

Village of Athens Board Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2025

The meeting began at 6pm with the pledge.

PUBLIC:

1. Pat Gillespie- Pat asked questions about properties being taken off the tax roll. He mentioned Peckham, Dionysus, and the old ELCO building. He spoke about how much his taxes have increased in the past 5 years. He then spoke about the increase in the water bills as he pays for 2 connections. He asked about how the usage will affect the bills. He asked why if he goes over the new amount given, he will need to pay.

Chris said that rates have not been increased in 12 years, he mentioned that the money pays for upgrades to all the plants. Chris said the rates are not self-sufficient.

Pat then asked why a trailer was allowed for a week with no truck attached at 26 North Franklin Street, but he was not allowed to leave one near his house in the parking lot, he was told to move it. He said he called code, and no one answered.

Mayor Serrago said that one code officer is gone, and the other was on vacation.

Carol May, the owner, was present and she said they were packing an art show, and she did not realize she needed a permit.

Pat said it looks like a fabrication shop and asked if any heavy gases get used.

2. Douglas Earle- Doug spoke about using his golf cart that is road safe, he said he read on the DMV sites that it is up to the municipality whether or not golf carts are allowed on the village streets.

The Village attorney said it is most likely up to the municipality and that he would look into this.

Mayor Serrago said that it may just be a permitting situation.

3. Samira Abed- Samira addressed the board about her sign being taken down and where and how she could display it in the park. Mayor Serrago said that it could go up in the park, just not on the walkways.

Happy Clown also submitted a letter addressing the issue of their sign in the park. It was suggested that both Samira and Happy Clown put their signs near the ferry slip on the fence.

4. Susan Weiss- Susan came to the meeting to address the dangerous intersection at 385 near her home at 11 North Washington Street.

Mayor Serrago suggested that a neighborhood group write a letter and sign and then send to Hinchey's office.

There was a brief discussion about what could be done and what may be done to slow people down.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Facility Use Application: Marya Warshaw-Athens Pride: Flags to be mounted and gathering June 1, 2026, A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Pheonix, all were in favor of allowing the flags and to have the gathering.
2. Facility Use Application: Carol Pfister-Athens Victorian Stroll: Use of the Gym, hall, and museum 12/13/2025 A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Phoenix to allow the Victorian Stroll to use the gym, hall, and museum, all were in favor.
3. Facility Use Application: Sara Pruiksma-Cultural Center: use of the park (9/26/25-9/29/25), stone carving-tent (dates are to set up and take down the tent as well as use of the park) A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Eastwick, seconded by Trustee Lasher to allow the tent and use of the park, all were in favor.
4. Outdoor Entertainment Permit: Sara Pruiksma-Cultural Center: Puppet Show 7/27/2025-Amplified Music A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Dillberg seconded by Trustee Lasher to allow the puppet show in the park; all were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving minutes from July 9, 2025, Village Board Meeting:
Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee Eastwick
Record of Vote: All were in favor
2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers:

Offered by: Trustee Dillberg
Seconded by: Trustee Lasher
Record of Vote: All were in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Sam Sebren-NYFORWARD- Sams letter was discussed, and Mayor Serrago encourages people to submit small projects as there is a small project fund. Mayor Serrago said she will reach out to the consultants.
2. MOU Greene County DHS uses the Village Firehouse for emergencies
3. DOT CHIPS
4. Central Hudson

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Revisit the library handicapped fund- A MOTION was made by Trustee Dillberg, seconded by Trustee Lasher to give the library money from the Handicapped Library Fund once it passes the permissive referendum, all were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Visit from the Department of Labor- The clerk explained why the DOL visited and the information they provided.
2. Resignation CAC- Mayor Serrago let everyone know that Josh had resigned from the CAC and she is appointing Stephan Bradicich. She asked Bob Brunner to take minutes at meetings for a bit.

Trustee Phoenix did not have anything for tonight.

Trustee Eastwick did not have anything for tonight.

Trustee Dillberg asked if someone wanted to cut their tree down, could they? He was told as long as it did not have a silver tag on it they could.

Trustee Lasher- she mentioned that someone was at APAC with a red wagon selling pot plants.

The Village Attorney said that should not be done. He said he will need to be told to stop and if not take it to the next level.

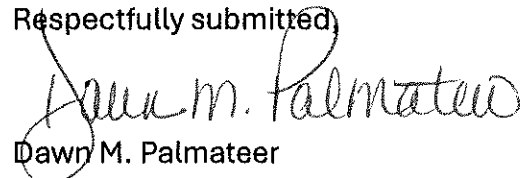
Mayor Serrago said he did not have a permit to peddle.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher, seconded by Trustee Dillberg to go into executive session at 7:04pm to discuss real estate contracts where public discussion would impact the purchase price, all were in favor

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lasher. Seconded by Trustee Lasher to come out of executive session at 7:12pm.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Phoenix, seconded by Trustee Eastwick to adjourn tonight's meeting at 7:12pm, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn M. Palmateer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dawn M. Palmateer

Village Clerk