MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on May 08, 2023 Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

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

Absent: Vice-President Scott Molnar.

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 devise please announce so at this time.

PRESS

No one present.

PUBLIC

No one present.

PRESIDENT RILEY

MONTHLY BILLS

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Chaykosky that the May 2023 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$80,500.28**
Sewer Fund **$133,872.82**
Fire Fund **$670.29** – Loan Payment #39

AYES: Chaykosky, Polzella, Smith, Sporn, Williams, Riley
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Molnar
Motion carried

MINUTES

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Sporn that the minutes of the regular meeting on April 10, 2023 be approved as written. Motion carried.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – POLICE CHIEF

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that the Memorandum of Understanding between Carla Dieg and Athens Borough for the position of Athens Borough Police chief effective October 02, 2023 be approved. Officer Dieg will begin training with Chief Hutchinson the week of June 15, 2023. Motion carried.

PATROL OFFICER - NEW HIRE

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Polzella that Eric Eccker be promoted as a full time Patrol Officer, effective May 09, 2023. Officer Eccker has successfully completed the Athens Borough Civil Service Process. Motion carried.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

POLICE COMMITTEE

President Riley stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on May 05, 2023.

Monthly Report

Month of April		Total for the Year
161	Total Number of Calls:	611
2	Felony Arrests:	4
1	Misdemeanor Arrests:	5
2	Non-Traffic Arrests:	5
1	Traffic Citations:	1
15	Traffic Reports:	51
3	Truancy Reports:	32
0	Parking Warnings:	0
0	PFA Violations	4
0	Parking Tickets:	0

	Mileage:	
102	2013 Tahoe	107,324 Overall
876	2017 Tahoe	79,034 Overall
998	2019 Tahoe	40,152 Overall
	District Court:	
9	Total Cases:	49
2	Criminal Cases:	5
1	Traffic Cases:	7
3	Non-traffic Cases:	5

PURCHASE OF PD VEHICLE

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Smith that the purchase of one 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV to be used as a patrol vehicle be approved in the amount of $48,700 from Bonner Chevrolet, Vendor ID 141414, Costars Contract 013-E22-215. Motion carried.

PURCHASE OF PD VEHICLE UPFIT EQUIPMENT

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Sporn that the purchase of the upfit equipment for the new 2023 Tahoe be approved in the amount of $15,360.88 from AMP Global Strategies, Costars Contract 012-E22-250, Vendor ID 321984. Motion carried.

PCCD PASS THROUGH AGREEMENT

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Williams that the PCCD Local Law Enforcement Grant pass through Contract Agreement between Athens Borough and the Athens Borough Police Department be approved. Motion carried.

PARKING ISSUES

Council held another brief discussion of the parking issues on Playland Drive, W Pine Street and other Borough streets. Solicitor Foster is working on drafting an amendment to the current Ordinance.

CIVIL SERVICE PROCESS – FULL TIME PATROL OFFICER

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Smith that Chief Hutchinson be authorized to begin the Civil Service Process to hire a Full Time Patrol Officer. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

President Pro Tem Sporn stated:

The Shade Tree Commission met on April 19, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

The Shade Tree Commission participated in the Arbor Day event at Lynch Bustin Elementary on April 28, 2023 with the 4th grade classes.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Council member Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on May 01, 2023.

2023 PAVING PROJECT

The paving project is scheduled to begin on June 19, 2023.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Council member Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on May 04, 2023.

Zoning Permits Issued: 2
Zoning Permits Denied: 0
Zoning Permits to Date: 4

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2023): 15

Contractor Permits through 05/01/2023:

Issued: 41 Pending: 12 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Committee met on April 12, 2023 to continue working on the comprehensive plan update.

Their next scheduled meeting is be May 10, 2023 at 6:00PM.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council member Chaykosky stated:

PARKING ISSUES AT ATHENS PARK

Council held another brief discussion of the parking issues at the Athens Park / Playland Drive. The Borough Manager has made contract with Norfolk Southern RR regarding the extension of Playland Drive to S Main Street. Norfolk Southern has not responded back.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Smith stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for March was made available to Council on May 08, 2023.

WATER RESCUE CERTIFICATION

Fire Chief Mike Davidson informed Council that the Athens Borough Fire Department is now a Certified Type 2 Team for swiftwater rescue. There are currently 12 members of the department certified and the team is the only team in Bradford County. The Athens Borough Fire Department Swiftwater Type 2a team is deployable in seven counties in Pennsylvania.

MAYOR

On April 28, 2023, 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 28, 2023 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.

Dated this 28th day of April 2023

On May 01, 2023, a Certificate of Achievement was mailed to the Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways to be presented to Katherine Gorman of Athens at a Gold Award Girl Scout luncheon on November 19, 2023.

Certificate of Achievement
Presented to

KATHERINE GORMAN

WHEREAS, the Citizens of the Borough of Athens wish to express their sincere appreciation to

KATHERINE GORMAN

for demonstrating courage, confidence and character in receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn.

WHEREAS, this accomplishment is deserving of recognition for her contribution in the Project: Engaging Girls in Computer Science; promoting computer science for younger girls by running a Girls Coding Club for 4th and 5th grade girls; leaving an impact on the community for years to come and will be duly recognized with honor and distinction at the Young Women of Distinction event in the Fall of 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Francis Roupp III, Mayor of the Borough of Athens, extend to KATHERINE GORMAN congratulations and gratitude upon this achievement.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on May 08, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START – 7:31PM
STOP – 7:39PM

ADJOURN

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that the meeting be adjourned at 7:43PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Tara R. Campbell, Secretary