MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on February 12, 2024, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

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

President Riley 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 Williams and seconded by Sporn that the February 2024 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$44,118.01**
Sewer Fund **$91,210.44**
Fire Fund **$596.61** – Loan Payment #50

AYES: Chaykosky, Patton, 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 January 08, 2024 be approved as written. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE No. 728

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Polzella that Ordinance No. 728, an amendment to Chapter 102, Tax Collector Salaries and Compensation as advertised on February 03, 2024 be adopted. Motion carried with a Nay from Smith.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Vice-President Sporn stated:

The Shade Tree Commission met on January 17, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is on February 21, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

Athens Borough has been awarded the 2024 Bare Root Tree Grant that will fund 30 shade trees to be planted throughout the Borough.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

President Pro Tem Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on February 07, 2024.

Zoning Permits Issued: 2
Zoning Permits Denied: 1
Zoning Permits to Date: 1

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2024): 61

Contractor Permits through 01/31/2024

Issued: 7 Pending: 0 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on January 17, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is on February 14, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

SOLAR PANELS

Council was made aware that there are a couple residential structures that contain solar panels in the Borough. Solicitor Foster advised that solar panels fall under conditional use so these particular residents need to apply for a conditional use hearing. Solicitor Foster was advised by Council to prepare a draft ordinance that details the specifics for allowing solar panels in the Borough.

FLOOD PLAIN ORDINANCE

The Borough Manager presented Council with the updated Flood Plain Ordinance for review.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Council Member Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on February 05, 2024.

2024 PAVING PROJECT

Council held a brief discussion regarding the 2024 paving project. The Borough Manager will look into putting a street sealing project together as Council decided to remove one of the streets from the paving project.

It was moved by Polzella and seconded by Chaykosky that the Borough Manager be authorized to advertise the 2024 paving project consisting of milling 3" of material and replacing 3" of 19.00mm asphalt on Satterlee Street from Maple Street to S. Main Street and North Street from S. Main Street to Agnes Street. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 729

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Polzella that Ordinance No. 729, the ordinance amendment to Chapter 418, Sewers, for the Tapping Fees as advertised on February 03, 2024 be adopted. Motion carried.

BOROUGH OF ATHENS ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER NO. 418, SEWERS, PART 2 RATES, RULES AND REGULATIONS, ARTICLE IX TAPPING FEE 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 Article IX Tapping Fee, Section 418-50 Notice; amount of fee of the Code of the Borough of Athens hereby deletes the following:

Upon the completion of said section of the sewer system constructed by the Authority, the Borough or others, the Borough shall give notice to all owners required to connect to such section to connect thereto and shall advise owners not required to connect of their opportunity to do so. Each such owner who shall apply for a connection permit within120 days of the date of such notice shall pay a tapping fee of $500.

Under Article IX Tapping Fee, Section 418-50 Notice; amount of fee of the Code of the Borough of Athens hereby adds the following:

Upon the completion of said section of the sewer system constructed by the Authority, the Borough or others, the Borough shall give notice to all owners required to connect to such section to connect thereto and shall advise owners not required to connect of their opportunity to do so. Each such owner who shall apply for a connection permit within 120 days of the date of such notice shall pay a tapping fee based on the actual cost of installing the tapping in the line; the Borough will obtain three quotations for installing the tapping in the line with the fee will be the actual cost of the lowest estimate.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Council Member Patton stated:

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

Monthly Report

Month of December		Total for the Year
132	Total Number of Calls:	132
1	Felony Arrests:	1
1	Misdemeanor Arrests:	1
1	Non-Traffic Arrests:	1
3	Traffic Citations:	3
17	Traffic Reports:	17
6	Truancy Reports:	6
3	Parking/Tickets Warnings:	3
1	PFA Violations	1
	Mileage:	
722	2017 Tahoe	84,077 Overall
544	2019 Tahoe	46,858 Overall
1,659	2023 Tahoe	4,484 Overall

	District Court:	
7	Total Cases:	7
1	Criminal Cases:	1
0	Traffic Cases:	0
0	Non-traffic Cases:	0
7	Truancy	7

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

ATHENS PARK – LITTLE LEAGUE AGREEMENT

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that the 5 year agreement with the Athens Little League granting them exclusive use of the Athens Park field be approved. The agreement would be from April 01, 2024 to July 01, 2024 for 5 years through 2028. The Athens Little League will be making temporary improvements to the field that will enhance safety for the players and fans. Motion carried.

PENNSYLVANIA RECREATION and PARK SOCIETY REC TAP GRANT

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that the Borough Manager be authorized to submit a grant application to the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Rec Tap. The grant funding would be used to hire the services of a firm that would assist in the preparation of plans to develop the Athens Park and field areas and into the park and recreation facilities. Motion carried.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Smith stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for January was made available to Council on February 05, 2024.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on February 12, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START – 7:37PM
STOP – 8:36PM

ADJOURN

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Williams that the meeting be adjourned at 8:36PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

_____
Tara R. Campbell, Secretary