

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 21 , 2023**  
**7:00 PM**

**Council Members Present:** President Paul Morgan, Vice President, Stephanie Reichert, Council members Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts and Mayor Susan Rzucidlo. Also in attendance were Solicitor Kim Venzie, Borough Engineer Tom Wilkes and Treasurer Joan McVaugh. Council Member Fernando Tena-Diaz arrived at 7:15 pm. There were three members of the public 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** – There was no public comment.

**Announcements:** Mr. Morgan announced the following:

- this meeting is being recorded
- the agenda order would be switched around
- the Borough has purchased a bucket truck in the amount of \$30,000 for the Public Works Department
- There was an executive session prior to the start of tonight's meeting to discuss legal issues.

**BUSINESS**

**Southern Chester County Regional Police (SCCRPD)** – Acting Lt. Joe Versagli was in attendance to give a summary of department activities and to answer any questions the Council members may have. He noted a recent arrest for local check fraud at the Latina Mexicana store was made. The Acting Lieutenant announced that Officer Mario Raimato has come out of retirement to continue on as the School Resource Officer at the Kennett Consolidated School District. He also reported that the Department has received 14 applicants for open positions.

**Hero's Wall Discussion** – Mr. Dave Besselman, former Council member and member of the Hero's Wall Committee, along with Bruce Mangini of Cemetery Memorial Services participated in this discussion about moving the Hero's Wall to the Pomeroy Park area. Mr. Besselman requested that anyone who had given money to the project be notified of the change of plan. Mr. Mangini talked about the many benefits of moving the location. Mr. Besselman generously committed to donating \$200 toward flowers. The Wall should be in by Memorial Day. Public comment came from Roseann Swift, a resident of the Borough who participated in this discussion. Mr. Mangini is going to come to a future meeting with a CAD drawing of what the proposed Hero's Wall Memorial will look like at the new location.

**Wilkinson Project for Quarry** – Mr. Bill Romanelli, a representative from Wilkinson Builders discussed the slightly revised plan which included some smaller homes and additional parking. The Council, the Borough Engineer and Solicitor along with Mr. Romanelli discussed ways to provide more parking, one entrance versus two entrances, the building being completed in phases (approx. 50 homes built per year with a total of 179 homes expected to be built). They discussed building the Baltimore Pike entrance at the start of the project but Mr. Romanelli explained why that couldn't be accomplished until at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. They also discussed financial security and project approval timeline.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** – Solicitor Kim Venzie confirmed that the Borough wanted to continue to move forward with the water rate increase. She recommended that the Council put a letter out to residents regarding the increase and provide examples as to how this may affect the residents. The Staff and Mrs. Reichert will work together on that.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mike Bostic, of Wind River Environmental (also known as KBX), the contractor in charge of the Water and Wastewater treatment plants gave an update on the reservoir project, hardness in the water and thanked the Council for allowing Avondale untreated water to be used to assist with a diesel spill cleanup.

Carroll Engineering submitted a written report for the Council's review. Mr. Malin, WWTP Engineer, toured the plant with the plant operator, the treasurer, Council member Reichert and Mayor Rzucidlo and reported that the plant was in good order. He recommended that the Borough form a Water/Wastewater Committee. Council members were in agreement and the new Committee (WAWA for short) was created including the plant operators, Brent Hazelwood and Craig Lutz; Council members Essmaker and Reichert, Mayor Rzucidlo and staff members Norris and McVaugh. The first meeting is Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Other discussion topics included how to improve the hardness of Avondale's water. Mr. Wilkes noted he would have to contact the former engineer to assist with the MS4 program and some other items. The Council members authorized Mr. Wilkes to write MacCombie Engineers a letter requesting whatever they needed.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Community Garden Update** – Vice President Stephanie Reichert updated the Council on the garden. They are applying for a Dockstader grant with a wish list that includes: new wood chips, gutters for the shed, water pump, and putting gutters on the Boy Scout cabin to fill a rain barrel.

**Pedestrian Crossing At Route 41 And State Road** – the Council has discussed this problematic area a number of times. It is currently on the PennDOT Improvement list for work to be done in 2025. Engineer Wilkes asked some questions to get further clarification as to what the existing problems were. Mrs. Reichert will review past correspondence from the Engineer for clarification of what the next steps could be.

**Western Chester County Council of Local Government (WCCCOG)** – Council Member Janet Watts attended the last WCCCOG meeting and summarized the highlights. She announced that the WCCCOG is promoting a scholarship for community members who are seniors in high school and are seeking degrees in specific areas of government. Once it is finalized, the Borough will provide the scholarship information to the AG School District and Charter School. This scholarship is only good for those students whose municipalities belong to WCCCOG.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Connections regarding finding street and sidewalk funds – Council Member Mike Essmaker will connect with Senator Kane's office for the grant listing for these items.
- DVRPC Pilot Program – DVRPC has invited the Borough to try out their funding navigator program which will connect the Borough with organizations who would provide services at no or low cost
- CC Planning Commission New Pilot Program – Kevin Meyers from the Planning Commission asked us if we wanted to participate.
- Request for Stop Sign on Pomeroy – the Mayor explained the concerns with cars speeding down Third Street onto Pomeroy and continuing toward State. A stop sign at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street could potentially slow down the speeders. The Mayor has discussed this with the police. After discussion, Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that the

Borough approve a stop sign at the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pomeroy. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mrs. Watts made a motion that the Council approve the February 7, 2023 minutes as presented. Council Member Fernando Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Treasurer Joan McVaugh updated the Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter billing. Mr. Essmaker asked that Invoice Cloud information be provided on the next quarter billing statement. Mr. Tena-Diaz made a motion to approve the January 2023 Treasurer's report. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Morgan made the following announcements:

- 1) The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, February 21, 2023.
- 2) The Borough office is closed on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day.

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

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Norris*

Sharon Norris  
Borough Administrator