MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on June 08, 2026, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

Present: President Matthew Patton, Vice-President Joanne Polzella, President Pro Tem Robert Williams, Council members Walter Chaykosky, Scott Riley, Sharon Sporn and Mayor Todd Babcock.

Absent: Council members Patrick Cotton.

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

Robert Wilkinson, 110 Chestnut Street, introduced himself to Council as the Constable of Athens Borough's 2nd Ward informing Council of the obstruction to the election polls at Chemung View Apartments on May 19th. Mr. Wilkinson stated the construction on Agnes Street had the roads around the facility closed, making access to voting restricted.

President Patton asked what streets were closed that restricted access to the election polls for voting. Mr. Wilkinson stated Chestnut Street and North Street were closed for construction. Mayor Babcock stated the streets were not closed to residents and the construction company had been notified about the traffic and were requested to make sure residents in the area had access to Chemung View Apartments.

Mr. Wilkinson also informed Council that no poll workers had been present at the start of the election on May 19th. Mayor Babcock stated he would like to discuss this issue with Council during the meeting.

Dale Bowen, 203 Bridge Street, presented Council with a letter as proof that Athens Borough is letting residents build over what their land coverage allows on their property and that it is in violation of the Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Bowen also wanted to bring to Council's attention that he had witnessed the Public Works Department truck and employees at the coffee truck on Elmira Street for 35 minutes. Mr. Bowen stated that as a taxpayer he is concerned about the workers taking up time outside of the Borough and not completing tasks. President Patton stated that he will address this with the employees but that the office has not had any complaints of lack of activity or work not being completed.

PRESIDENT PATTON

MONTHLY BILLS

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

General Fund **$56,130.54**
Sewer Fund **$87,604.93**
Fire Fund **$369.44** – Loan Payment #83
Library Fund **$9,518.77**

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Riley that the minutes of the regular meeting on May 11, 2026 be approved as written. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 5 SECURITY POLICY

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Riley that Resolution No. 2026 – 5, the Information Security policy be adopted. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 6 CITIZENS' CONCERNS POLICY

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Williams that Resolution No. 2026 – 6, the Citizens' Concerns policy be adopted. Motion carried with a nay from Polzella.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice-President Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on June 03, 2026.

Zoning Permits Issued: 1
Zoning Permits Denied: 0
Zoning Permits to Date: 10

Customer Requests: 136

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2026): 121

Contractor Permits:

Issued: 46 Pending: 4 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

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

R1 ZONING

Council held a brief discussion regarding the current R1 zoning ordinance that states the construction of an apartment above a garage is a conditional use. Council made note that more residents are wanting to construct an apartment above their garage and the current ordinance needs to be clarified to allow apartments above garages. Robert Wilkinson from the Public, asked what Council will do for the ones already existing.

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn to authorize Solicitor Foster to draft an ordinance amendment to allow the construction of apartments above garages in all zoning districts. Motion carried.

SOLAR PANEL DRAFT ORDINANCE

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

President Pro Tem Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on June 03, 2026.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Council Member Sporn stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on June 03, 2026.

Monthly Report

Month of May		Total for the Year 2026
113	Total Number of Calls:	587
0	Felony Arrests:	3
2	Misdemeanor Arrests:	29
3	Non-Traffic Arrests:	14
8	Traffic Citations:	27
21	Traffic/ Parking Reports:	107
0	Truancy Reports:	0
6	PFA Violations	15
0	Parking Tickets/Warnings	0
	Mileage:	
222	2017 Tahoe	102,370 Overall
743	2019 Tahoe	66,699 Overall
923	2023 Tahoe	34,972 Overall
	District Court:	
2	Criminal Cases:	18
8	Traffic Cases:	29
3	Non-traffic Cases:	19
0	Truancy	0
13	Total Cases:	66

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING – CADET ACADEMY SPONSORSHIP

It was moved by Polzella and seconded by Riley that the letter of understanding between Athens Borough and Teamsters Local Union #118 regarding the Cadet Academy Sponsorship be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Council member Riley stated:

SHADE TREE

The Shade Tree Commission met on May 18, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled for June 15 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

BRADFORD COUNTY PROPOSED EMS SUSTAINABILITY FUNDING GRANT

Greater Valley EMS held an open house and discussion session on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6:00PM to discuss and answer questions regarding the EMS Sustainability Program.

BRADFORD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION PROPOSED SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – DATA CENTERS

Solicitor Foster sent a letter of Council's concerns to the Bradford County Commissioners.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Council member Chaykosky stated:

DIAHOGA TRAIL REPAIRS

The Endless Mountain Heritage Region has awarded Futurescapes $4,400 for the fence repair and trail surface maintenance. The mini-grant funding is financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) and the Heritage Areas Program Fund.

FIRE COMMITTEE

President Patton stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for May was made available to Council on June 05, 2026.

MAYOR

Mayor Babcock Swore in Per Diem Officer, Carter Pries on June 08, 2026.

Mayor Babcock stated the newly sponsored cadet has started his training at Mansfield Academy.

VOTING POLL ISSUE/ELECTION LOCATIONS

Mayor Babcock stated that he checked on the voting poll issue at Chemung View Apartments on May 19th and no official complaints had been reported. Mayor Babcock stated that he has started his research into Athens Borough dissolving wards, wondering if four separate voting/election places are necessary and the role the constables have. Mayor Babcock stated Council should reach out to the Elections Office for better clarification and advice on moving forward. Robert Wilkinson from the Public spoke about Bradford County being sued over the High Constable and stated Mayor Babcock is not correct in his research. President Patton requested Mr. Wilkinson refrain from speaking during the Council meeting as Public Session had already taken place. Mayor Babcock restated that he would appreciate if Council will look into consolidating voting locations.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report for April was made available to Council on May 11, 2026.

The Solicitor's report for May was made available to Council on June 04, 2026.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that the meeting be adjourned at 7:30PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

_____
Tara R. Campbell, Secretary