

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2022
7:00 PM**

Council Members Present: President, Paul Morgan, Vice President, Stephanie Reichert, Members Mike Essmaker, and Janet Watts. Council Member, Fernando Tena-Diaz, was absent. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Borough Engineer Dennis O'Neill, WWTP Representative Mike Bostic from KBX, Joan McVaugh, Borough Treasurer and Sharon Norris, Borough Administrator, were also in attendance.

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

Public Comment – Mr. VanLoon of 505 and 507 Pennsylvania Avenue discussed a basement water issue he is having at his property. His suggestion is that the issue is due to water ponding on Pennsylvania Avenue during rain events due to clogged inlets. His tenant has gone out in the storm to clean the inlets off. The Council discussed the issue, noting that debris coming down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Township above is a major contributor to the blockage on this particular inlet. It was recommended that Mr. VanLoon take pictures of these flooding events. The Council will direct the Public Works Director to look into this inlet as well as all the inlets in the Borough. Additionally, the Mayor will contact PennDOT. Mr. VanLoon also commented on the street trees along Pennsylvania Avenue. He was informed that street trees are the homeowners' responsibility. The Council and Mr. VanLoon discussed issues with large old trees.

Avondale Fire Company Report – In the absence of the Avondale Fire Company President, Borough Emergency Management Coordinator, Ulises Aguilera-Bodolla, gave a report on the Fire Company and answered questions from the Council.

Southern Chester County Regional Police Report – Lt. Greenwalt reported on the success of National Night Out; he noted that two of the force's members were retiring: Mario Raimato at the end of the year and Lt. Ward at the end of this month. The Lieutenant reported on the upcoming CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) event at the Garage and an upcoming event in October. He also reported on the August 30th Air Show, noting the time and dates are different than in years past due to President Biden's residence being in close proximity to the airfield.

Engineer's Report – Mike Bostic, from KBX, gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the emergency repair at 524 Pennsylvania Avenue, and the success of the hydrant flushing. The Council discussed his report and asked him to check for dead trees around the plant.

When asked about a resident's report of sludge in their water, and the resident having to purchase a water treatment system, Mr. Bostic noted that the Borough only chlorinates the water and that the cost of a community softener is over a million dollars. Mr. Bostic mentioned that sludge could be coming from this person's pipes.

Mr. Dennis O'Neill, Borough Engineer, gave an overview of the draft stormwater ordinance which should be adopted by all Chester County municipalities by the end of September. The discussion included the simplified approach method, Operations and Maintenance Inspections, fees, and examples of pervious and impervious surfaces. The Council also discussed rain gardens.

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council Member Mike Essmaker made a motion that the Council authorize Solicitor Venzie to advertise the Stormwater Ordinance for enactment at the September 20th meeting. Council member Janet Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for public comment There was no public comment. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. O'Neill discussed the outstanding DEP violations, a request to reserve sewage capacity and the need for a sewage capacity ordinance. Mr. O'Neill will be speaking with the developers in September. Mr. O'Neill also recommended waiting to see if the Borough gets a grant before purchasing the new grinders. Mr. Morgan called for a motion to have the Solicitor draft an ordinance regarding the ability to reserve sanitary sewer system capacity for future use. Mr. Essmaker made the motion. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0. The Council discussed the status of several grants with Mr. O'Neill.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Kim Venzie discussed Act 57 which sets forth the process and procedures for taxpayers to seek a waiver of late payment penalties for real estate taxes. The Borough must pass a resolution adopting this process but cannot do so until after October 11th. The Borough has 90 days after October 11th to adopt the resolution. Solicitor Venzie gave the Council an update on the General Code codification project and recommended that the Council start a review of the Borough's Fee Resolution.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Morgan called for a motion to approve the July 19, 2022, minutes as presented. Council member Mike Essmaker made the motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was none. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Finance Committee – Mrs. McVaugh reported that she is working on having a complete Treasurer's Report to the Council. Mr. Morgan recommended that each Council member come into the office and review the books with Mrs. McVaugh. Mrs. McVaugh requested approval to purchase battery backups for the computers as they currently have no protection. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Vice President, Stephanie Reichert, made a motion that the Borough spend up to \$500 for battery backups. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0. Treasurer McVaugh and Council discussed the COVID relief funds. On motion by Mrs. Reichert, seconded by Mr. Essmaker, the Borough authorized the Treasurer to open a PLGIT account for the COVID relief funds. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Essmaker asked that Approval of the Bills be an agenda item moving forward.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Rzucidlo reported as follows:

- PennDOT will be installing the signage and markings in the area of the 3rd Street bridge by the end of the month.
- Members of the Community Garden would like to hold a Fall Harvest Potluck for the community on October 22, 2022. They are seeking the support of the Borough. The plans are still in process and the Mayor will update Council as plans get firmed up.
- The mayor would like to order two more cameras to put up at the area parks. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mrs. Reichert made a motion that the Borough authorize the purchase of 2 cameras and brackets at a cost not to exceed \$300. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Watts. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

• Mr. DiFilippo met with the welder who has agreed to repair the basketball poles. The Council members discussed putting an article about the recent vandalism into the next Borough newsletter. The Mayor announced that Fran Maye will do an article in the Daily Local regarding the recent vandalism at the Little Library.

Old Business –

- Mrs. Watts asked about the Memorial Wall. The Council noted there have been no updates.
- F150 Truck Update – the Council discussed the F150 truck which was formerly the Borough water truck. Mr. Morgan called for the motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion giving the Mayor the authorization to sell the truck at a dealership if the opportunity arises. The motion was seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0. Additionally, the staff will repost the truck on Municibid.

New Business – Schedule Borough Strategic Planning Meeting – the Council discussed making a list of projects they would like to accomplish and prioritize them in an effort to address Borough issues in a more strategic fashion. They asked that the next agenda be kept light to begin this planning process.

Announcements – Mr. Morgan announced that the next Borough Council meeting will be held on September 7th.

Public Comment: Mr. Morgan and Mr. Essmaker reviewed the Avondale Fire Company (AFC) audit and had some questions. Mrs. Norris will follow up with the AFC. Mrs. Watts discussed an area on Church Road near Cutone Mushrooms where the edge of the road is deteriorating. The Council directed the staff to notify Mr. DiFilippo. There was no public comment.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris
Borough Administrator