MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on May 13, 2024, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

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

President Riley led in the Salute to the Flag.

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

President 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.

PRESIDENT RILEY

MONTHLY BILLS

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Patton that the May 2024 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$46,421.36**
Sewer Fund **$160,004.34**
Fire Fund **$13,645.11** – Loan Payment #53 - Grant
$596.60 – Loan Payment #54

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Chaykosky that the minutes of the regular meeting on April 08, 2024 be approved as written. Motion carried.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

President Riley stated:

The Shade Tree Commission met on April 15, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is on May 20, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

Council held a brief discussion to offer brush removal/debris cleanup as a service for Spring and/or Fall each year. The Borough Manager explained that he has had a discussion with Sayre Borough Manager Dave Jarrett about their collection site taking on brush/debris from Athens Borough. We are currently awaiting a quote from Sayre Borough.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

President Pro Tem Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on May 08, 2024.

Zoning Permits Issued: 2
Zoning Permits Denied: 1
Zoning Permits to Date: 11

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2024): 99

Contractor Permits through 04/30/2024

Issued: 45 Pending: 6 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on May 08, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is on June 12, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

President Pro Tem Polzella stated the Planning and Zoning Commission is hoping to have a draft of the updated comprehensive plan sent to Council in July.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

President Riley stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on May 09, 2024.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Council Member Patton stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on May 08, 2024.

Monthly Report

Month of April		Total for the Year
132	Total Number of Calls:	543
0	Felony Arrests:	11
3	Misdemeanor Arrests:	13
8	Non-Traffic Arrests:	6
3	Traffic Citations:	8
9	Traffic/Parking Reports:	55
0	Truancy Reports:	16
1	PFA Violations	7
5	Parking Tickets/Warnings	19
	Mileage:	
1,588	2017 Tahoe	86,107 Overall
666	2019 Tahoe	47,766 Overall
1,076	2023 Tahoe	7,848 Overall
	District Court:	
3	Criminal Cases:	13
5	Traffic Cases:	10
8	Non-traffic Cases:	13
0	Truancy	16
16	Total Cases	52

NO PARKING 3AM TO 6AM

The Borough Manager and Chief of Police will be reviewing the entire parking restrictions ordinance and will be recommending changes to Council.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - 3

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Sporn that Resolution No. 2024 – 3 setting the Athens Borough Park Pavilions rental rate at $25.00 for Pavilions 1 and 2 be adopted. Motion carried with Nays from Patton and Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - 3

AND NOW, this 13th day of May 2024, the Borough of Athens at a duly advertised meeting of the Borough Council adopts the foregoing Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Athens, is a body corporate and politic ex**i**sting by virtue of the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, (hereinafter referred to as "ATHENS BOROUGH"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Athens desires to schedule rental fees in utilizing the 10' x 12' Valley Playland Park Pavilions # 1 and # 2;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following schedule of rental fees shall be utilized in the administration of the Borough of Athens as follows:

ATHENS BOROUGH PARK / VALLEY PLAYLAND
PAVILION # 1 AND PAVILION # 2

PAVILION # 1

In order to cover maintenance cost of the park pavilion, Athens Borough sets the rental fee at $25.00 per day imposed by the Borough Council.

PAVILION # 2

In order to cover maintenance cost of the park pavilion, Athens Borough sets the rental fee at $25.00 per day imposed by the Borough Council.

WHEREFORE, the Athens Borough Council on May 13, 2024 approves the foregoing Resolution as set forth above to be effective on May 14, 2024.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Borough of Athens has adopted the foregoing Resolution on the day and date first

RESOLVED AND ENACTED this 13th day of May, 2024.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Smith stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for April was made available to Council on May 10, 2024.

MAYOR

On April 26, 2024, the Arbor Day Proclamation was recited to the 4th grade class at the Arbor Day event held at Lynch-Bustin Elementary School.

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 26, 2024 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.

The Memorial Day Parade is scheduled on May 22, 2024 at 10:00AM in Athens Borough.

The Mayor has attended several Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies for new businesses opening in the Borough.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START – 7:16PM
STOP – 7:46PM

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on May 13, 2024.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – HOME OCCUPATIONS

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Patton that Solicitor Foster be authorized to advertise the ordinance amendment to Ch. 540, Home Occupations. Motion carried.

PD NEW HIRE – FULL TIME OFFICER

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Sporn that applicant A be hired from the approved May 13, 2024 Civil Service list upon the successful completion of a medical and psychological exam. Motion carried.

PD NEW HIRE – FULL TIME OFFICER

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Sporn that applicant B be hired from the approved May 13, 2024 Civil Service list upon the successful completion of a medical and psychological exam. Motion carried.

ATTORNEY AGREEMENT

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Sporn that the engagement letter between Athens Borough and the Law Firm of Cox, Stokes and Lantz P.C. be approved. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Patton that the meeting be adjourned at 7:56PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Tara R. Campbell, Secretary