

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
APRIL 4, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**– Council President, Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Vice President Mike Essmaker, Council members Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts and Lucas Ortiz. Also in attendance were Mayor Susan Rzcudlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no announcements.

**BUSINESS:** (the order of the agenda was changed to accommodate the Solicitor's schedule)

**Reservation for Sewer Capacity Application form, Sewer Capacity Agreement form, Resolution to Adopt Policies and Procedures for the Reservation of Sanitary Sewer Capacity** – Solicitor Venzie reviewed these forms with Council summarizing how she developed them and noted that the Resolution sets forth the entire process. Properties within the Borough properties would have priority status over properties not located in the Borough with regard to sewer capacity. Ms. Venzie noted that once a developer enters into this agreement, they have a period of time to get their project completed. If for whatever reason the Developer does not move ahead with their project, the Borough would still be entitled to keep the reservation funds. Of note is that the reservation fee should not be accepted until the preliminary plan application is submitted to the Borough and the DEP planning module is approved. How the Borough would arrive at the amount of money it would take to reserve capacity. T Ms. Venzie will finalize the documents and present them for approval and adoption at the April 16, 2024 meeting.

**Implementing a Backflow Prevention Systems Program** – the president of National Water Specialties Company met with Borough representatives to introduce their services to administer a cross connection control and backflow prevention program in the Borough. This program is to protect the public water supply from the possibility of contamination or pollution by isolating within the internal plumbing system contaminants or pollutants which could backflow or back siphon into the public water. This is a DEP requirement but is currently not enforced. This program is for only nonresidential customers. The council and Solicitor discussed the pros and cons of utilizing this Company's services and whether the Ordinance needs to be updated to include this requirement and whether the borough should charge for water meters. the water meters. The Solicitor and borough staff will continue to gather information and get questions answered before bringing this topic back before Council at a future meeting.

**Real Estate Discussion** – the Borough discussed a parcel of land that may be going on the market.

Council member Janet Watts asked the Solicitor about the recently passed Senate Bill #753.

**Mapping Grant** – the Council continued to discuss the two proposals. The award will be on the April 16, 2024 agenda. Sewer Plant Shed – The facilities operator requested that the inside of the office be repaired, the broken shelves replaced and epoxy put onto the floor. The Consensus of the council was to approve this work. This will be on the April 16, 2024 agenda for a vote.

**Mission Control System for Wells 1 and 2** - The monitoring system at Wells 1 and 2 is outdated. An upgraded system would allow the operator to remotely monitor operations and determine a course of action in the event of an alarm. This system would connect to the existing Mission control at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The consensus of the Council was to move this to a vote at the April 16, 2024 meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** - Mayor Susan reported on the following:

- Grant Opportunity – The Mayor became aware of a DCNR grant for up to \$200,000 for connectivity. She proposes to connect Indian Run Road Park and area to a new sidewalk which will have extended up State Street to the intersection. An asphalt walkway on Indian Run Park and a fishing pier were also a consideration. This is a reimbursable grant with no match. The Mayor will do more research on whether the grant can be reimbursed in chunks or will it be reimbursed at the end. The answers to that depend on whether this grant application can move forward.
- PA 41 Bridge – the Mayor has sent letters to the Borough's state representatives. It is confusing that the TIP report says \$7 million for the intersection by 2028 and nothing on the bridge will be done in 2029. She is going to get to the bottom of that. She confirmed that PennDOT now accepts that the bridge is not in the historic district. Susan thinks she will send a letter to the governor. Our bridge sees 18,000 vehicles per day. The recent

bridge/ship accident in Baltimore is going to send more goods to Philadelphia and Wilmington. Our bridge will only be seeing more traffic from the effects of that accident. The council discussed inviting a representative from PennDOT to meet with Borough Council. The Council also decided to send a video and pictures of the decay. Suan will also send a letter to the Governor's Action Team

- Playground grant – Mayor Susan will find out from HUD when the Borough can expect its grant award.
- Mr. Morgan asked if there was a sketch plan showing the future renovated Pomeroy park that included the memorial wall. At this time there is not.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Reservoir Cover - work has begun but the weather has stalled things. Council discussed the need for light and a surveillance system at the reservoir and asked that this be put on a future agenda.
- Memorial Wall – still waiting for the earth to dry out
- Lead Service Line – The Garage has identified an alumnus who is bilingual who can assist the Borough with this project and overseeing the individuals who will be going door to door.
- Mr. Morgan asked if AQUA has provided everything the Borough has requested and Council members opined on why they are not as eager to come and speak to Council.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Essmaker, Ms. Watts, seconded by Council member Stephanie Reichert, the March 19, 2024 minutes were approved as presented on a 5-0 vote.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Treasurer Joan McVaugh noted that the Borough received notice of the 2024 liquid fuels payment.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Norris, Secretary*