

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
April 21, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

In order to comply with Governor Wolf's Order that all individuals in Chester County stay home and, in an effort, to slow the spread and minimize public exposure to COVID-19 and maintain social distancing, the meeting was conducted via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Shore, Dave Besselman, Becka Schlimme, Bob McCue, Paul Morgan

GUESTS PRESENT: Sandy Masten, Jamie MacCombie, Kim Venzie, Steve Cummings, Chief Simpson, Nick Santella, Glenn Williams, Toni Morgan, Janet Watts, John Watts, Kelly M

The meeting was called to order by President Shore.

An Executive Session was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 @6:00 p.m. to discuss litigation and personnel items.

The March 17, 2020 Borough Council Meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis; however, all matters on the agenda were officially continued to the April 21, 2020 meeting date, including the consideration of adoption of duly advertised ordinances and the awarding of contracts properly bid.

PUBLIC HEARING AMENDING ORDINANCE #263 - WATER, SEWER AND TRASH ORDINANCE #267

Kim Venzie stated the ordinance will amend the Avondale Borough Code of Ordinances, to update Ordinance No. 2019-263 to increase water rates by 1% and to reduce tapping fees applicable to water and sewer services as provided to Borough residents and property owners and to incorporate those revisions into the "Avondale Borough Water, Sewer, and Trash Services – Rate and Rules – 2019" Jamie MacCombie, the Borough's Engineer determined that certain adjustments could be made to reduce the tapping fees for water and sewer. This public hearing was supposed to take place on March 17th meeting but was continued to this meeting.

There are two procedural exhibits on behalf of Borough Council:

Exhibit B-1: Proof of publication advertised on March 6, 2020 in the Daily Local News.

Exhibit B-2: Email from Ms. Venzie's office providing the amendment to the Chester County Law Library for public inspection.

There were not public comments. The Hearing was closed.

Dave Besselman made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2020-267, 2nd by Paul Morgan, Becka Schlimme-aye, Bob McCue-aye, Bill Shore-aye, motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NICHOLAS SANTELLA - COMMUNITY GARDEN

Mr. Santella said he was in discussions with Dottie before she resigned about having a public community garden at the fenced in area of the composting facility. He is here to express his support of the idea and interest in helping to organize it. Becka Schlimme said she has a concern from a liability standpoint if

someone was to get injured. Kim Venzie said you could have people sign releases form for those in the garden area and release the Borough of any liability. Dave Besselman asked if he had any plans. Mr. Santella said he had planned on 14- 10' x 10' plots and will start to recruit people and come back with a number of interests. President Shore said he would like to see the liability issue resolved and a Council member to take the lead and work with Nick. Bob McCue said his main concern is what is expected of the Borough and what kind of costs are involved. Dave Besselman said he will volunteer to work with Nick to at least get him started. Steve Cummings said he will help. Nick will provide Dave with a plan and information on how the local community garden projects are working. President Shore said the Boy Scouts right next to the facility may be a great resource to help.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Besselman made a motion to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting on February 18, 2020, and the Work Sessions on March 10, 2020 and April 14, 2020, 2nd by Bob McCue, Becka Schlimme-aye, Bob McCue-aye, Paul Morgan-aye, motion carried.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Simpson gave the following report:

The status of the police department is healthy. We have been fortunate not to have any health issues within the department. We are working on an after-action report on COVID-19 so we understand from a department point of view on whether the steps they took were important, necessary or helpful. They will be looking for the public input. The first quarter report will be ready tomorrow on the website. A report for each will be dropped off at the Borough office. We had a mock assessment last weekend and the team was left with 50 things to do to get accredited. They only have 5 or 6 more things to do and they are looking to be an accredited agency in June.

WWTP OPERATIONS REPORT

Fred Walton was not present for this meeting

President Shore said they cleaned out two clarifiers today. Still trying to get the rag screw repaired which has become a big problem with no one being able to work.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT

Jamie MacCombie gave the following report:

NEW WATER SUPPLY

There are some issues with the brine generator, it is using more salt than it should and the manufacturer has been contacted. Herb MacCombie has reached out to Pact One to do the punch list items. Pact One is working on an exemption to work. The fence contractor did receive a waiver to work and should be on site to install the fence around May 5th.

RESERVOIR COVER REPLACEMENT

After review of the bids, Jamie recommends the Borough award a contract to Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$296,900.00 which is \$3,600 more than the grant of \$293,262.00. Jamie's office will work with Eastern Environmental to review alternatives to the Altitude Valves to try and bring the amount under the grant. Dave Besselman made a motion to award the contract to Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$296,900.00, 2nd by Bob McCue, Becka Schlimme-aye, Paul Morgan-aye, Bill Shore-aye, motion carried.

GREASE TRAP ENFORCEMENT

The first letter that was sent out gave the owners until June 30th to comply. Only the representative of China King has contacted his office and a site visit will be done as soon as the Stay at Home COVID Order has been lifted. Another letter will go out next week reminding the owners to comply.

STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT

After Kim gets the easement from Bill Webb, Jamie's office can have the project out to bid in three weeks.

WELL HEAD PROTECTION

Received an extension until June 30, 2021. We are going to schedule a meeting with Fred Walton and Bill to go over the project.

POE – PRELIMINARY LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Wrote a letter Spoke with Mr. Poe's engineer regarding his concerns on storm drainage. There would be a potential problem with flooding of the Borough Streets and homes with the current plans. Hopefully, we will have a revised plan soon to be considered at the May meeting. If not, we will need to get another extension. Mr. Poe received from DEP an exemption for the sanitary sewer connection. There are a lot of comments to address in Jamie's letter before connecting.

PORTABLE METER QUOTE

Received a quote from WG Malden to repair the portable meter. Repairing the meter will cost \$3,185.00 compared to \$5,732.00 for a new meter. Jamie recommended not to repair the meter. After discussion, Council agreed to not repair the meter since we already have two meters.

ANNUAL CHAPTER 94 REPORT

The Chapter 94 Report was delivered to DEP by the March 31st due date.

MS4 PROGRAM

Received a letter from DEP dated April 16, 2020 regarding the annual submission of the MS4. All of the other municipalities Jamie represents received the same letter. The comments will be addressed.

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Since 2014, we are required to file a docket with the Delaware River Basin Commission for the treatment plant. The docket has to be updated every 5 years which was in 2019. In 2019, the DRBC raised the questions whether the Borough had to file a docket for the water system. The DRBC said since the Borough's water usage is above 100,000 gpd, a docket will need to be filed. The application fee is \$1,589.27 to file the application. Dave Besselman made a motion to approve Jamie to file the application and approve the application fee of \$1,589.27 to the DRBC, 2nd by Paul Morgan, Becka Schlimme-aye, Bob McCue-aye, Bill Shore-aye, motion carried.

BOROUGH SOLICITORS REPORT

Kim Venzie gave the following report:

WEBB - CONSENT TO ENTER

Still working with Mr. Webb's attorney trying to get an easement for the Streambank Restoration Project. If this doesn't work out, we will have to explore other options.

RESOLUTION 2020-1 TO RATIFY ACTIONS TAKEN DURING DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

This resolution ratifies action taken during the State of Emergency as Declared by the Borough. Some of the items that this resolution acknowledges are: the executive session on March 3rd; a work session on April 14th via telecommunication devices; extends the Declaration of Disaster Emergency until May 8th to be in line with the Governor; Borough Office closed to the public but will remain staffed during normal business hours. Dave Besselman made a motion to approve Resolution #2020-1, 2nd by Paul Morgan, Becka Schlimme-aye, Bob McCue, Bill Shore-aye, motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

DIFABIO'S - DOCUMENT FOR FAMILY PROMISE RENTAL

Borough Council asked Kim to draft a letter to the DiFabio's with regard to their relationship with Family Promise waiving the inspection fees due to the charitable nature of the apartment. The letter was sent to the DiFabio's and are waiting on the signed form.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dave Besselman gave the following report:

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM FEBRUARY & MARCH

After much discussion, Dave Besselman made a motion to approve the Bills and Financial Statements from February and March, 2nd by Bob McCue, Becka Schlimme-nay, Paul Morgan-nay, Bill Shore-nay, motion not carried with a 3-2 vote. A Finance meeting was set for May 5th for Dave, Becka and Sandy to go over the issues.

OLD BUSINESS

BOROUGH BUILDING RENOVATIONS - PROJECT APPROVAL

Dave Besselman said at the February 18th meeting we approved by a 3-2 vote to move forward with the renovations with a \$175,000 budget. At the March 10th Work Session, we approved the HVAC to the lowest bid to Chesea Heating and Air for \$15,792.00. The low bidder for the building is from BSS Contractors, Inc. for \$163,000. Dave Besselman made a motion to approve BSS Contractors, Inc. for \$163,000 for the building renovations, 2nd by Bob McCue, Becka Schlimme-aye, Paul Morgan-aye, Bill Shore-aye, motion carried 5-0 vote.

Dave said the total project is \$163,000 plus \$15,072 with alternatives for a total of \$178,072. Dave said he wants to increase the budget to \$190,000. The money is coming from the \$12,000 budgeted for laptops and if needed we can get \$10,000 from parks because it looks like we will be getting a \$10,000 grant. Dave Besselman made a motion to increase the budget to \$190,000 for incidental and changes, 2nd by Bob McCue, Becka Schlimme-nay, Paul Morgan-nay, Bill Shore-yea, motion carried with a 3-2 vote.

AVONDALE BOROUGH CLEANUP DAY

Due to the COVID-19, the clean up day has been postponed until Fall.

TRASH CONTRACT – COMMENDING MAYOR DOTTIE

Dave Besselman commended Mayor Dottie for getting the Borough a good deal on the trash contract saving the Borough over \$13,000. Great Job Mayor Dottie!

NEW BUSINESS**MAYOR DOTTIE HOWELL'S RESIGNATION**

Kim Venzie said we received an email on March 31st from Mayor Dottie Howell advising us that she is resigning from the office of Mayor, effective immediately. The Borough has been blessed to have her for 20+ years as mayor. Mayor Dottie felt it was time to go and wished everyone good luck in the future. Tonight, we are formally accepting Mayor Dottie's resignation and Council will need to appoint someone to fill the position for the remainder of her term which ends December 31, 2021. One of the qualifications is the person has to have lived in the Borough for one continuous year prior to appointment. We can accept letters of interest some members of Council could meet with the candidates individually and talk to them about their qualifications. If anyone is interested in becoming a candidate, there is a Borough Mayor's Manual online to get a better understanding what are the duties of Mayor. Becka Schlimme made a motion to accept Mayor Dottie Howell's resignation, 2nd by Bob McCue, Paul Morgan-aye, Dave Besselman-nay, Bill Shore-nay, motion carried with a 3-2 vote. The Secretary will send out notices to all residents in the Borough and post on the website.

WORK SESSION – TIME CHANGE

Becka Schlimme made a motion to change the work session time from 2:00 p.m. on the Second Tuesday of each month to 6:00 p.m., 2nd by Paul Morgan, Dave Besselman-aye, Bob McCue-aye, Bill Shore-aye, motion carried, 5-0 vote. Kim Venzie will advertise the time change.

SECURITY CAMERAS

President Shore said last year, we had a gentleman come in and put up cameras at the Borough building and maintenance building but he couldn't get them to work. Our electrician, Mike LaFrance is looking into getting the cameras in working order. We are also going to get quotes for cameras at the sewer plant and at the new well. We currently have an alarm system on the borough building and maintenance building.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Work Session – Tuesday, May 12, 2020 @6:00 p.m.
- Council Meeting - Tuesday, May 19, 2020 @6:00 p.m.

Dave Besselman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. 2nd by Bob McCue, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Brownback
Borough Secretary