MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on July 14, 2025, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

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

Mayor Francis Roupp III led in the Salute to the Flag.

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

President Scott 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 device, please announce so at this time.

PRESS

The Sentinal announced they were tape recording the meeting.

PUBLIC

Josh Rumpff, 401 N Main Street, formerly of 201 Ferry Street address Council with a concern regarding the excessive use of fireworks in the Borough. He stated he would like for Council to update their noise ordinance or specifically draft a fireworks ordinance that residents have to adhere to and one that can be enforced by the police department. Mr. Rumpff also stated that the noise ordinance is very vague and would like it to be updated to avoid construction starting too early in the morning. Mr. Rumpff stated that the PennDot crew would show up and start work before 6:00AM during the SR 199 N Main Street Improvement Project.

President Riley stated that the Borough Council has received complaints regarding the fireworks use in the Borough over the last couple of years and that Council will look into the possibility of a fireworks ordinance as well as reviewing the noise ordinance for any needed updates.

Tim Brown, 604 First Street, also addressed Council with a concern regarding fireworks and requests Council look into updating current ordinances. Mr. Brown brought up another concern of water backing up onto First Street, mentioning the grates being full of dirt. The Borough Manager stated that the Public Works Department will be informed to look into this. Mr. Brown's last concern was the weed control on N. River Street. He is wondering if tax payers' money is being used when the Borough crew attends to the weeds along the railroad. The Borough Manager explained that the Borough is responsible for the right of way and that the railroad has been spraying the knotweed too. The Borough Manager stated it's a constant issue each year.

PRESIDENT RILEY

MONTHLY BILLS

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Smith that the July 2025 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$93,878.66**
Sewer Fund **$3,878.82**
Fire Fund **$498.60** – Loan Payment #70
Fire Fund **$25,000** – Loan Payment # 71
Library Fund **$9,871.74**

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Smith that the minutes of the regular meeting on June 09, 2025 be approved as written. Motion carried.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Riley called for an Executive Session to discuss a possible litigation for the Bridge Street Zoning Variance Request.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Vice-President Sporn stated:

SHADE TREE

The Shade Tree Commission met on June 16, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is July 21, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

President Pro Tem Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on July 10, 2025.

Zoning Permits Issued: 7
Zoning Permits Denied: 1
Zoning Permits to Date: 21

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2025): 132

Contractor Permits:

Issued: 78 Pending: 4 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on July 09, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled on October 08, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

Council member Polzella stated that the P&Z Committee would like to have the Code/Zoning Officer attend their next meeting in October.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Council Member Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on July 08, 2025.

ASPHALT RESTORATION AGREEMENT

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Sporn that the joint construction agreement between Aqua PA and Athens Borough regarding the asphalt restoration for Edward St., Judge Herrick St., Locust St., Central Ave., Chestnut St. and Bridge St. be approved. Motion carried.

Council member Chaykosky questioned curbing, especially on Edward Street and inquired about it being included in this project. The Borough Manager stated that it will be discussed with Aqua.

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Smith that the Borough Manager be authorized to advertise the Athens Borough Paving Project # 2 consisting of Edward St., Judge Herrick St., Locust St., Central Ave., Chestnut St. and Bridge St. Motion carried.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Council Member Patton stated:

CIVIL SERVICE LIST

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Williams that Civil Service Commission be authorized to proceed with the Civil Service Process in creating a list of Police Officers eligible for hire. Motion carried.

TRUCK ORDINANCE

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Chaykosky that Solicitor Foster be authorized to draft a truck ordinance based off of Council comments and the completion of the traffic study. Motion carried.

NO PARKING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Solicitor Foster is preparing the draft ordinance amendment based on Council's suggestions.

FIRE COMMITTEE

President Riley stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for June was made available to Council on July 10, 2025.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on July 11, 2025.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START: 7:20PM
STOP: 7:22PM

ADJOURN

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Sporn that the meeting be adjourned at 7:23PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

_____
Tara R. Campbell, Secretary