MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on May 12, 2025, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

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

Mayor Roupp 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

No one present.

PUBLIC

No one present wished to address Council.

PRESIDENT RILEY

MONTHLY BILLS

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

General Fund **$85,187.50**
Sewer Fund **$68,102.22**
Fire Fund **$482.52** – Loan Payment #67

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Patton that the minutes of the regular meeting on April 14, 2025 be approved as written. Motion carried.

VETERAN'S TAX EXEMPTION

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Sporn that Veteran's Exemption request of Richard O'Dell, 632 S Main Street effective November 26, 2024 be approved. The Bradford County Commissioners granted the exempt status on March 27, 2025. Motion carried.

VETERAN'S TAX EXEMPTION

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Patton that Veteran's Exemption request of Judson D Wakely, 106 Magnolia Street effective February 10, 2025 be approved. The Bradford County Commissioners granted the exempt status on March 27, 2025. Motion carried.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Riley called for an Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Vice-President Sporn stated:

SHADE TREE

The Shade Tree Commission met on April 21, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is May 19, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

The Shade Tree Committee participated in the Arbor Day Celebration with the 4th grade classes at Lynch Bustin Elementary School on April 25, 2025.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

President Pro Tem Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on May 05, 2025.

Zoning Permits Issued: 3
Zoning Permits Denied: 1
Zoning Permits to Date: 10

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2025): 97

Contractor Permits:

Issued: 50 Pending: 2 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on July 09, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMNT BLOCK GRANT

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Patton that the subrecipient contract for the 2023 Community Development Block Grant be approved. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Council Member Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on May 05, 2025.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Council Member Patton stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on May 08, 2025.

Monthly Report

Month of April		Total for the Year 2025
150	Total Number of Calls:	519
4	Felony Arrests:	16
6	Misdemeanor Arrests:	33
1	Non-Traffic Arrests:	14
0	Traffic Citations:	18
24	Traffic/ Parking Reports:	98
0	Truancy Reports:	0
0	PFA Violations	3
0	Parking Tickets/Warnings	10

	Mileage:	
923	2017 Tahoe	95,083 Overall
720	2019 Tahoe	56,499 Overall
1,271	2023 Tahoe	23,926 Overall

	District Court:	
4	Criminal Cases:	21
0	Traffic Cases:	18
1	Non-traffic Cases:	18
0	Truancy	0
5	Total Cases:	57

TRUCK ORDINANCE

The Borough Manager stated he has a meeting set up with an LTAP Engineer to discuss the tractor trailer traffic study.

PARKING ORDINANCE

The Borough Manager stated the comment letters that were sent out for feedback from Residents have been returning. Council requested a tally of the results.

FIRE COMMITTEE

President Riley stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for April was made available to Council on May 08, 2025.

MAYOR ROUPP

Mayor Roupp contributed a proclamation to the Spalding Memorial Library for National Library Week in April.

2025 National Library Week Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Spalding Memorial Library sparks creativity, fuels imagination, and inspires lifelong learning, offering a space where individuals of all ages can explore new ideas and be drawn to new possibilities;

WHEREAS, the Spalding Memorial Library serves as a vibrant community hub, connecting people with knowledge, technology, and resources while fostering civic engagement with no-cost events like Petting Zoos, Egg Hunts, and initiatives that provide free books to our youth;

WHEREAS, the Spalding Memorial Library provides free and equitable access to books, digital resources, and technological innovations, ensuring that all individuals have the support they need to learn, connect, and thrive;

WHEREAS, the Spalding Memorial Library partners with schools in the Athens Area School District, as well as local businesses and sister organizations like the Tioga Point Museum to maximize resources, increase efficiency, and expand access to essential services, strengthening the entire community, from newborn to elderly alike;

WHEREAS, the Spalding Memorial Library's highly trained staff have worked to expand fluency in the digital literacy skills needed to navigate the evolving online world of the 21st century, including offering the loan of wireless hotspots and iPads;

WHEREAS, the Spalding Memorial Library nurtures young minds through Storytimes, STEM bookclubs, craft and build events, summer reading programs, and outreach offerings to ten (10) early learning centers throughout the Valley, fostering curiosity and a love of learning;

WHEREAS, the Spalding Memorial Library empowers job seekers, entrepreneurs, and lifelong learners by providing access to markets, resources, training, and volunteer opportunities that support career growth and economic success;

WHEREAS, getting a library card is a financially responsible action;

WHEREAS, the Spalding Memorial Library, its librarians, and library workers across the country are joining together to celebrate National Library Week under the theme **"Drawn to the Library"**;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Francis Roupp, Mayor of Athens Borough, National Library Week, April 6-12, 2025. During this week, I encourage all residents to visit the library and celebrate the opportunities available to us every day.

Francis Roupp III, Mayor, Athens Borough

Mayor Roupp participated in the Arbor Day Celebration with the 4th grade classes at Lynch Bustin Elementary School on April 25, 2025.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas and beautify our community, and
Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

Now, Therefore, I, Francis Roupp III, Mayor of the Borough of Athens, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2025 as ARBOR DAY in the Borough of Athens and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on May 09, 2025.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START: 7:11PM
STOP: 8:00PM

ADJOURN

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Smith that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Tara R. Campbell, Secretary