MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on October 09, 2023 Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

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

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

No one present.

PUBLIC

Todd Babcock, CEC Inc, 227 S Main Street, Athens presented Council with subdivision plans proposed for Jack Soper's property on S Main Street. The plans proposed 7 lots available for potential housing. Mr. Babcock also stated that Mr. Soper is hoping to dedicate part of the road(S. Main St) back to the Borough.

This topic was tabled until the next meeting of Council.

PRESIDENT RILEY

MONTHLY BILLS

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

General Fund **$94,530.44**
Sewer Fund **$935.37**
Fire Fund **$577.36** – Loan Payment #46

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Smith that the minutes of the regular meeting on September 11, 2023 be approved as written. Motion carried.

RESIGNATION – CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Chaykosky that the resignation requested by George Whyte from the Civil Service Commission be accepted, effective October 09, 2023. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT – CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Sporn that Vincent Whyte, 418 Church Street be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Civil Service Commission. This term expires on December 27, 2023. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT – SPALDING MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Smith that Katie Jones, 106 Old Hopkins Street be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Spalding Memorial Library Board due to the passing of Marie Kwasnoski. This term expires on December 31, 2023 and renews annually. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 BUDGET

On November 13, 2023 the Borough Council will hold a public hearing at 7:00PM, at which time the public may address the Council concerning the 2024 budget proposal.

The Ordinance setting the tax rate for 2024 will be presented at the November 13, 2023 meeting of Council. The Ordinance is scheduled for adoption at the December 11, 2023 meeting of Council.

2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET

	2023	***2024 PROPOSED BUDGET***
1. General Fund	$1,670,027.00	$1,675.388.00
2. Library Fund	$ 12,000.00	$11,300.00
3. Street Maintenance Fund	$ 99,400.00	$100,130.00
4. Fire Equipment Fund	$ 47,700.00	$47,000.00
5. Sewer Revenue Fund	$1,006,970.00	$1,322,890.00
TOTAL	$2,836,097.00	$3,156,708.00

REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY

	2023	**2024 PROPOSED**
1. General Fund	18.75 mills	18.75 mills
2. Fire Equipment Fund	1.00 mills	1.00 mills
3. Library Fund	.25 mills	.25 mills
TOTAL LEVY	20.00 mills	20.00 mills

SEWER RENT CHARGES

	2023	***2024***
1. Residential	$145.00/edu/quarter	$145.00/edu/quarter
2. Commercial/Public	$145.00/edu/quarter or $11.62/thousand gal water/quarter (whichever is greater)	$145.00/edu/quarter or $11.62/thousand gal water/quarter (whichever is greater)

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

POLICE COMMITTEE

Vice-President Molnar stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report will be updated at next month's meeting.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

President Pro Tem Sporn stated:

The Shade Tree Commission met on September 20, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled on October 18, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

FLOOD RISK FEASIBILITY STUDY

It was moved by Molnar and seconded by Williams to continue the process of a Flood Risk Feasibility Study with the Army Corps of Engineers. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Council member Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on October 02, 2023.

THE 2023 LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

FIRST and FOURTH WARDS:	October 30th through November 3rd November 6th through November 10th
SECOND and THIRD WARDS:	November 13th and November 17th November 20th through November 24th

All leaves must be raked to the curb line. If there is no area between the curb and sidewalk, place the leaves as close to the sidewalk as possible. Per Athens Borough Ordinance, DO NOT PLACE LEAVES IN THE STREET, Violators will be subject to a fine. Do not place sticks, brush or garbage in the leaf pile. If there are any sticks, brush or garbage in the leaf pile, the pile will not be picked up. The Borough understands that the leaves may not have fallen at your time of scheduled collection, once your leaves fall, please place them along the sidewalk as directed.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Council member Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on October 05, 2023.

Zoning Permits Issued: 0
Zoning Permits Denied: 0
Zoning Permits to Date: 19

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2023): 25

Contractor Permits through 08/31/2023:

Issued: 90 Pending: 5 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on September 13, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Athens Area School Administration Building.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 4

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Polzella that Resolution No. 2023 – 4, Zoning Permit Fee Schedule be adopted. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION No. 2023 - 4

ATHENS BOROUGH ZONING PERMIT FEES

Fee Schedule:

1. Zoning Permits

A. Residential Development

a. Principal Building or Structures- Fees for Zoning Permits for construction of a principal building or structure shall be at a flat rate of $75.00, plus $2.00 per $1,000 of construction cost. The Maximum Zoning Permit Fee shall be $700.00.

b. Accessory Use and Structures i.e., pools, decks fences, porches, Fees for Zoning Permits for all detached accessory buildings and structures shall be at a flat rate of $50.00.

B. Non-Residential Development

a. Fees for Zoning Permits for all nonresidential construction or development (principal or accessory) shall be at a flat rate of $75.00, plus $2.00 per $1,000 of construction cost. The Maximum Zoning Permit Fee shall be $1,000.00.

C. Signs

a. Fees for Zoning Permit for any regulated sign shall be $50.00.

D. Non-Construction

a. In all situations where no construction is involved, except those listed above, including a change of use or a change of non-conforming use; a flat rate of $75.00 shall be charged.

E. Permit Time Extensions

a. There shall be a $25.00 fee charged for the extension of any Zoning Permit beyond the original period for which it was issued.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council member Chaykosky stated:

Council member Chaykosky took a moment to recognize the Executive Committee, the Borough Manager and Secretary-Treasurer for putting the 2024 budget proposal together with no tax increase.

LEASE RENEWAL – ICE CREAM STAND

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Sporn that the one year lease between Athens Borough and Penn York Opportunities for the building located at 402 S Main Street be approved beginning January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Motion carried with a Nay from Council member Williams.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Smith stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for September was made available to Council on October 05, 2023.

MAYOR

The Halloween Parade – will be hosted in Waverly on Saturday, October 28,' 2023 at 10:00AM.

Trick or Treat Night – Is scheduled on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on October 06, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START – 7:36PM
STOP – 8:11PM

NEW HIRE – FULL TIME OFFICER

It was moved by Polzella and seconded by Sporn that applicant A be hired for the position of Full Time Patrol Officer contingent upon the successful completion of a medical examination and psychological examination. Motion carried with a Nay from Council member Chaykosky.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Sporn that the meeting be adjourned at 8:13PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Tara R. Campbell, Secretary