MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on February 09, 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, Scott Riley, Sharon Sporn and Mayor Todd Babcock.

Mayor Todd Babcock 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

No one present wished to address Council.

PRESIDENT PATTON

MONTHLY BILLS

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

General Fund **$49,525.33**
Sewer Fund **$68,777.99**
Fire Fund **$402.00** – Loan Payment #78

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Riley that the minutes of the regular meeting on January 12, 2026 be approved as written. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA BOARD

It was moved by Polzella and seconded by Sporn that Oscar Johnson be appointed to the Agricultural Security Area Board for a four year term ending on December 31, 2029. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO THE CODE REVIEW BOARD

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Cotton that Jeff Gallick be appointed to the Code Review Board for a five year term ending December 31, 2030. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Chaykosky that Pat Cotton be appointed to the P&Z Commission for a four year term ending December 31, 2029. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO THE PENSION FUND BOARD

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Chaykosky that Duane Phillips be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Pension Fund Board with term ending on December 31, 2028. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 2

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that Resolution No. 2026 – 2, authorizing Real Estate Tax Collector Andrea Gentile to impose and retain cost of providing a duplicate real estate tax bill be adopted. Motion carried with a nay from Council member Chaykosky.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 2

A RESOLUTION OF ATHENS BOROUGH, BRADFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND EMPOWERING ITS REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR, ANDREA GENTILE, TO IMPOSE AND RETAIN COSTS OF PROVIDING A DUPLICATE REAL ESTATE TAX BILL.

WHEREAS, ATHENS BOROUGH, BRADFORD COUNTY, by Ordinance, has levied, assessed and provided for the collection of certain real estate taxes under and pursuant to the authority of 72 P.S. Section 5511.1-5511.42.

WHEREAS, ATHENS BOROUGH, BRADFORD COUNTY, has appointed Andrea Gentile to collect said taxes levied by ATHENS BOROUGH, BRADFORD COUNTY, including taxes that are or may become delinquent; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to72 P.S. 5536 b. (a) and (b), Andrea Gentile, Tax Collector has the right to impose a cost of $10.00 per duplicate tax bill requested by taxpayers, real estate companies, and/or mortgage companies or any other party;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ATHENS BOROUGH, BRADFORD COUNTY APPROVES AND ADOPTS the Cost per duplicate tax bill imposed by Andrea Gentile, Tax Collector upon any taxpayer, real estate company, and/or mortgage company, or any other party. Andrea Gentile, Tax Collector is authorized to retain said costs per duplicate tax bill requested.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 3

It was moved by Riley and seconded by Polzella that Resolution No. 2026-3, appointing tax delegates as Earned Income Tax Collection Committee representatives be adopted. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2026 – 3

Athens Borough

Bradford County TCC Voting Delegate Appointment Resolution

Background. Act 32 § 505(b) **requires** the governing bodies of school districts, townships, boroughs, and cities that impose an earned income tax to appoint one voting delegate and one or more alternate delegates to be their Tax Collection Committee (TCC) representatives. The purpose of this resolution is to appoint the required delegates. The appointed individuals have consented to appointment.

RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Borough of Athens, that the following individuals are appointed as TCC delegates for the Borough of Athens:

1. Primary voting delegate (name & address, phone number and email address): _____

   Walter Chaykosky 622 S Main Street Athens PA

   570 888 4331 waltchaykosky@athensboroughpa.org

2. First alternate voting delegate (name & address, phone number and email address):_____

   Robert Williams 215 Chestnut Street Athens PA 18810

   607 765 1028 robertwilliams@athensboroughpa.org

3. Second alternate voting delegate (name & address, phone number and email address): __

   Tara R Campbell 2 S River Street Athens PA 18810

   570 423 0219 taracampbell@athensboroughpa.org

4. If the primary voting delegate cannot be present for a TCC meeting, the first alternate voting delegate shall be the representative at the TCC meeting. If both the primary voting delegate and the first alternate voting delegate cannot be present for a TCC meeting, the second alternate voting delegate shall be the representative at the TCC meeting.

5. These appointments are effective immediately and shall continue until successors are appointed. Delegates shall be appointed each year in December or January at the organization meeting or as soon thereafter as possible. All delegates shall serve at the pleasure of this governing body and may be removed at any time.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice-President Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on February 06, 2026.

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

Customer Requests: 8

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2026): 31

Contractor Permits:

Issued: 9 Pending: 0 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on April 08, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

SOLAR PANEL DRAFT ORDINANCE

Solicitor Foster confirmed changes with Council for the draft ordinance and tabled this topic until the March meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

President Pro Tem Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on February 02, 2026.

2026-2027 COSTARS SALT CONTRACT

It was moved by Riley and seconded by Chaykosky that the 2026-2027 Costars Salt Participation Agreement be approved. Motion carried.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Council Member Sporn stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on February 06, 2026.

Monthly Report

Month of January		Total for the Year 2026
110	Total Number of Calls:	110
0	Felony Arrests:	0
14	Misdemeanor Arrests:	14
1	Non-Traffic Arrests:	1
6	Traffic Citations:	6
27	Traffic/ Parking Reports:	27
0	Truancy Reports:	0
3	PFA Violations	3
0	Parking Tickets/Warnings	0
	Mileage:	
324	2017 Tahoe	101,475 Overall
660	2019 Tahoe	64,048 Overall
565	2023 Tahoe	31,885 Overall
	District Court:	
3	Criminal Cases:	3
8	Traffic Cases:	8
5	Non-traffic Cases:	5
0	Truancy	0
16	Total Cases:	16

POLICE PENSION ACT 49 OF 2024

Council held a brief discussion in reference to the Police Pension Act 49 of 2024 which would allow vested police officers to purchase up to five years of pension service credit for prior part-time or full-time police service. The act aims to enhance recruitment and retention of police officers. The Pension Administrators with Girard are currently drafting the ordinance for Council review.

PATROL OFFICER SPONSORSHIP

Council held a lengthy discussion on the possibility of sponsoring candidates to the Police Academy to obtain the Act 120 Certification. The Civil Service Commission received six applications for potential hire contingent upon successfully completing the Civil Service Process but Act 120 Certification has not been obtained by those six candidates. Council member Sporn made a motion to approve the sponsorship of two candidates but further discussion occurred and the motion was rescinded with the request for more information to be provided to Council.

Council also discussed hiring two officers from a neighboring department on a per diem or casual basis contingent upon wording and confirmation from the Teamsters Union Rep.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Council member Riley stated:

SHADE TREE

The Shade Tree Commission met on January 19, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

2026 TREE PENNSYLVANIA SPRING BARE ROOT TREE GRANT

The Shade Tree Committee and the Borough Manager have completed and submitted the 2026 Tree Pennsylvania Spring Bare Root Tree Grant Application.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Cotton stated:

The Fire Department’s monthly report for January was made available to Council on February 06, 2026.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor’s report was made available to Council on February 06, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START: 7:51PM
STOP: 8:01PM

ADJOURN

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Williams that the meeting be adjourned at 8:01PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

_____
Tara R. Campbell, Secretary