MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on July 10, 2023 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 and Robert Williams.

Absent: 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

The Sayre Morning Times were present but not recording.

PUBLIC

Deb Allen, Lois Lane addressed Council with her concerns of the proposed mining project to be located in Athens Township. Council advised that they had not received communication from Athens Township Supervisors or PennDOT in regards to this proposed project but would be open for discussions with them.

PRESIDENT RILEY

MONTHLY BILLS

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Smith that the July 2023 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$188,078.59**
Sewer Fund **$86,271.81**
Fire Fund **$22.34** – balance of Loan Payment #41
Fire Fund **$664.27** – Loan Payment #42
Fire Fund **$25,000** – Loan Payment #43 – Principle

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Polzella that the minutes of the regular meeting on June 12, 2023 be approved as written. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2023 – 3 ELECTRONIC COLLECTION OF SEWER RENTS

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Molnar that Resolution 2023 – 3 for the electronic collection of sewer rents be approved with a potential $25,000 of processing payments and a 5% fee to Residents. Council member Chaykosky voted nay. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 3

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF ATHENS BOROUGH, BRADFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING, EMPOWERING AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MERCHANT PAY CONNECT POWERED BY NUVEI WHEREUNDER MERCHANT PAY CONNECT POWERED BY NUVEI IS RETAINED TO PROCESS AND COLLECT ELECTRONIC MUNICIPAL SEWER PAYMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH.

WHEREAS, **ATHENS BOROUGH, BRADFORD COUNTY,** by Ordinance, has levied, assessed and provided for the collection of Municipal Sewer payments; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Athens Borough have requested the ability to pay their sewer bill electronically through an online payment system; and

WHEREAS, the Athens Borough Council has determined it to be in the best interest of the Borough to establish a Merchant Services Account with **MERCHANT PAY CONNECT POWERED BY NUVEI** to facilitate the collection of electronic municipal sewer payments through the online payment system; and

THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED** that

1. **ATHENS BOROUGH, BRADFORD COUNTY,** hereby **appoints MERCHANT PAY CONNECT POWERED BY NUVEI** as its online payment processor for municipal sewer payments and grants the authority to transact business, including but not limited to the maintenance of Processing Payments, checking account deposit reference and other accounts which include chargeback payments and refunds by the Borough. This is an optional online electronic payment processor with Borough residents maintaining the ability to pay their municipal sewer bill by non-electronic means such as cash, check or money order. Borough residents electing to use the electronic payment option will be responsible for any fees charged by Merchant Pay Connect powered by Nuvei. This appointment resolution shall be deemed to encompass any terms agreed upon by the parties without further reenactment of this resolution or re-appointment. This resolution may be repealed at any time consistent with the contractual terms between the parties.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Riley called for an Executive Session to discuss real estate.
Solicitor Foster Jr called for an Executive Session to discuss litigation.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Vice-President Molnar stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on July 06, 2023, 2023.

Monthly Report

Month of June		Total for the Year
134	Total Number of Calls:	897
1	Felony Arrests:	5
7	Misdemeanor Arrests:	12
1	Non-Traffic Arrests:	8
0	Traffic Citations:	1
17	Traffic Reports:	88
0	Truancy Reports:	45
1	Parking Warnings:	1
0	PFA Violations	4
0	Parking Tickets:	1
	Mileage:	
206	2013 Tahoe	107,603 Overall
293	2017 Tahoe	80,499 Overall
1369	2019 Tahoe	42,537 Overall
	District Court:	
7	Total Cases:	70
4	Criminal Cases:	9
1	Traffic Cases:	8
2	Non-traffic Cases:	8
0	Truancy	45

SHESHEQUIN HALF PATH MARATHON

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Sporn that the Annual Sheshequin Half Path Marathon scheduled for October 07, 2023 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

President Pro Tem Sporn stated:

The Shade Tree Commission met on June 14, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled on July 19, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Council member Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on July 03, 2023.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Council member Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on July 03, 2023.

Zoning Permits Issued: 1
Zoning Permits Denied: 0
Zoning Permits to Date: 16

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2023): 21

Contractor Permits through 06/01/2023:

Issued: 71 Pending: 5 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a workshop on June 21, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Athens High School Cafeteria. Their next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council member Chaykosky stated:

DIAHOGA TRAIL REPAIR

The ADA ramp wall on the Diahoga Trail will be repaired by Mayo and Sons Masonry.

PARK RENTAL – ATHENS WILDCATS YOUTH FOOTBALL

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Molnar that the request from the Athens Wildcats Youth Football Organization for the use of the ball field within the Athens Park be approved from August 01, 2023 to October 31, 2023. Motion carried.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Smith stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for June was made available to Council on July 10, 2023.

MAYOR

President Riley stated:

On June 16, 2023 Mayor Roupp participated in the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting for the new print shop, Allis Griffin Printing located at 326 S Main Street.

On June 30, 2023 Mayor Roupp participated in the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting for the new shop D&M Bait & Sporting store located at 122 Susquehanna Street.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on July 10, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START – 7:44PM
STOP – 8:30PM

PROPOSED GRAVEL MINE – ATHENS TOWNSHIP

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that Solicitor Foster Jr be authorized to send a letter to Athens Township Supervisors to portray Athens Borough's lack of support of the proposed gravel mine proposed by Bishop Brothers Construction. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Williams that the meeting be adjourned at 8:32PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

_____
Tara R. Campbell, Secretary