

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2023
7:00 PM**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President, Paul Morgan, and Council members Mike Essmaker and Janet Watts. Vice President Stephanie Reichert and Member Lucas Ortiz were absent. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also in attendance. Two members of the public were in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER – President Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and announced the meeting is being recorded. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – There was an executive session on November 27, 2023 to discuss a possible hiring opportunity.

BUSINESS: (the order of the agenda was switched to accommodate Mr. Robinson's availability)

Consideration of Peace and Good Order Ordinance 2023-279 – Solicitor Venzie opened the Public Hearing to enact Ordinance 2023-279 updating and expanding Chapter 281 to rename the chapter and to control noise within the Borough, prohibit loud and unreasonable noises, and provide for additional provisions to protect the peace and good order of the Borough including addressing graffiti and its removal. She went through the Exhibits which included B1 – notice sent to the CC Law Library and the Daily Local News; B2 – Proof of publication that the notice ran in the November 14 and Nov. 21 newspapers; B3, a copy of the Chester County Planning Commission Review Letter and B4 a letter from the CCPC acknowledging that their changes had been incorporated and their support. Ms. Venzie explained that these are all of the requirements the Borough had to meet before enacting this Ordinance. Council member, Janet Watts made a motion that the Council enact Ordinance 2023-279, the Peace and Good Order Ordinance, and amend the Code of the Borough of Avondale by removing the current Chapter 281 in its entirety and replacing it entirely with a new Chapter 281 which is attached as Exhibit A to the Ordinance. Council Member Mike Essmaker seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 3-0.

Consideration of Sending Requests for Proposals for Building, Inspection and Zoning Services and Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor services – The Council and Mayor briefly discussed sending Requests for Proposals for services every three to five years as a matter of good business practice. They also discussed the number of hours they would like to have the Code Enforcement official in the Borough. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that Council authorize staff to advertise and send out Requests for Proposals for the following services: Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, Building Inspection Services, and Zoning and Code Enforcement.

Proclamation for Dirk Robinson – Mr. Robinson has been a long time poll worker during many Avondale Borough elections and the Borough and Judges of Elections wanted to recognize and thank him for his many years of volunteerism at the polls and throughout election season. Due to his declining health, Mr. Robinson was not able to be in attendance, but he and his family participated via phone while the Mayor read his proclamation aloud. Carolyn DiCecco and Louise Cleveland participated briefly in this presentation.

Consideration of Terminating Western Chester County Council of Governments (WCCCOG) Agreement – Ms. Watts explained the reasons for terminating this agreement. Initially, being a member was a benefit and offered a learning opportunity but as time went by it became apparent that Western Chester County has different issues from Southern Chester County. Additionally, she is unable to continue to attend every meeting as she has been. Mr. Essmaker made the motion that the Council withdraw from membership in the Western Chester County Council of Governments and send a letter notifying them of the Borough's intention to terminate its Agreement effective December 31, 2023. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Solicitor Venzie reviewed the new law regarding agenda requirements, noting that agendas cannot be changed within 24 hours of the meeting unless it is an emergency. The rule to follow is if you are going to take action, it has to be on the agenda at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Ms. Venzie offered up the idea of holding a true work session where no decisions are made and then hold the regular meeting shortly thereafter. The work session can be used as a learning opportunity. She gave examples of one of her other municipalities but noted that Avondale could structure the work session however they would like. She also recommended that Council establish shared goals and consider forming committees among each other to work on those goals. The PSATS annual

conference is a good way to interact with other local officials and learn what other municipalities are doing. Ms. Venzie commented that she hadn't heard anything from the developers of the Quarry project.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Susan Rzucidlo reported on the following:

- On Saturday December 16th the first ever Santa Train will be traveling from Kennett Square, through Toughkenamon, to Avondale and West Grove. Santa will be greeting kids from the train and will be at each stop for approximately 15 minutes. The Mayor is working with East Penn Railroad on the timing.
- The Mayor would like to thank the Southern Chester County Regional Police and the Fire Police for all of their assistance at the Tree Lighting on December 2. A takeaway from the Tree lighting is that Andy should weed Wack the area between the municipal building and the public works building.
- The CRP grant in the amount of \$100,000 for mapping and videoing the water, stormwater and sewer pipes has been approved.

OTHER

- The staff reviewed the plan to perform the DEP required lead service line inventory. The staff is working with the Funding Navigator to fund this project and the Garage to go door-to-door. Once developed and finalized, the scope of work will be presented to Council prior to submitting to the Garage and then to the Funding Navigator for final approval.
- The Mayor requested that the Council and Mayor be provided with an ongoing tracking list of outstanding tasks.
- The Council requested that the staff follow up with the probation officer to see when the convicted fraud offender will start paying his fines.
- Mr. Essmaker asked when the Engineer will present the road program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the November 8, 2023 minutes as presented. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Morgan made the following announcements:

- Meet the Author on Sunday, December 10th at 2 PM meet author, Mark Dewit Lanyon and hear him review his book "LOST, Chester County, PA"
- The Borough Outdoor Holiday Light Contest Runs from December 18 through December 22. Check the website and Facebook for details.
- The next Borough Council Meeting is Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned on a motion by Mr. Essmaker and seconded by Mr. Morgan at approximately 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary