

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 18, 2023
7:00 PM

Council Members Present: President, Paul Morgan, Vice President Stephanie Reichert and Council members Mike Essmaker and Janet Watts. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Borough Solicitor Kim Venzie, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also in attendance. There was one member of the public in attendance.

Call to Order – President Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and announced the meeting is being recorded. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements – Mr. Morgan announced there would be an Executive Session after the meeting to discuss legal issues.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT – Lt. Joe Versagli updated the Council on how the Department was going to address the truck traffic on Church Street and speeding on State Road. The Council and Lieutenant discussed the situation. Mayor Rzucidlo is going to join the Acting Chief Greenwald and Lieutenant at the meeting with the local business to see how the truck traffic can best be addressed. He also stated the Department would put out a car on State Road to address speeding. There was no public comment.

WATER/SEWER PLANT REPORT – Brent Hazelwood of KBX, the water/sewer plant operator, updated the Council on an upcoming sewer plant upgrade project using the grant funds. He also reported on water repair work for a property right over the Borough line in London Grove that uses Avondale's water.

BUSINESS

Consideration of Council Member Resignation – Council Member Fernando Tena-Diaz submitted his resignation effective immediately due to a change in jobs. The Council thanked Fernando for his service and congratulated him for being the first Hispanic American community member to hold a Council position. Fernando thanked the Council for this opportunity. The Council did not officially accept his resignation at this time.

Community Revitalization Program (CRP) Grant Resolution 2023-05 – Council Member Janet Watts made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-05, a resolution authorizing application to Chester County Community Development for a Community Revitalization Program grant to survey and map the Borough's water, sewer and stormwater systems to locate and repair leaks, reduce wastewater treatment costs and improve water quality and access. The grant request amount is \$100,000 with a 5% (\$5,000) match. Council Member Essmaker seconded the motion. The Council and Mayor discussed the grant application. Mr. Morgan called for a vote. The motion carried 4-0.

Discussion of Trash Rates: The Borough will be paying the new trash rate to AJ Blosenski beginning with the second quarter billing. If trash rates are raised, the Borough would have to accomplish this via Ordinance which will be advertised in the Daily Local News. The Council requested additional information to assist them with this discussion. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Resident Notifications – The Borough would like to implement a process to get important or emergency messages to residents immediately rather than rely on door hangars or US mail. The Mayor has utilized mass calling and texting processes and recommended a few. The research shows that for the Borough's purposes, the cost would be approximately \$153.00 per use. Residents can either receive texts or phone calls and will be able to respond to the messages. Messages will be very brief. The Borough will share this information with residents via the next newsletter. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to move forward at an

approximate cost of \$154.00 per use. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

Grant Applications – The Mayor and Council are very interested in seeking grant opportunities and have been actively looking for relevant grants to apply for. To better keep track of grants, the Council requested staff to put together a spreadsheet of all applications to include those that have been awarded and are in process, applications that have been submitted and potential grants to apply to. The Council reviewed the draft and discussed ways to improve it. They asked that this chart be provided monthly. The Council and Mayor along with the Township Engineer discussed the importance of having plans in place when seeking grants, costs and having a ceiling on the number of grants in process at one time.

Memorial Tree Planting Program Discussion – the Council tabled this discussion.

Consideration of New Phone System – the Council tabled this discussion.

Western Chester County Council of Government (WCCCOG) Summary – Ms. Watts attended the last meeting and summarized the key points including available training for junior volunteer EMS and fire fighters, the scholarship program for high school seniors and hosting a COG meeting in the Borough on October 25, 2023.

Sidewalk Rights of Way – The Council, Engineer Wilkes and Solicitor Venzie discussed sidewalks including where to put new sidewalks, how to fix old sidewalks, what to do when the road is too narrow to accommodate sidewalks and rights of way. Staff will check with Building Inspection Underwriters to see how/if the Borough addresses sidewalk issues with residents.

Reschedule May 16th Borough Council Meeting – Since the Borough Hall is used as a polling location, the regularly scheduled Borough Council meeting will be switched to May 18th. This will be advertised in the Daily Local News as well as posted on the website. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to change the May 16th meeting to Thursday, May 18th at 7 PM. Council member Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Mr. Wilkes went over his report. The Council discussed the report. Mr. Wilkes will add a sidewalk review to his road program proposal.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Venzie will report to Council in Executive Session.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Proclamation for Fran Maye - The Mayor read aloud the Proclamation she presented to long-time local news writer Fran Maye at his retirement celebration honoring his 44 years in the business. The Proclamation declares April 14, 2023 as Fran Maye Day in Avondale Borough.

Time Capsule/History Display Update – the Mayor is working with a Girl Scout Gold candidate to create an Avondale History museum in the Borough building. The Mayor shared their ideas on how to display items in particular, the time capsule information so it is in a prominent spot where people would notice it.

Kennett Memorial Day Parade – the Mayor was approached about Borough Council participating in Kennett's Memorial Day Parade. The Mayor invited Council members to participate if they wanted and provided contact information.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the April 4, 2023 minutes as presented. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Due to other pressing priorities, the March Treasurer's report was not available. It will be presented at next month's meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Morgan made the following announcements:

- 1) The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 7:00 PM
- 2) Avondale Earth Day Cleanup is April 22, 2023 from 9 AM – Noon. Gloves, safety vests, safety goggles, and bags are provided. Meet at the Borough Hall to get your assignment.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary