MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on September 14, 2026, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

Present: President Matthew Patton, Vice-President Joanne Polzella, President Pro Tem Robert Williams, Council members Walter Chaykosky, Patrick Cotton, Scott Riley, Sharon Sporn and Mayor Todd Babcock.

President Matthew Patton led in the Salute to the Flag.

President Matthew Patton called the meeting to order 7:00PM.

President Matthew Patton 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.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Patton called for an Executive Session to discuss litigation – Police RMS System.

PUBLIC

Ben Hoke, Staggering Unicorn, 314 S Main Street, presented Council with details of the Halloween Parade and Fall Fest hosted by the Athens Business Association on October 24, 2026.

PRESIDENT PATTON

INFORMATION ONLY

The Borough held executive sessions on August 13, 2026 and September 10, 2026 to discuss personnel regarding the Public Works Department contract negotiations.

MONTHLY BILLS

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Riley that the September 2026 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$40,068.45**
Sewer Fund **$94,151.96**
Fire Fund **$306.04** – Loan Payment #87

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

MINUTES

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Riley that the minutes of the regular meeting on August 10, 2026 be approved as written. Motion carried.

VETERAN'S EXEMPTION

It was moved by Cotton and seconded by Chaykosky that the Veteran's Exemption request of Cathy D Whipple, 303 Pine Street be approved. The Bradford County Commissioners granted the exempt status on June 11, 2026. Motion carried.

VETERAN'S EXEMPTION

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Williams that the Veteran's Exemption request of Judith M Page, 606 Wells Avenue be approved. The Bradford County Commissioners granted the exempt status on August 13, 2026. Motion carried.

CHEMUNG LEVEE CONDUIT INSPECTION

The Borough Manager provided an update to Council regarding the five levee conduits that failed the Levee Inspection. The conduits need liner work which is an estimated $200,000 for the five or an estimated $350,000 for all the levee conduits in order to continue with an acceptable levee rating. The Borough Manager informed Council that he is working on a grant submittal for November.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Vice-President Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on September 09, 2026.

Zoning Permits Issued: 0
Zoning Permits Denied: 0
Zoning Permits to Date: 21

Customer Requests: 39

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2026): 199

Contractor Permits:

Issued: 82 Pending: 7 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet on October 14, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

ZONING SECTION 540-62: FENCES

Solicitor Foster drafted an ordinance amendment to Zoning Section 540-62, Fences. President Pro Tem Williams and Mayor Babcock present Solicitor Foster and Council with questions and concerns. Solicitor Foster will revise the draft amendment and clarify language before sending it to Council for approval.

R1 ZONING

Solicitor Foster presented the draft ordinance amendment to Council in August, allowing the construction of apartments above garages in all zoning districts. The draft ordinance amendment will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission for discussion and recommendations at the October 14, 2026 meeting. Solicitor Foster suggested Council table this draft ordinance amendment until the House Bill either passes or fails.

CONTRACTOR VERIFICATION FEE

Council and the Borough Manager held a brief discussion regarding raising the Contractor Verification Fee from $100 to $125. The Resolution will be drafted for approval at the October meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

President Pro Tem Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on September 01, 2026.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Council member Sporn stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report for July was made available to Council on August 11, 2026.

Monthly Report

Month of July		Total for the Year 2026
166	Total Number of Calls:	927
0	Felony Arrests:	3
5	Misdemeanor Arrests:	38
1	Non-Traffic Arrests:	18
12	Traffic Citations:	47
37	Traffic/ Parking Reports:	208
0	Truancy Reports:	0
4	PFA Violations	21
0	Parking Tickets/Warnings	0
	Mileage:	
139	2017 Tahoe	102,767 Overall
769	2019 Tahoe	68,673 Overall
880	2023 Tahoe	36,752 Overall
	District Court:	
4	Criminal Cases:	23
10	Traffic Cases:	43
2	Non-traffic Cases:	24
0	Truancy	0
1	Total Cases:	90

The Police Chief's monthly report for August was made available to Council on September 11, 2026.

Monthly Report

Month of August		Total for the Year 2026
156	Total Number of Calls:	1,083
1	Felony Arrests:	4
2	Misdemeanor Arrests:	40
8	Non-Traffic Arrests:	26
5	Traffic Citations:	52
33	Traffic/ Parking Reports:	241
0	Truancy Reports:	0
3	PFA Violations	24
0	Parking Tickets/Warnings	0
	Mileage:	
139	2017 Tahoe	102,767 Overall
769	2019 Tahoe	68,673 Overall
880	2023 Tahoe	36,752 Overall
	District Court:	
2	Criminal Cases:	25
4	Traffic Cases:	47
9	Non-traffic Cases:	33
0	Truancy	0
15	Total Cases:	105

E-SCOOTERS / E-BIKES ENFORCEMENT

Council held a brief discussion regarding the draft ordinance provided by Solicitor Foster. Council member Sporn explained the ordinance seemed difficult to enforce and questioned how similar this ordinance is to the one Sayre Borough adopted. Officer Dekar request Council change the language to enforce age up to 16 years old, not 18 years old and to also let the enforcement of impounding the E-bikes / E-scooters be at the Officer's discretion. Solicitor Foster will revise the draft ordinance and clarify language.

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Chaykosky that Solicitor Foster be authorized to advertise the E-bike / E-scooter ordinance per the changes requested. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Council member Riley stated:

SHADE TREE

The Shade Tree Commission met on August 17, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

ABA FALL FESTIVAL

Council held a discussion of the possible closure of the 100 block of Central Avenue to allow for Vendor access at the Athens Business Association Fall Fest on October 24, 2026 from 11:00AM to 5:00PM. Council suggested utilizing the small Municipal parking lot to the north of Central Avenue and a portion of the larger Municipal parking lot to the South of Central Avenue for vendors.

It was moved by Polzella and seconded by Williams to allow Residential and Emergency Traffic only on Central Avenue from S. Main Street to S. Elmira Street from 11:00AM to 5:00PM on October 24, 2026 during the ABA Fall Fest. Motion carried.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Cotton stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for August was made available to Council on September 09, 2026.

MAYOR

Mayor Babcock stated the Athens Business Association is hosting a Halloween Parade on October 24, 2026 at 11:00AM with a Fall Fest to follow in Teaoga Square from 12:00PM to 4:00PM. Mayor Babcock also stated Waverly may proceed with hosting a Halloween Parade on October 31, 2026 as it is Waverly's turn to host.

Trick or Treat Night in Athens Borough will be Thursday, October 29, 2026 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM.

POLICE REGIONALIZATION

Council held a discussion on the possibility of having a regionalized police force. Mayor Babcock stated the Sayre Borough Council Minutes stated they were going to reach out to Athens Borough for discussion. Mayor Babcock explained how important it is to open the lines of communication with other Municipalities and that grant funding may be available. President Patton stated he will draft an email to Sayre Borough, South Waverly Borough and Athens Township welcoming the start of police regionalization discussion.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report for July was made available to Council on September 11, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

START: 7:51PM
STOP: 8:43PM

POLICE RMS

It was moved by Sporn and seconded by Riley that Solicitor Foster be authorized to draft a letter to end the contract with Central Square in reference to the Police RMS. Motion carried.

YEARS OF SERVICE PRESENTATION

President Patton presented Mark Burgess, Borough Manager with plaque, thanking Mr. Burgess for his 25 years of service with Athens Borough.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Chaykosky that the meeting be adjourned at 8:46PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Tara R. Campbell, Secretary