MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on July 13, 2026, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

Present: President Matthew Patton, Vice-President Joanne Polzella, Council members Walter Chaykosky, Patrick Cotton, Scott Riley, Sharon Sporn and Mayor Todd Babcock.

Absent: President Pro Tem Robert Williams.

President Matthew Patton 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

The Morning Times announced they were recording the meeting.

PUBLIC

Dale Bowen, 203 Bridge Street, addressed Council with his concern over the free parking Athens Borough allows in the Municipal parking lot downtown. He stated he finds it very annoying that several apartment owners/renters park there for free along with people living on Elmira Street. He stated the Borough is responsible for the maintenance of that parking lot and there should be a fee to utilize it. Mr. Bowen stated that nothing is free in this world and that the parking lot is being overrun by landlords and tenants. He stated that as a landlord himself, he provides his tenants with off street parking. Mr. Bowen would like this problem to be addressed.

Mr. Bowen also questioned Council's reasoning behind authorizing a change to the Zoning Ordinance to allow apartments above garages in the residential districts. He is wondering who initiated the change and brought it to Councils attention. He is curious as to what the deciding factor was that has Council changing a Zoning Ordinance so quickly.

Third, Mr. Bowen stated that he has previously sent numerous letters to Council but Council has yet to discuss his letters as a whole. He is questioning if Council is holding side bars and discussing his letters and stated he respects President Patton for his responses thus far. Mr. Bowen is questioning if 216 Central Avenue has been addressed and that he has not been informed of the status of the issues mentioned in his letters.

President Patton stated Council will look into the Municipal parking lot concern.

President Patton stated that each issue in Mr. Bowen letters gets distributed to the department responsible and is addressed accordingly.

Mr. Bowen asked to address Council again stating that he has asked Joanne Polzella as she is in charge of the Code and Zoning, about why his concerns in his letters are not being addressed. He stated Ms. Polzella's response before she quit talking to him was that she didn't know who was taking care of the issues in his letters and that even if she did know, she couldn't tell him. Mr. Bowen stated that if he needs to file a Right to Know Act, he will. He is concerned that his issues in the letters should be addressed by Council as a whole especially 216 Central Avenue but he knows nothing has been discussed.

President Patton thanked Mr. Bowen for his time.

Ben Hoke, 314 S Main Street, Staggering Unicorn, stated on behalf of the Athens Business Association he'd like to give Council information regarding the Fall Festival the ABA is hosting. The ABA's goal is to utilize Teaoga Square and provide space for live music, 16 vendors and two food trucks so far. ABA is requesting to use a small portion of the parking area behind Staggering Unicorn for vendors to set up. Mr. Hoke stated that ABA has requested that Chief Dieg look into closing down Central Avenue from 12:00PM to 4:00PM. ABA is in hopes to have 100 vendors signed up to help bring in a large crowd as last year they estimated under 500 people attended after the parade. Mr. Hoke stated a final request, asking if Athens Borough would like and share the ABA's Facebook posts to help promote the Fall Festival.

President Patton requested ABA keep in communication with Chief Dieg over the parking to make sure it gets worked out.

PRESIDENT PATTON

MONTHLY BILLS

It was moved by Polzella and seconded by Riley that the July 2026 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$127.543.41**
Sewer Fund **$4.472.72**
Fire Fund **$25,000** – Loan Payment #84
Fire Fund **$357.52** – Loan Payment #85

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Riley that the minutes of the regular meeting on June 08, 2026 be approved as written. Motion carried.

VETERAN'S EXEMPTION

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Cotton that the Veteran's Exemption request of Harry W. Wright, 768 S Main Street be approved. The Bradford County Commissioners granted the exempt status on June 11, 2026. Motion carried.

VETERAN'S EXEMPTION

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Riley that the Veteran's Exemption request of David H. Madden, 704 Church Street be approved. The Bradford County Commissioners granted the exempt status on June 25, 2026. Motion carried.

VETERAN'S EXEMPTION

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Cotton that the Veteran's Exemption request of Arthur W. Henry, 222 Bridge Street be approved. The Bradford County Commissioners granted the exempt status on June 25, 2026. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 5 SECURITY POLICY

It was moved by Polzella and seconded by Sporn that Resolution No. 2026 – 5, the Information Security policy that was originally adopted at the June 08, 2026 meeting be rescinded. Motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice-President Polzella stated:

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

Zoning Permits Issued: 5
Zoning Permits Denied: 0
Zoning Permits to Date: 15

Customer Requests: 26

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2026): 154

Contractor Permits:

Issued: 59 Pending: 4 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on July 08, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting will be on October 14, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

R1 ZONING

Solicitor Foster is drafting the ordinance amendment to allow the construction of apartments above garages in all zoning districts.

SOLAR PANEL DRAFT ORDINANCE

The Ordinance will be advertised for adoption at the August meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

President Patton stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on July 06, 2026.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Council Member Sporn stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on July 01, 2026.

Monthly Report

Month of June		Total for the Year 2026
174	Total Number of Calls:	761
0	Felony Arrests:	3
4	Misdemeanor Arrests:	33
3	Non-Traffic Arrests:	17
8	Traffic Citations:	35
64	Traffic/ Parking Reports:	171
0	Truancy Reports:	0
2	PFA Violations	17
0	Parking Tickets/Warnings	0
	Mileage:	
258	2017 Tahoe	102,628 Overall
1205	2019 Tahoe	67,904 Overall
900	2023 Tahoe	35,872 Overall
	District Court:	
1	Criminal Cases:	19
4	Traffic Cases:	33
3	Non-traffic Cases:	22
0	Truancy	0
8	Total Cases:	74

E-SCOOTERS / E-BIKES ENFORCEMENT

Council held a discussion regarding E-Scooters and E-Bikes, mentioning the neighboring municipalities that have passed Ordinances to help with the enforcement of safety measures of users.

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Riley that Solicitor Foster be authorized to draft an Ordinance to be reviewed prior to the August 10, 2026 meeting.

POLICE RMS PROGRAM

Mayor Babcock and Chief Dieg provided Council with an update on the Police RMS Program. It was explained that Central Square has breached the contract, data isn't transferring correctly or successfully and that the Athens Borough Police and IT Departments have put more time and resources into getting the RMS program going. Chief stated there is a meeting pending to discuss the options of moving forward with Central Square or to change course to a different system.

SPECIAL DUTY COMENSATION MOU

Council briefly heard the concerns from Council member Sporn and Chief Dieg regarding the Special Duty Compensation MOU and were advised by Solicitor Foster to move the discussion to Executive Session.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Council member Riley stated:

SHADE TREE

The Shade Tree Commission met on June 15, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Cotton stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for June was made available to Council on July 07, 2026.

The rescue boat is back in service after having the motor replaced.
The new rescue truck is also in service.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report for June was made available to Council on July 07, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

START: 7:33PM
STOP: 8:10PM

SPECIAL DUTY COMPENSATION PAY

It was moved by Riley and seconded by Sporn that special duty pay be reimbursed to Employee A at the overtime rate of $57.21 per hour for the 10.5 hours of service previously worked. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Riley that the meeting be adjourned at 8:11PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Tara R. Campbell, Secretary