MINUTES

The Athens Borough Council met in regular session on September 09, 2024, Council Chambers, Athens Borough Municipal Building.

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

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

President Scott Riley called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

President Scott 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 device, please announce so at this time.

PRESS

The Morning Times announced they were recording the meeting.

PUBLIC

No one present to address Council.

PRESIDENT RILEY

MONTHLY BILLS

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Chaykosky that the September 2024 monthly bills be approved as follows:

General Fund **$26,285.18**
Sewer Fund **$82,040.43**
Fire Fund **$498.61** – Loan Payment #59

AYES: Chaykosky, Patton, 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 August 12, 2024 be approved as written. Motion carried.

WEATHER SERVICE AGREEMENT

It was moved by Polzella and seconded by Chaykosky that the Weather Service Agreement with Wiles Valley Weather LLC for the term October 01, 2024 through September 30, 2025 be approved. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEETING CHANGE

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Patton that the Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to advertise the meeting change, changing the November Council meeting from Monday, November 11, 2024 (Veteran's Day) to Tuesday, November 12, 2024. Motion carried.

CALL FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Riley called for an Executive Session to discuss litigation.

Vice-President Sporn called for an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Vice-President Sporn stated:

The Shade Tree Commission met on August 19, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building. Their next meeting will be held on September 16, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

SHORT TERM RENTAL TAX

Vice-President Sporn provide Council with examples of short term rental tax on properties such as AirBnb. This topic was tabled until next meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

President Pro Tem Polzella stated:

The Zoning Officer's monthly report was made available to Council on September 03, 2024.

Zoning Permits Issued: 0
Zoning Permits Denied: 1
Zoning Permits to Date: 28

Property Maintenance Violation Notices Issued:

Total to Date (2024): 132

Contractor Permits through 08/31/2024:

Issued: 94 Pending: 0 Void: 0

P&Z MEETING

The Planning and Zoning Commission met August 12, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building for a public hearing regarding the 2024 comprehensive plan. Their next meeting will be held on October 09, 2024 at 6:00PM at the Athens Borough Municipal Building.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – DWELLING, DOUBLE-WIDE TRAILER

Council authorized Solicitor Foster to draft an amendment to change the language of Dwelling, double-wide trailer/home permanent from a Special Use to a Permitted Use noting the trailer shall be new. This topic has been tabled until the October 14th meeting.

DRIVEWAYS AND SIDEWALKS

This topic was tabled again until next meeting. The Code Officer and Borough Manager are researching minimum standards for driveways and sidewalks.

RUMMAGE SALE ORDINANCE

Council held further discussion on changes for the ordinance and how to enforce the ordinance.

It was moved by Polzella and seconded by Sporn to delete the rummage sale ordinance from the Athens Borough Code. President Riley requested a Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Chaykosky, Patton, Polzella, Smith, Sporn, Riley
NAYS: Williams
Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Council Member Williams stated:

The Public Work's Department report was made available to Council on September 03, 2024.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Council Member Patton stated:

The Police Chief's monthly report was made available to Council on September 06, 2024.

Monthly Report

Month of August		Total for the Year
158	Total Number of Calls:	1208
0	Felony Arrests:	13
5	Misdemeanor Arrests:	34
0	Non-Traffic Arrests:	24
11	Traffic Citations:	51
39	Traffic/Parking Reports:	160
0	Truancy Reports:	16
3	PFA Violations	25
3	Parking Tickets/Warnings	85
	Mileage:	
692	2017 Tahoe	89,568 Overall
1,050	2019 Tahoe	52,155 Overall
1,736	2023 Tahoe	13,558 Overall
	District Court:	
5	Criminal Cases:	23
11	Traffic Cases:	47
0	Non-traffic Cases:	22
0	Truancy	16
16	Total Cases	108

POLICE PENSION ORDINANCE

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Chaykosky that Solicitor Foster be authorized to advertise the amendment to the Police Pension Ordinance, adding the language for early retirement to be the same as the Teamsters Contract and to be compliant with the Department of the Auditor General. Motion carried.

S. MAIN STREET/199 TRAFFIC ISSUE

Council held a discussion regarding an email received from Penn DOT noting the traffic issue at the intersection of S. Main Street and SR 199. Athens Borough can apply to Penn Dot for a traffic signal or a flashing warning device and would be responsible for the installation and funding if Penn DOT deems such devices as applicable at this intersection. Council also questioned that brighter street lights in the area would help drivers navigate the intersection better. Council will reach out to the Athens School district and Tina Pickett's office requesting letters of support as this intersection poses safety concerns for motorists, residents and children that are transported by bus at that location. This topic has been tabled until next meeting.

NO PARKING 3AM TO 6AM

The Borough Manager and Chief of Police are continuing to work on the parking restrictions ordinance and will be recommending changes to Council.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council member Chaykosky stated:

ATHENS PARK BALL FIELD DUGOUT REPAIR

The Borough Manager obtained a quote from Garage Floor Coating of Elmira to prep and coat the concrete in the dugouts with a polymer coating in the amount of $3,300.

It was moved by Chaykosky and seconded by Williams to accept the quote from Garage Floor Coating in the amount of $3,300 for the polymer coating of the concrete in both dugouts. Motion carried with a nay from President Pro Tem Polzella.

FIRE COMMITTEE

Council member Smith stated:

The Fire Department's monthly report for August was made available to Council on September 09, 2024.

FD COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Council member Smith and Fire Chief Polzella discussed the quote received for 6 communication devices to be used during emergencies. This allows the county to track the fire vehicles and for the fore department personnel to communicate during calls.

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Patton that Fire Chief Polzella be authorized to purchase the 6 communication devices at a cost of $36.99 per month per device. Motion carried.

MAYOR

President Pro Tem Polzella stated Sweet Sharlene's is hosting a Fall Fest at Teaoga Square on October 05, 2024.

SOLICITOR

The Solicitor's report was made available to Council on September 06, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

START – 8:11PM
STOP – 9:01PM

ADJOURN

It was moved by Williams and seconded by Patton that the meeting be adjourned at 9:01PM. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

_____
Tara R. Campbell, Secretary