

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 1, 2025
7:00 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President, Paul Morgan, Stephanie Reichert (attended via phone until 7:20 pm when she arrived), and Janet Watts were in attendance. Vice President, Mike Essmaker and Lucas Ortiz were absent. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also in attendance along with 3 members of the public.

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

BUSINESS

Consideration of RT Price Estimates for Road Repair – the Council discussed the 3 quotes for road repairs: at 125 State to repair the area where pipe repair has taken place; the intersection of Pomeroy and West Second Street and the full repair of a pothole on Chatham. Treasurer McVaugh explained the process if the Borough were to use Liquid Fuels monies for Chatham Street and for the Second Street repair. Mr. Vince Paolicelli, 410 Pennsylvania Avenue, commented on this repair and on Liquid Fuels. The consensus of the Council is to move forward with these repairs and will vote on this item at the April 15th meeting.

MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor reported on the following:

- She met with Senator Kane and Representative Sappey regarding the issues with potholes on Pennsylvania Avenue, specifically between Fourth and Fifth Streets. Soon after, she met with two representatives from PennDOT regarding the Borough doing exploratory testing in the potholes to determine whether the water is non chlorinated or chlorinated. PennDOT would waive the HOP permit requirement. They requested that this testing happen within two weeks. At this meeting, the Mayor was told that PennDOT would not come back to fix these potholes until the water was tested. The Mayor reiterated that Pennsylvania Avenue is a PennDOT road. Avondale would be willing to be a partner but would need to apply for grants to do the work. After discussion it was decided that PennDOT should be invited to the next meeting to discuss this situation. Ms. Marisa Paolicelli, 410 Pennsylvania Avenue, commented on hearing different stories about whose responsibility the water is – whether it is spring water or chlorinated water. The Council continued to discuss the nature of that meeting and the need to get all parties together.
- Mr. VanLoon, property owner at 505/507 Pennsylvania Avenue, commented that his tenant complains of low pressure (approximately 30 lbs. which is considered an acceptable amount) and the amount of sediment in his fixtures. Mr. Paolicelli commented on how difficult it is to live in their home and conversations with Ken Cavanaugh of PennDOT. Mr. Paolicelli noted this is the 5th meeting he has been to, and no progress has been made. His house is shaking. What is the solution because PennDOT said they are not coming back out. Ms. Paolicelli has people who are open to providing letters of support for the upcoming grant applications. She also spoke to the property owners at 522 and 524 PA Avenue who are also concerned and frustrated with the heavy vibrations. They do not feel comfortable attending a public meeting. Ms. Kate Maxwell at 401 Pennsylvania Avenue and Ms. Lucia Lutz at 408 Pennsylvania Avenue also continued to express their concerns about the vibrations, the destruction to their homes, and the fast moving, heavy traffic. The residents and Council discussed speed reduction, jake brakes, grant opportunities and grant matches
- The Mayor received a note from Pastor Josey at the Mt. Tabor AME Zion Church which discussed partnering with the Borough for a "kids eat free" program this summer. The Mayor will reach out to KACS and try to connect the church with them.
- The Borough-wide Cleanup is on April 5th. Mr. Ortiz will be running that event.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Morgan asked for an update on the restitution payments paid by the criminal who was found guilty of defrauding the Borough by impersonating Truist Bank employees in 2021. The staff will follow up with the Chester County Department of Parole. Mr. Paolicelli asked for details about the crime. Ms. McVaugh noted that the Borough has still not received payment from the property owner who has a large, outstanding water/sewer bill. The Solicitor will continue to work on that issue and will be sending the other offenders to lien shortly. The process to place a lien against a property is specific and long, but the Borough has been following the steps and as of meeting date, 4 of the approximately 20 offenders have paid their bills in full or made arrangements to pay their outstanding balances. The

Council and Mayor discussed the grants the Borough has received. Additionally, they spoke about AQUA and having AQUA own the plant leads to higher costs to residents. Mr. Paolicelli asked if any Council could sell to Aqua. The answer is yes, but there would be a public process that needs to be followed if that were to be considered; this Council has no plans to considering selling the plant. Discussion included how “big water” comes in and takes over small plants that need a lot of assistance; however, the laws have changed and if a plant is well run, it cannot be sold “just because.” The Borough’s plant is in excellent shape and the residents should know that whenever a DEP inspector comes to the plant, they are complimentary of how it is run and maintained. Mr. Morgan continues to encourage Council to check the Treasurer’s books.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Reichert made a motion to approve the March 18 minutes as presented. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved by a 3-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Vision 2030: Mapping our Vision for Tomorrow – Mr. Morgan talked to staff about the size of some of the trees in the Webb Preserve. Staff will try and secure quotes on chopping up some of the largest trees. Mr. Morgan hopes to find two high school volunteers who need community service to mark out the trail. Council discussed a free wood day.

Veterans Memorial Park Dedication – Mayor Susan reached out to Pastor Norton who has graciously agreed to lead the prayer and dedication. She is hopeful that the Color Guard from the National Guard will be able to attend. Mr. Van Loon asked if the scouts were involved. The Mayor informed him that she has contacted them to read the names of those inscribed on the walls. She has invited Rep. Sappey and former Senator Casey to the dedication. Once the monument is set up, Council will determine the location of the flagpole. The dedication will take place on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 10 AM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 7 PM.
- The Borough Cleanup is April 5, 2025, at 10 am

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary