MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on November 10, 2025, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

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

Absent: President Scott Riley and Matthew Patton.

Mayor Francis Roupp III led in the Salute to the Flag.

Vice-President Sharon Sporn called the meeting to order 7:00PM.

Vice-President Sharon Sporn 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.

Mayor Roupp swore in newly hired, full time Patrol Officer, Elliot Custred.

PRESS

Sayre Morning Times announced they were recording the meeting.

PUBLIC

Dale Bowen, 203 Bridge Street, addressed Council with numerous concerns, stating he is opposed to the 2026 tax rate increase and requests Council look at other options. Mr. Bowen stated he is not anti-police and feels that a consolidation with the Athens Township Police Department is more fitting than raising taxes. Mr. Bowen requests Council reach out to the Bradford County Commissioners for property reassessment for the Borough. Mr. Bowen also advised Council that he has been noticing Borough employee/vehicle activity outside of the Borough during work hours, specifically stating he has been keeping watch for some time and has photo evidence of many instances, in example, employees and vehicle at a restaurant outside of the Borough. Mr. Bowen suggests the Public Works Department consolidate with Sayre Borough. Mr. Bowen informed Council of water/drainage issues in town specifically on Longway Street and also requests Council look at changing building construction restrictions on properties so home and business owners can add to their property values. Mr. Bowen suggests removing the Library Tax as a means to avoid raising property taxes in 2026.

Solicitor Foster reminded Council of the current litigation between Mr. Bowen and Athens Borough and to refrain from discussing anything further.

Vice-President Sporn thanked Mr. Bowen for his time.

VICE-PRESIDENT SPORN

MONTHLY BILLS

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

General Fund **$85,331.18**
Sewer Fund **$76,966.61**
Fire Fund **$402.00** – Loan Payment #75

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Smith that the minutes of the regular meeting on October 13, 2025 be approved as written. Motion carried.

2026 TAX RATE ORDINANCE

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Polzella that the Borough Manager be authorized to advertise the Ordinance setting the tax rate for the fiscal year 2026. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 740

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ATHENS FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026.

SECTION NO. 1

That a tax be and the same is hereby levied on all property within the Borough of Athens subject to taxation for the Borough purposes for the fiscal year 2026 as follows:

General Purposes..... 23.75 mills

Library Purposes..... .25 mill

Fire Equipment Purposes..... 1.00 mills

Making a total tax rate of 25 mills for all Borough purposes on each dollar of assessed valuation.

2026 POLICE PENSION FUND CONTRIBUTIONS ORDINANCE

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Williams that the Borough Manager be authorized to advertise the Ordinance discontinuing contributions by either the Borough of Athens or the Police Force for the calendar year 2026 based on the Actuarial Valuation Report of the Police Pension Fund. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 741

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 22, POLICE PENSION FUND, OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF ATHENS, COUNTY OF BRADFORD, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The Borough of Athens hereby ordains and enacts as follows:

Under Section 22-4, Contribution Rate of the Code of the Borough of Athens hereby deletes the following:

No contribution shall be required by either the Borough of Athens or the Police Force for the calendar year 2025 based on the Actuarial Valuation Report of the pension of the Police Pension fund.

Under Section 22-4, Contribution Rate of the Code of the Borough of Athens, hereby adds the following:

No contribution shall be required by either the Borough of Athens or the Police Force for the calendar year 2026 based on the Actuarial Valuation Report of the pension of the Police Pension Fund.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

No one called for an Executive Session.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Vice-President Sporn stated:

SHADE TREE

The Shade Tree Commission met on October 20, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is November 17, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

The Shade Tree Committee with the help of the Public Works Department will be planting 33 trees on November 13th and 14th.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

President Pro Tem Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on November 03, 2025.

Zoning Permits Issued: 2
Zoning Permits Denied: 1
Zoning Permits to Date: 45

Customer Requests: 33

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2025): 158

Contractor Permits:

Issued: 107 Pending: 7 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on October 08, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Council Member Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on November 03, 2025.

2025 LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE – REMINDER

FIRST and FOURTH WARDS:	November 3th through November 7th November 10th through November 14th
SECOND and THIRD WARDS:	November 17th and November 21st November 24th through November 28th

Mayor Roupp stated the new leaf vac is doing a wonderful job.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Vice-President Sporn stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on November 07, 2025.

Monthly Report

Month of October		Total for the Year 2025
144	Total Number of Calls:	1,489
7	Felony Arrests:	37
15	Misdemeanor Arrests:	91
9	Non-Traffic Arrests:	26
0	Traffic Citations:	72
12	Traffic/ Parking Reports:	288
0	Truancy Reports:	0
6	PFA Violations	20
0	Parking Tickets/Warnings	10
	Mileage:	
1,188	2017 Tahoe	100,028 Overall
551	2019 Tahoe	61,934 Overall
507	2023 Tahoe	30,221 Overall
	District Court:	
6	Criminal Cases:	51
0	Traffic Cases:	62
7	Non-traffic Cases:	40
0	Truancy	0
13	Total Cases:	153

ORDINANCE NO. 739

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Polzella that Ordinance No. 739, parking/no parking ordinance amendment be adopted as advertised on October 31, 2025. Motion carried with a Nay from Council member Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 5

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Williams that Resolution No. 2025 – 5, requesting the authorization to apply for a Statewide Local Share Account Grant from the Commonwealth Finance Authority for the purchase and upfit costs of a 2026 Police Interceptor with upfit cost in the amount of $67,150.00 be adopted. Motion carried.

SR 199/S MAIN STREET TRAFFIC ISSUE

Council and the Borough Manager held a brief discussion of the SR 199 permit for a flashing yellow traffic sign. Discussion included the high rate of vehicles traveling on S Main Street.

Vice-President Sporn opened Public Session.

Kenneth Owens, 128 North Street stated that Council should reach out to the State Police requesting the speed trailer for radar in hopes it will slow traffic down.

The Borough Manager stated he will contact Penn DOT to request the speed trailer.

This discussion was tabled until next meeting.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council Member Smith stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for October was made available to Council on November 06, 2025.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on November 07, 2025.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Chaykosky that the meeting be adjourned at 7:28PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Tara R. Campbell, Secretary