MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on May 11, 2026, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

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

Absent: Council members Patrick Cotton and Scott Riley

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 a few topics. Mr. Bowen stated he has looked into the cost of purchasing an air compressor as a follow up from the Council discussion at last month's meeting and he's concerned that the cost is less than originally told to Council. The Borough Manager stated an update of the cost has been provided to Council.

Mr. Bowen stated he is opposed to the flashing light at SR 199. Council informed Mr. Bown that this is still in the planning phase.

Mr. Bowen reminded Council of the flooding issues on Longway Street and how the water is damaging driveways.

Mr. Bowen stated he is not happy that he hasn't received any response from Council regarding the letters he has dropped off at the Borough Hall. Mr. Bowen would like to see the Borough's five year plan that doesn't include raising taxes but instead somehow helps the elderly in the Community. Mr. Bowen stated the Borough has a lot of issues and one of them is the Public Works Department workers should be able to put in more than three signs a day.

President Patton addressed some of Mr. Bowen's concerns. President Patton stated the concerns in Mr. Bowen's letters are being looked into and some have been taken care of. President Patton stated the Council voted to allow the use of Borough vehicles to be utilize during employee breaks and lunch time. President Patton stated the fence and set back issues have been addressed.

President Patton informed Mr. Bowen of the Borough's Comprehensive Plan that outlines a ten year plan and that a committee spent a year requesting Community involvement in completing the plan.

Mr. Bowen then stated there's a concrete issue at a resident's on S Elmira Street, Aaron Wakely's property and that it needs to be addressed.

President Patton stated the Code Officer will look into the concrete issue on S Elmira Street and that the Borough Manager along with Council will look into the flooding/water issue on Longway Street.

Ben Hoke, Staggering Unicorn Owner at 314 S Main Street, presented Council with a list of scheduled events for downtown Athens coordinated by the Athens Business Association along with ABA's business cards, shall Council wish to contact an ABA member directly.

PRESIDENT PATTON

MONTHLY BILLS

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

General Fund **$40,437.93**
Sewer Fund **$68,835.40**
Fire Fund **$360.87** – Loan Payment #82

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Sporn that the minutes of the regular meeting on April 13, 2026 be approved as written. Motion carried.

SECURITY POLICY

Solicitor Foster provided Council with a draft Security Policy for review and possible adoption at the June 08, 2026 meeting.

VETERAN'S EXEMPTION

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Chaykosky that the Veteran's Exemption request of Jacob L Coyle, 106 Magnolia Street be approved. This exempt status was granted by the Bradford County Commissioners on March 02, 2026. Motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice-President Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on May 07, 2026.

Zoning Permits Issued: 3
Zoning Permits Denied: 0
Zoning Permits to Date: 9

Customer Requests: 23

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2026): 121

Contractor Permits:

Issued: 34 Pending: 2 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on May 14, 2026 at 5:30PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building to review, discuss and make a recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board regarding two Zoning Hearing Applications submitted to the Code/Zoning Officer.

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Hearing Board will hold a Zoning Hearing on May 27, 2026 at 5:00PM for a Multi-Family Housing, Special Use, zoning application to allow construction of a four unit single story building on the vacant lot located on the corner of N Main and E Cherry Streets.

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Hearing Board will hold a Zoning Hearing on May 27, 2026 at 5:30PM for a Special Exception, zoning application to allow two first floor residential apartments in the Business District located at 107 Central Avenue.

SOLAR PANEL DRAFT ORDINANCE

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Patton that Solicitor Foster be authorized to advertise the Solar Panel Ordinance for adoption at the June 08, 2026. Motion carried.

KALI'S MISSION

It was moved by Williams and seconded Chaykosky to authorize $1000 to Kali's Mission for the spaying and neutering of the feral cats in town. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

President Pro Tem Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on May 05, 2026.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Council Member Sporn stated:

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

Monthly Report

Month of April		Total for the Year 2026
122	Total Number of Calls:	474
0	Felony Arrests:	3
8	Misdemeanor Arrests:	27
3	Non-Traffic Arrests:	11
3	Traffic Citations:	19
19	Traffic/ Parking Reports:	86
0	Truancy Reports:	0
1	PFA Violations	9
0	Parking Tickets/Warnings	0
	Mileage:	
212	2017 Tahoe	102,148 Overall
796	2019 Tahoe	65,956 Overall
904	2023 Tahoe	34,049 Overall
	District Court:	
7	Criminal Cases:	16
3	Traffic Cases:	21
3	Non-traffic Cases:	16
0	Truancy	0
13	Total Cases:	53

APPLICANT A – POLICE ACADEMY

It was moved by Polzella and seconded by Chaykosky that Applicant A, selected from the Civil Service Process be approved to attend the Mansfield Police Academy beginning on May 26, 2026. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

President Patton stated:

SHADE TREE

The Shade Tree Commission met on April 20, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

BRADFORD COUNTY PROPOSED EMS SUSTAINABILITY FUNDING GRANT

Greater Valley EMS is hosting 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 advised Council that he has the draft letter completed and will send it out prior to the May 15, 2026 deadline.

FIRE COMMITTEE

President Patton stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for April was made available to Council on May 06, 2026.

FD LADDER TRUCK

Assistant Chief Chandler stated the Ladder Truck will be 20 years old in January 2027. The Chiefs and Council will need to start thinking about a replacement truck.

MAYOR

Council held a brief discussion regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for Applicant A in terms of the Police Academy Sponsorship. Mayor Babcock stated that he would like to see a commitment from the Borough to the candidate and a commitment from the candidate to the Borough. Solicitor Foster and Council member Chaykosky both stated they were satisfied with the draft MOU.

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Chaykosky that the MOU be approved and presented to Applicant A. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report for May was not made available to Council prior to the agenda being finalized on May 08, 2026. Council did receive the report via email on May 11, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START: 7:31PM
Council member Riley entered the meeting during Executive Session
STOP: 8:17PM

HALLOWEEN PARADE

Council circled back to the Halloween Parade information that was provided by Ben Hoke during Public Session. President Pro Tem Williams is questioning shutting down Main Street due to the PennDot liability and insurance issues. Council is curious about ABA hosting the Halloween Parade yearly the same way Sayre Borough hosts the Christmas Parade yearly.

FLASHING LIGHT AT SR199

Council member Sporn questioned the progress of the flashing light at SR199. Borough Manager Burgess stated the flashing light is still in the planning and funding phase.

TIOGA POINT MUSEUM – NATIVE AMERICAN REMAINS

Mayor Babcock addressed the council regarding the potential interest in the Tioga Point Museum's interest in identifying a local site for the repatriation of human remains and burial related artifacts in compliance with federal NAGPRA requirements. Potential local sites identified were the Old Athens Cemetery, Academy Park, and the grounds of the Tioga Point Museum. The final location will be determined in consultation with Native American Nations and Tribes and the National Park Service.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Williams that the meeting be adjourned at 8:28PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Tara R. Campbell, Secretary