

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2022
7:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Morgan, Mike Essmaker, Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts

GUESTS PRESENT: Sandy Masten, Kim Venzie, Mayor Rzuclidlo, Lt. Jason Ward, Chief Simpson, John Watts, Shane Morgan, Carrie Freman, Leah Reynolds, Jim Mercante.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order by President Morgan at 7:00 p.m.

SCCRPD

Lt. Jason Ward gave the following report:

We had a change in our department. Lt. Greenwalt is now overseeing the investigative division department and Lt. Ward is overseeing the patrol unit. We basically just switched positions. There were two incidents that occurred in January that were of note: On January 21st, a traffic stop was made on a report of a stolen vehicle. When the officer was trying to take the person into custody, he resisted arrest and ended up punching the officer in the face. He was tazed and taken into custody. This person has a criminal history in Chester and Delaware Counties. The second incident involved himself responding to a call in Avondale Borough for a PFA violation/disturbance and located the suspect in a vehicle that we did a traffic stop and he resisted arrest. Lt. Ward ended up going to the ground with him and he injured his leg. The public safety committee meetings are on the second Thursdays of each month and are open to the public. The next meeting will be in West Grove at 7:00 p.m. The meetings alternate every month between New Garden and West Grove.

RESIDENT AND PUBLIC COMMENTS/REQUEST/CONCERNS

CARRIE FREEMAN – AVONDALE APARTMENTS ADVOCACY GROUP

Ms. Freeman gave the following report.

We had a site visit with professionals at the Avondale Apartments on November 19, 2021. The Avondale Apartments sits on a floodway and on a floodplain. Flooding affects not only the Avondale Apartments but also housing located in the vicinity. When the flooding occurs, approximately 250 residents need to be housed in temporary shelters until they are allowed to return. Currently, SCC, KACS, The Garage as well as the Red Cross and others are able to accommodate these displaced individuals until their apartments are deemed livable again. Rich Walkup, the owner of the apartments, told us that when flooding event occurs, everything permeable that was touch by flood waters needs to be replaced, as well as appliances. The cost can be as high as \$300,000 an incident, some of which is covered by flood insurance. The owner would be open to considering other usage options for the current basement apartments; such as laundry facilities. However, the property is not currently zoned for commercial businesses. There are buyout programs where the Borough would purchase the Avondale Apartments but this is not likely to occur.

Dr. Melinda Daniels with Stroud Water told us that the two main causes of this flooding are: 1. Stormwater runoff due to increased developments in other municipalities and increased impervious paving that contribute to stormwater runoff that flows to Avondale. 2. Climate Intensification – The storms and hurricanes now are much more severe than 20-30 years ago and are coming with twice the frequency. It only takes 2-3 inches of rain in a short time period to cause flooding. There is nothing feasible to address the situation in Avondale itself; the creek cannot be diverted, flood barrier bridges will not work, and you can't jack the apartments up above the floodwaters.

At this time, there is a viable option to better control stormwater by working upstream. An opportunity came up; the recent acquisition of Lock Nairn golf course by New Garden Township. New Garden Township has purchased Loch Nairn and will use a DOT contract to mitigate flooding to develop it into a park at no cost to the taxpayers.

Avondale Borough has a MS4 Permit and FEMA funding is available for projects in the Borough's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Borough can ask for money from FEMA to amend that plan. The County will be receiving federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act which can be used for infrastructure projects. This is something for Avondale to think about in the future. Stroud and CCWA will be glad to write a supportive letter for the grant. We met with Ramsay Reiner, New Garden's township manager and she said they will not own Lock Nairn until the end of 2022. New Garden's goal is to enhance the watershed is to keep it a natural preserve. New Garden is willing to help Avondale and make it a gigantic stormwater mitigation feature. We are a group of people who have concerns and willing to help beyond Avondale's residents and want to help alleviate the problems.

Leah Reynolds from KACS said there were 86 people displaced in the recent flood. The Garage and KACS are not disaster relief organizations, we are not funded or set up that way, we do not have infrastructure with employees dedicated for disaster relief. In the past two years we have made decisions as human beings that we will come to the aid of the people in Avondale. We need to come up with an emergency disaster plan and we feel we have the right group of people in this room to do the right thing and work together. Ms. Freeman said she will let the board know when the meetings are scheduled.

SHANE MORGAN - DIRECTOR OF THE WHITE CLAY WILD AND SCENIC RIVER PROGRAM

There are things we can do within the watershed association focusing our restoration efforts upstream. Whether it will get rid of all the flooding with climate change and everything else going on; she doesn't know the answer since it is in the floodway. It may alleviate smaller events by trying to contain some of the stormwater upstream. She applied and received a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Federation funding to do a study of the area. We hired a consultant who is going to do stream walks and look for opportunities where a lot of erosion is going on, identify some projects, and come up with some cost analysis. It is more like a concept plan for the upper basin. The funding hasn't come through yet, it was awarded in August so we are hoping to get the funds by Spring and get started. It will take two years from start to finish. She also applied to the National Park Foundation for the exact grant and they also awarded the funding. There is another project she came up with to spend this funding. She decided to focus within Avondale Borough doing a green infrastructure plan that just Avondale generates. A big portion will be a community led research project. We are going to reach out to all the people that were affected by the flooding.

Dennis O'Neill said one of the big flooding issues is under the Route 41 bridge. There is a lot of siltation collection at the bottom of the bridge. There is a sand bar that should be removed because it that keeps water from flowing. This is a prime candidate for project but PennDOT is in a design phase to replace the bridge. We are working with PennDOT to try and get this resolved in their design.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve the minutes from the Council Meetings on January 18, 2022 and February 1, 2022, 2nd by Stephanie Reichert, motion carried.

AVONDALE FIRE COMPANY

Guy Swift gave the following report:

In 2021, Fire Company - There were 52 calls in the Borough and no property was loss.
 EMS Division – There were 82 calls in Avondale Borough with a total of 1,411 calls.
 840 were transports, 147 refusals, 144 recalls and 280 no service.

January 2022 - Fire Company - There were a total of 47 calls - 3 calls in the Borough.
 Most of the calls came between 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a total of 18.
 Dispatch to arrival average time was 6.94 minutes.

January 2022 - EMS Division - There were a total of 114 calls – 6 calls in the Borough.
 42 were BLS and 28 were ALS
 70 Transports, 8 refusals, 11 recalls, 19 no services, 6 assist fire department.
 Busiest time is 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 pm.
 4 missed calls were in New Garden Township

Most of our transports are going to Christiana Hospital with a 2 – 2 ½ hour turnaround time. Chester County can be up to 3 hours and 15-minute turnaround time.

Guy said he will not be at every meeting but will send a monthly report. Somebody will be here to give a quarterly report.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT

Dennis O'Neill gave the following report.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY CONSORTIUM MATERIAL BIDS

The Borough participates in the Southern Chester County consortium. They put out material bids every year for road oils, fuel, stone, line painting and asphalt. Last year we participated with the road surfacing of State Street. The co-op puts out a bid package and everybody get to use the pricing. In the past, we have done every other year for the line striping so this would be the year for that. It is such a small project that contractors are hard to find. Council approved Dennis to move forward with submitting numbers for the bid package.

MASTER LOCATORS TO LOCATE WATER VALVES.

There is a valve box leaking on Minor Street and we are unable to locate the valve at Church and Minor Streets to shut off water in order to make the repair. We would like to have Master Locators come in to locate the valve. The problem is that it is in an area that was paved and there is water, gas and electric in the same vicinity so we just don't want to start digging looking for this valve. Master Locators cost about \$1,750 per day. To find the main will only take a couple of hours but you are going to pay for a whole days rate no matter how long they take. He would like to bring them in for a day to look for other valves that we can't locate. Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve Master Locators for \$1,750 - \$2,000, 2nd by Janet Watts, motion carried.

SCADA SYSTEM

The SCADA system is a very complicated electrical system and has a lot of benefits. There is a lot of data that can be derived from SCADA. This system allows the operator to read data and interact with valves, pumps, motors, and sensors. It was installed in 2006 and never updated until 2019. In 2019, the software was updated with the latest version of the Wonderware Intouch Software. A new Dell Computer and printer were also included in the upgrade. The Alarm Software was also upgraded. Through the years, the different treatment plant operators had different wants out of SCADA. When something didn't work, they would bypass the system and because of this we are not able to analysis what the system is doing right now because there are so many pieces not functioning. We thought the problem was using 2006 software and found out it was just out of sync not getting communication from the plant. We are working with another company to give us a quote to figure out what is not connected or is it cheaper just to go to another system. He would like to add this into a capital plan.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Kim Venzie gave the following report

ORDINANCE CODIFICATION REVIEW PROJECT

Kim reviewed the project with Council. The Borough has many ordinances and they are not all in one place. Council entered into a contract with General Code. General Code is a group that takes all the ordinances and puts them into one document. When the project is completed, it will be a hard document and it will also be available online. Kim is now working with General Code on the legal aspect of it.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve the bills and financial statements for January, 2nd by Paul Morgan, motion carried.

ADOPT 2022 AMENDED BUDGET

Mike Essmaker made a motion to adopt the 2022 Amended Budget, 2nd by Paul Morgan, motion carried.

AUTO PAY – FOR SOME BILLS

Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve Sandy to set up auto pay for Peco, Comcast, Verizon, and Wex, 2nd by Paul Morgan, motion carried. Mayor Rzucidlo said she would take care of Comcast.

HEROE'S WALL FUND MONEY

President Morgan asked if there was any progress on moving the hero wall fund money to another account. The Secretary said she didn't get a call back from Dottie. Kim Venzie said she will give Dottie a call.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Rzucidlo gave the following report:

APPOINT BOB CLEVELAND AS AVONDALE BOROUGH'S HISTORIAN

Mike Essmaker made a motion to appoint Bob Cleveland as Avondale Borough's Historian, 2nd by, Janet Watts, motion carried.

BALTIMORE PIKE BIKEWAY RESOLUTION

This was tabled until next meeting for more clarification

PROPOSED EVENT SCHEDULE

- April 23rd - Earth Day Clean Up. Volunteers invited. 8:00 a.m. to noon.
- June 4th and the first Saturday in June every year. BubblePalooza! Family Fun Day. 12 to 4 p.m.
- August 2nd National Night Out.
- September 17th – 8 a.m. to noon - Fall Cleanup Volunteers invited (tentative)
- October 31st - Halloween Trick or treat 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (We may do a gathering at the Borough Hall but we are still looking into that.
- December 3rd – and the first Saturday in December every year. Tree Lighting and Holiday event. Maybe a cookie contest with the board judging 3 to 7 p.m.
- December 31st - New Years for Families. 11 am to 1 p.m. Borough Hall celebrate New Years eve at noon. Write a goal for 2023.

OLD BUSINESS**MEETING WITH TRASH TECH**

President Morgan said they had a meeting with Trash Tech. Apparently, they are aware of the problems. They have certain homes that are the problem. We are going to work with Trash Tech on educating the residents on how to properly recycle and post in many places. If this doesn't work, we have an option b where they would pick up the trash and recycling on separate days.

COUNCILS ON GOVERNMENT

Paul Morgan made a motion to approve \$125.00 for a one-year commitment to Council on Government, 2nd by Mike Essmaker. Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve Kim Venzie to review all the documents and prep for ordinance adoption at the March 15th Council meeting, 2nd by Stephanie Reichert, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

CAMERA'S AT WWTP & NEW WELLS

President Morgan said there is \$4,000 in the budget for cameras at the treatment plant and the new wells on Pomeroy Avenue. The Secretary will call Mike LaFrance to get a quote.

RESIGNATION - DAVE BESSELMAN

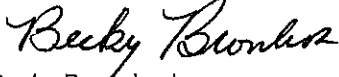
This was tabled until the next Council meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Council Meeting – March 1, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Council Meeting - March 15, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.
- An Executive Session will be held after this meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

Kim Venzie said to keep the meeting opened in case Council wanted to come back in regular meeting but we don't need anyone to stay.

Respectfully Submitted,



Becky Brownback
Borough Secretary