties. The Borough Manager was requested to seek grant funding to help our homeowners with the cost of the stump removal.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Council member Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on December 01, 2022.

APPOINMENT TO CLASS D, SKILLED LABORER

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Chaykosky that Public Works Department Class D Laborer Tyler Bauman be appointed to the newly classified Class D Skilled Laborer position, effective January 01, 2022. Motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Council member Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on December 06, 2022.

Zoning Permits Issued: 1
Zoning Permits Denied: 0
Zoning Permits to Date: 38

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2022): 102

Contractor Permits through 12/01/2022:

Issued: 105 Pending: 7 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Committee will meet with Matt Williams, Director of Planning and Public Safety at 6:00PM on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 to discuss the Borough comprehensive plan.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Smith stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for November was made available to Council on December 12, 2022.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on December 09, 2022.

SR 199 PROJECT

The Borough Manager stated briefly that there will be an upcoming meeting scheduled with PennDOT, Matt Williams and Tina Pickett regarding the SR 199 Project.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that the meeting be adjourned at 7:26PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

_____
Tara R. Campbell, Secretary