MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on November 14, 2022 Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

Present: President Scott Riley, Vice-President Scott Molnar, President Pro Tem Sharon Sporn, Council members Walter Chaykosky, Joanne Polzella and Mayor Francis Roupp III.

Absent: Council member Anthony Smith and Robert Williams.

Mayor Roupp 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

The Morning Times entered the meeting at 7:20PM and announced they are recording the meeting.

PUBLIC

No one present.

PRESIDENT RILEY

MONTHLY BILLS

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Sporn that the November 2022 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$62,612.42**
Sewer Fund **$16,501.63**
Fire Fund **$692.63** – Loan Payment #33

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Chaykosky that the minutes of the regular meeting on October 10, 2022 be approved as written. Motion carried.

2023 TAX RATE ORDINANCE

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Chaykosky that the Borough Manager be authorized to advertise the Ordinance setting the tax rate for fiscal year 2023. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ATHENS FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022.

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 2022 as follows:

General Purposes..... 18.75 mills

Library Purposes..... .25 mill

Fire Equipment Purposes..... 1.00 mills

Making a total tax rate of 20.00 mills for all Borough purposes on each dollar of assessed valuation.

2023 POLICE PENSION ORDINANCE

It was moved by Molnar and seconded by Chaykosky 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 2023 based on the Actuarial Valuation Report of the Police Pension Fund. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO.

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 2022 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 2023 based on the Actuarial Valuation Report of the pension of the Police Pension Fund.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

LOCAL TAX ORDINANCE

It was moved by Molnar and seconded by Chaykosky that the Borough Manager be authorized to advertise an Ordinance, Act 57 under the Local Tax Collection Law to allow for the waiver of the penalty for late payments of real estate taxes if the tax notice was not received. This new law is mandated by Governor Wolfe to protect new property owners who did not properly receive their tax bills during the first year after purchasing their homes. Motion carried.

CODIFICATION ORDINANCE

It was moved by Molnar and seconded by Chaykosky that the Borough Manager be authorized to advertise the Notice of Introduction of the proposed Code Adoption Ordinance as introduced by Mayor Roupp at the October 10, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Riley called for an Executive Session to discuss a litigation issue.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Vice-President Molnar stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on November 09, 2022.

Monthly Report

Month of October		Total for the Year
109	Total Number of Calls:	1316
1	Felony Arrests:	3
1	Misdemeanor Arrests:	9
0	Non-Traffic Arrests:	9
2	Traffic Citations:	22
23	Traffic Reports:	150
2	Truancy Reports:	24
0	Parking Warnings:	13
0	Parking Tickets:	15
	Mileage	
72	2013 Tahoe	106,854 Overall
1,505	2017 Tahoe	71,094 Overall
881	2019 Tahoe	34,898 Overall
	District Court:	
10	Total Cases:	85
4	Criminal Cases:	18
2	Traffic Cases:	22
2	Non-traffic Cases:	16
2	PFA Violations:	3
0	Truancy Cases:	26

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

President Pro Tem Sporn stated:

The Shade Tree Commission met on October 17, 2022 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2022 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

The Shade Tree Committee with the help of the Public Works Department recently planted 20 trees in the Borough.

HOMETOWN HERO BANNERS

Council discussed options to keep the Hometown Hero Banner program active.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

President Riley stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on November 08, 2022.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Council member Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on November 08, 2022.

Zoning Permits Issued: 3
Zoning Permits Denied: 0
Zoning Permits to Date: 37

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2022): 101

Contractor Permits through 11/01/2022:

Issued: 106 Pending: 5 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Committee met on November 09, 2022 at 6:00PM. The comprehensive plan needs to be updated in 2024. The Committee is working on sending out a survey to the Athens Borough Residents.

The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on November 16, 2022 at 5:00PM for the Zoning Hearing for Emiljard Ismajlukaj, 408 S Elmira Street who has requested a variance for a second driveway that has already been constructed in front of the residence.

FIRE COMMITTEE

President Riley stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for October was made available to Council on November 10, 2022.

FD MONUMENT

President Riley stated that there are funds left over from the 150 club that is not active anymore and the Fire Department members would like to erect a monument somewhere in front of the Municipal Building. Council members were in favor of this monument.

MAYOR ROUPP

VETERAN'S DAY

Mayor Roupp participated in the Elk's Veteran's Day Ceremonies at the Elderwood in Waverly and at the Sayre House.

GUTHRIE'S ANNUAL TURKEY TROT

Guthrie's Annual Turkey Trot vent will take place on Thursday, November 24, 2022 beginning at 10:00AM.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Sayre's Annual Christmas Parade will take place Friday, November 25, 2022 beginning at 6:30PM.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on November 14, 2022.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START: 7:25PM
STOP: 7:49PM

ADJOURN

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Chaykosky that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

_____
Tara R. Campbell, Secretary