

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 16, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Council President, Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Council members Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts and Lucas Ortiz. Also in attendance were Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Engineer Tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, Facilities Operator Brent Hazelwood, and Administrator Sharon Norris. There were 8 members of the public in attendance. Mike Essmaker joined the meeting at approximately 8:40 pm via phone and then later in person.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Wayne Marston, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue commented on the condition of the railroad tracks near the Boy Scout cabin. Mayor Rzucidlo said she would look into it.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT: Lieutenant Joseph Versagli updated the Council on the goings on in Avondale during the last reporting period and also gave a summary of the Department's first quarter 2024.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT – Facilities Operator, Brent Hazelwood, updated the Council on the reservoir project and the amount of water that the plant is handling during the recent rains.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Solicitor Kim Venzie reviewed the Resolution to Adopt Policies and Procedures for the Reservation of Sanitary Sewer Capacity which will be adopted later in the evening. She discussed having a representative of Borough Council accompany the consultants to any meetings with developers. Additionally, she discussed the many issues that will need to be considered once the preliminary plan is submitted.

Ms. Venzie also updated the Council that the Anholt calculations have been provided from New Garden and Engineer Wilkes has reviewed them. The Borough is still waiting for AQUA's Anholt calculations. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo asked about participating in a silent auction fundraiser that she was invited to attend.

MAYOR'S REPORT – the Mayor continues to work with PennDOT on the bridge over the White Clay. She would like Council's OK to ask PennDOT to allow the Borough's bridge engineer to attend the next inspection. Council member Stephanie Reichert made a motion to approve the Borough bridge engineer's attendance at the next PennDOT inspection of the bridge. Council member Janet Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Wilkes will confirm that a bridge engineer from his firm is available.

Representative Chris Sappey and Senator Kane will be meeting with PennDOT regarding the bridge and its condition. They will report back to the Mayor with updates.

The Mayor continues to stress to all parties that Route 41 is a major thoroughfare connecting I-95 with points west and the major negative impacts a bridge collapse would have on the entire region.

Recycling Information - The Mayor will be updating the website and social media with recycling information in both English and Spanish.

Bubble Palooza on Saturday, June 29 – The Mayor will be bringing her Foam-a-lator to this fun event.

Verizon Pole in Stormwater Pipe – The Mayor continues to work with Verizon regarding the stormwater issue on Church Street that contributes to water flooding through the property at 402 Church. The main issue is the clogged infiltration basin on 407 Church St. in New Garden Township. The Mayor has contacted New Garden and the Chester County Conservation District, and they have issued a Notice of Violation to the property owner. In the meantime, she is working with Verizon to pay for the costs of the Borough making the necessary repairs to get the stormwater issue under control in that area.

OTHER:

Solicitation in the Borough – Mr. Morgan notes that sales people continue to go door to door in the Borough and seem to be more aggressive, Additionally, they are not securing Solicitation permits from the Borough. He would like to do away with soliciting. The Solicitor noted you cannot prohibit all types of solicitation. Religious groups, politicians and scouting organizations are some groups that cannot be prohibited. The Mayor continues to go after these companies and contacts the police when necessary.

Intersection of Route 41 and State Street Comments – PennDOT sent the Mayor a letter requesting comments about the work being considered at this intersection. The Mayor learned that PennDOT is running the Route 41 Bridge project separately from this project in case one of the projects hits a glitch, the other can continue through the process. The comment period for this project is strictly for Council to review and make any additions if necessary. Council will review this at the next meeting. The Council continues to stress that Avondale Borough does not ever want a Roundabout.

National Water Specialties Company proposal for Cross Connection Program – Brian Preski, president of the NAWSC, presented his company’s proposal to run a cross connection program for commercial businesses in the Borough. Having this program is a DEP mandate. The purpose of a cross connection control program is to protect the public water supply from the possibility of contamination or pollution by isolating, within the customer’s internal plumbing system, contaminants or pollutants which could backflow or back siphon into the public water. NAWSC is a complete start-to-finish outsourced solution – from sending compliance notices to tracking final compliance results. The program is ideal for water service providers who wish to maintain an effective cross-connection control program for their system to protect their customers and water supply but are not equipped to handle all aspects of the process themselves. The company makes their money from the plumber who ends up doing the work in the business or home. There is no charge to the Borough. Initially, the Borough would target commercial businesses and then once that is underway, the Borough would move to residential properties.

At this time, the Council entertained questions from the members of the public. Scouts from Troop 191 participated. Discussion included: what is being done about people soliciting without permits; more information about waver valves and backflow; and what branch of government takes care of the issues discussed at this meeting. The Council thanked the Scouts for attending and encouraged these young people to participate in public meetings as they grow up. The Scouts asked how they can assist the Borough with activities.

Avondale Borough Vision 2030: Mapping our Vision for Tomorrow – the Council tabled this discussion for the next workshop meeting. Ms. Reichert will create a presentation of the bridge pictures for the next workshop meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Streetlights – The streetlights project is on track and equipment should arrive by the end of April.

Memorial Wall – still waiting for the ground to dry out.

Lead Service Line Inventory Update – Garage students will hang door hangars on all houses advertising the two Town Hall meetings.

BUSINESS: Vice President Michael Essmaker joined the meeting by phone at approximately 8:40 pm.

- **Resolution to Adopt Policies and Procedures for the Reservation of Sanitary Sewer Capacity** – Ms. Reichert made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-07, adopting policies and procedures for the reservation of sanitary sewer capacity. Council member Janet Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
- **Motion to Appoint Sharon Norris as Assistant Zoning Officer** – Ms. Reichert made a motion to appoint Sharon Norris as Assistant Zoning Officer. Council Member Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
- **Motion to Approve \$10,213 for the purchase of a Mission Control Monitoring System** – Ms. Watts made the motion to approve the purchase of a Mission Control Monitoring System for the Wells at a cost of \$10,213. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for discussion and commented that going forward he would like KBX to come in person when requesting a major purchase. The vote was not taken.
- **Removal of Old Broken Shelves, Build new Shelves, and Epoxy the floor of the Sewer Plant** – Ms. Watts made the motion to approve \$3,400 for the removal of old broken shelves, build new shelves and epoxy the floor of the sewer plant office. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.
- **Motion to Award the Mapping Grant Award** – The Council has reviewed the two proposals and discussed the differences in each proposal. The Solicitor and staff will review the process and proposals with the Solicitor, and this will come before the Council at a future meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Ms. Reichert made a motion to approve the February Treasurer’s report. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Treasurer McVaugh noted that the Borough received the Recycling grant, and it was notably less than last year’s due to the former trash company not separating the trash from recycling.

MINUTES – Ms. Reichert made a motion to approve the April 5, 2024 minutes as presented Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7 PM
- The Community Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th from 8 AM – 11 AM
- The Town Hall Meeting in English regarding the drinking water service is scheduled for May 9, 2024 at the Garage Youth Center at 7 PM.
- The Town Hall Meeting in Spanish regarding the drinking water service is scheduled for May 16, 2024 at the Garage Youth Center.
- The Borough is sponsoring a Union Apprenticeship Program at the Garage on April 30, 2024 at 7 PM. Senator Kane will also be in attendance to participate via Zoom.
- Mark your calendars for Bubble Palooza on Saturday, June 29, 2024 from 10 AM – 2 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM and Council went into Executive Session to discuss legal issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris, Secretary