

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**AUGUST 15, 2023**  
**7:00 PM**

**Council Members Present:** President, Paul Morgan, Council members Mike Essmaker, and Janet Watts. Vice President Stephanie Reichert was absent. Council member Lucas Ortiz arrived at 7:20 PM. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also in attendance. Guy Swift, President of the Avondale Fire Department and three members of the public were in the audience. Lt. Versagli from the SCCRPD and Craig Lutz from Wind River Environmental were present.

**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.

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

**SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT** – Lieutenant Versagli updated the Council on activity in the Borough and gave a brief summary of department news including an update on National Night Out and the status of their new hires.

**PRESENTATION ON WATER HARDNESS** – Because the Borough has extremely hard water, the Mayor requested Mr. Lutz to look into how the Borough could add a softener to the existing wells 1 and 2. Mr. Lutz gave a detailed presentation to the Council and members of the public about water hardness, the obstacles with treating different types of water, adding a softener to the system and the possibility of mixing the existing two wells with the new wells that are not online yet. The Council is interested in the cost of adding a softener to the entire system and the cost of blending the existing wells with the new wells. Guy Swift commented on corroded pipes.

**BUSINESS:**

**Avondale Fire Company** – Avondale Fire Company President, Guy Swift gave a summary on the Fire Company activities. He commented on a recent fire at the mushroom house located nearby to the Carillon community. Mr. Swift reported on responding to 152 calls at the rehab facility noting that all calls were not appropriate for a fire and rescue organization. The Fire Company is working with the Rehab on how to appropriately compensate the AFC for all of these visits. They continue to have an ongoing issue with having enough volunteers. This contributed to their decision to sell a 2012 rescue truck and not replace it. This will not affect service to the community.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Venzie is continuing to work on the Conditional Use Decision. She asked to meet with Council on August 24, 2023 in Executive Session to finalize the conditions.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Engineer Wilkes reported that the DBRC application regarding the new wells was submitted in late May but to date they haven't heard anything. He also reported on the DCNR and HUD grants. He noted that the Pomeroy Park conceptual design is now completed. Since the Growing Greener project is not moving forward, a spot can be chosen for the Hero's Wall. The Mayor will contact Bruce Mangini to meet and choose the spot.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Susan Rzucidlo reported on the following:

The Borough will be hosting a Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 11 AM – 2 PM.

Vendors are welcome for a \$20/fee. Council member Janet Watts will invite the Fire Police and the Mayor will invite the SCCRPD bicycle police to attend.

**OTHER**

Discussion of Wind River Contract Expiration – This contract expires at the end of this year. The Council is interested in renewing this contract. After discussion with the Solicitor, Council directed Ms. Norris to contact Wind River to get this process started.

**Porta Potty in Park** – The Council tabled this discussion until Vice President Reichert is in attendance.

**Rawan Bukhamseen Final Analysis on the Wastewater Treatment Plant** – Rawan is a graduate student from the University of Pennsylvania FELS Institute who chose the analysis of the wastewater treatment plant as her graduation capstone project. She presented a well-documented, thorough analysis and presented it to the Council as well as to her review board for her final grade. The Council was pleased to receive this report and wishes Rawan much success in the future. The Mayor will send this report to Representative Sappey.

Solicitor Venzie commented on an interesting court case in East Whiteland Township regarding the halted sale of their Wastewater plant to Aqua.

Mr. Morgan mentioned that the Parking discussion will continue to be tabled until Ms. Reichert is in attendance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council member Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve the July 18, 2023 minutes as presented. Council member Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the July Treasurer's report as presented. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

Treasurer Joan McVaugh informed Council that the 2021 Audit is completed and filed with DCED. Once she has finished the 4 pages of adjusting journal entries, the Auditor will begin the 2022 audit. Ms. McVaugh recommended that Council members come in at random times and check a random bill and bank statement as a good financial controls measure. She mentioned that the new phone system has been installed and is a big improvement. Also, she is looking at new utility billing software to replace the existing Harris system as it is older, and the Borough would like to accept credit cards in house. The cost of leaving the Invoice Cloud contract was discussed. The cost of using Invoice Cloud is prohibitive for some and most residents do not use it.

**Furniture Request** - The Mayor requested \$700 to purchase furniture for the Borough's history museum. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that Council authorize the Mayor to purchase furniture in the amount of \$700 for the history museum. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Morgan called for the vote and the motion carried 4-0.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Morgan made the following announcements:

- a. Hydrant Flushing in the Borough will take place August 22 – 24, 2023. Check the Borough website and Facebook for details.
- b. The Borough office is closed on Monday, September 4, 2023 for the Labor Day holiday
- c. The next Borough Council Meeting is Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7 PM

**Public Comment** – Arlene Norton, Pastor of the Grace and Mercy Ministries is joining with Pastor Sondra Taylor of Galilee UAME Church to hold a community event at the Third Street Park on September 23<sup>rd</sup> between 11 and 5. She requested assistance in closing the roads because pedestrians will be parking in the church parking lots and walking over the Third Street Bridge to the Park. In discussion it was decided that closing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge would make sense. Mayor Susan will contact the State Police. The Pastor will contact the Fire Police. During this discussion, the Pastor asked if there was any chance that the Borough could put a pedestrian bridge over that creek. As this has been a discussion topic many times before, Council explained that a bridge would be flooded out and the cost of a bridge that could possibly withstand the force of a flood would be cost prohibitive.

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Norris*

Sharon Norris, Secretary