

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**APRIL 4, 2023**  
**7:00 PM**

**Council Members Present:** President, Paul Morgan, Vice President Stephanie Reichert and Council member, Fernando Tena-Diaz were in attendance. Council members Mike Essmaker and Janet Watts and Mayor Susan Rzucidlo were absent. Borough Solicitor Kim Venzie, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also 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 followed by a moment of silence for current and fallen heroes.

**Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

**BUSINESS**

**Discussion of Trash Rates:** The contract with Trash Tech came to an end and the Borough put the trash and recycling collection contract out to bid. The lowest responsive bidder was AJ Blosenski at a cost of approximately \$124,500 for the first year, \$133,900 for the second year and \$144,000 for the third year, a substantial increase from 3 years ago when the last trash contract was negotiated. The Treasurer asked the Council to consider whether they wanted to increase trash rates to cover this increase. She presented three scenarios: spread the increase over 3 years; bill for the entire increase all at once; have Council discuss what they would like to do. (Additionally, she explained that during this process, Staff discovered that not all accounts were being billed for any extra cans over one set - this will be rectified by the next billing cycle). The Borough will be paying the new rate starting second quarter 2023 (July 1, 2023). The Council members present discussed the pros and cons of raising the rates. The Mayor, although not in attendance, shared her opinion in a memo that she was not in favor of raising the rates. Mr. Essmaker, who was not in attendance asked that those present be made aware that he was in favor of raising the rates either incrementally or all at once. The Council members made it clear they didn't want to raise the rates after just raising the water rates but also noted it might be necessary. This topic will continue to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Community Revitalization Program (CRP) Grant** – Mayor Susan and the CRP program administrator from Chester County reviewed the grant application guidelines and details. The Mayor is suggesting that the grant request be \$100,000 for infrastructure testing and improvements and upgrades and improvements to the water and sewer plant. The grant match is 5% of the total award. This was a discussion only and the Resolution will be on the April 18, 2023 agenda.

**PIRMA Resolution 2023-03** – Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council member, Fernando Tena-Diaz made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-03 authorizing Avondale Borough to join with other local government units as a member of the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Risk Management Association to participate in the risk sharing pool for Borough insurance coverage. Council Member Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for discussion. There was none. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 3-0.

**TASA Grant for Sidewalks** – Mr. Morgan led the discussion surrounding a meeting he, Mr. Essmaker, Mayor Rzucidlo and Ms. McVaugh participated in with Joe Natale of DCED. This initial meeting provided details on this grant program which could assist the Borough with sidewalk improvements. The grant application is due in June. Mr. Morgan and Ms. McVaugh both shared details on what they learned – that the award would be approximately \$2 million, and the match requirement is between 15-20% of the award. Responsibility for sidewalks and easements were also discussed. Solicitor Venzie spoke to a sidewalk project in Honeybrook Borough and recommended we contact them to see what their process was. The Council discussed the grant opportunity and the location of proposed sidewalks since there are some areas where sidewalks are not appropriate. The consensus was that the Borough is not prepared to pursue this grant opportunity at this time.

**Discussion of Hero Flags** – Ms. Norris asked what the procedure should be with regard to the Hero Flags. Specifically, she asked about the flags that have fallen off and have not been found or returned; replacement of the flags that are in less than average condition; and would the Borough want to allow new ones to be purchased (someone has requested to purchase a flag in honor of their loved one.) At this time, there was no pricing information available, and the consensus of the Council is that the Borough did not have money in the budget to purchase replacement flags or purchase new flags. The Council was agreeable to the families replacing any missing or shoddy-looking flags and anyone wishing to purchase a new flag. Ms. Reichert suggested creating a large-sized, portable banner with the names and pictures of the heroes that the company already has to be used during celebrations at the new Memorial Garden in Pomeroy Park. Ms. Norris will look into pricing for that.

## **BUSINESS**

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- Solicitor Venzie spoke to Council about recently meeting the Manager of Oxford (Pauline Garcia Allen) who has had a lot of success with securing grant awards for Oxford as well as other successes. Ms. Venzie thought it would be beneficial for Council members to meet Ms. Garcia-Allen and invited members to join the two for lunch in mid-April. Both Mr. Morgan and Ms. Reichert expressed their interest.
- Updates to the Ordinance regarding fee-in-lieu provisions – Ms. Venzie reviewed some suggested revisions that she will discuss in detail in executive session after the April 18, 2023 meeting when the Engineer will also be in attendance.
- Ms. Venzie updated the Council on the Ordinance adoption process once the revisions were approved by the Council. Council would adopt the Ordinance and hold the Conditional Use Hearing on the same night.
- Ms. Venzie will contact MacCombie Engineers to have them send any remaining information they have with regard to Borough projects.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Ms. Reichert made a motion to approve the April 4, 2023 minutes as presented. Mr. Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – There was no additional information presented.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Reichert made the following announcements:

- 1) The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, April 18, 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 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Norris*

Sharon Norris, Secretary