

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Council President, Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Vice President Mike Essmaker, Council members Stephanie Reichert and Janet Watts. Council member Lucas Ortiz was absent. Also in attendance were Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Engineer Tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris. Guy Swift from the Avondale Fire Company, Lt. Joseph Versagli from the SCCRPD and Ulises Aguilera the Borough Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) were also in attendance

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no announcements

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT: Lieutenant Joseph Versagli updated the Council on the goings on in Avondale during the last reporting period. He discussed the weight restriction on the bridge on Pennsylvania Avenue and that ticketing began on January 15th. The Council and the Lt. discussed traffic patterns, truck traffic and trucks using the secondary roads as a way to avoid the detour.

AVONDALE FIRE COMPANY REPORT – Mr. Guy Swift, president of the Avondale Fire company presented the Fire Company’s end of the year report. Mr. Swift noted that he and Ulises Aguilera are working on secondary water sources as requested by the Council.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT – Mr. Aguilera, the Borough’s EMC recapped the most recent storm noting that the Borough put into place the Snow Emergency No Parking rule. The Mayor has worked with the Chester County Emergency Management office to be able to post on the Ready Chesco website to send emergency notifications to residents who have signed up. Mr. Aguilera went over the Emergency Operations Plan and what needs to be updated. Additionally, the County will be meeting with Mr. Aguilera to survey the Borough and discuss hazardous materials procedures and flooding.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE – Ms. McVaugh updated the Council on the following: the skimmer rubbers on the clarifier have been replaced (part of the original sewer grant). The staff and Mr. Hazelwood met with Jenifer Fields regarding continuing the research or possibly concluding the high organic load efforts. The Reservoir Cover project is on track with a plan in place. The Council and Mr. Wilkes discussed what is involved in changing the use of the EQ tank.

BUSINESS:

Consideration of Fence Repair at the Quarry Pond – Vice President, Mike Essmaker, made a motion that the Council authorize Utopia Landscapes to repair the quarry pond fence at a cost not to exceed \$3,800. Council member, Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

Request for Proposals (RFP) Results

RFP for Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB Attorney – the Borough received two responses to this RFP. After considering the two, the Council agreed that continuing with the current ZHB solicitor who is familiar with the Borough’s land use regulations and codes makes the most sense. In the past three years, the Borough has received two ZHB applications.

Inspection, Zoning and Building Services – The Borough did not receive any responses to our RFP for these services and after discussion, Council decided not to seek new proposals.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Mr. Wilkes reviewed his report. He spoke about how to figure the number of EDUs per residential property noting that the information comes from the Borough’s Chapter 94 report. Mr. Wilkes and Council discussed how to accurately calculate this number. Council and Mr. Wilkes also discussed paving and multi modal grants, replacing lead pipes and paving and developing a plan of action. The Council decided to set up a road committee. Members will be Mike, Paul, Susan, Andy, Mr. Wilkes and staff.

MAYOR’S REPORT - Mayor Susan reported on the following:

- Route 41 Bridge – The Mayor is working on a letter to Senator Kane. At the Senator’s suggestion, she contacted neighboring municipalities and has received letters of support from New Garden Township, Kennett Square Borough and Kennett township stating they support this endeavor to get PennDOT to repair this bridge sooner rather than later.

- Playground Grants: The Mayor provided HUD with the information that was needed and anticipates that work will begin this Spring on the playgrounds.
- Bubble Palooza will take place on Saturday, June 29 from 10 AM – 2 PM
- Verizon Pole through Borough stormwater pipe: The Mayor has met with Verizon. After much back and forth, it was decided that Verizon won't move the pole; however, they will pay for Mr. DiFillipo to install a new stormwater pipe. Mr. DiFilippo will provide a quote.
- Comprehensive Plan Planning Meeting – the Mayor discussed setting up time to discuss how to implement some of the Comprehensive Plan action items. Council and the Mayor decided to dedicate a workshop meeting to start the discussion. The first planning meeting will be held as part of the March 5 Borough Council workshop meeting.
- Hero's Wall – The Mayor reported that the Boy Scout benches are built and installed at the Hero's garden. They look terrific. There are no definitive plans for when the memorial will be set.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Morgan encouraged the Council members to come in and do financial check-ins with the Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Essmaker, seconded by Ms. Watts, the February 6, 2024 meeting minutes were approved as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Council member Janet Watts relayed that Mr. John Watts, 214 Mullen Drive, asked that the Borough contact PennDOT about fixing the potholes on Pennsylvania Avenue between First and Third Streets.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris, Secretary