

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2025
7:00 PM**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Morgan, Mike Essmaker, Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts, and Lucas Ortiz. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also in attendance. There was one member 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 – Mr. Vance Pennington, President of the Carillon HOA, commented on the parking issues in Carillon. He and the Council discussed various ways to discourage Carillon residents from parking in locations that present a safety issue. Mr. Morgan and Ms. Reichert will meet with the Carillon HOA to discuss potential solutions.

BUSINESS

Providing Heat in the Unheated Section of the Public Works facility – The Council discussed the proposal submitted by Mr. DiFilippo to add heat to the last bay in the Public Works area and agreed that this is a project they would like to see completed. The Council asked Treasurer McVaugh to determine where in the budget these funds would come from. This will be voted on at the February 18th meeting.

MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor met with the Secretary of Human Services while at a non-Borough event in Harrisburg.

The Mayor thanked Andy for his diligence during the recent winter storm events

PennDOT has asked the Borough to paint the stop bars at the intersection of Baltimore Pike and PA 41. Since these are both PennDOT roads the Mayor advised to respond to PennDOT that this is a PENNDOT responsibility.

Mr. Essmaker made a motion to amend the agenda to include this discussion. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Residents and non-residents have been asking about phorid flies. The Borough supports the funding for additional research. Since there are no mushroom houses in Avondale Borough it doesn't make sense to be added to the Department of Agriculture's PA Order of Quarantine as it is an added administrative expense to do so.

PennDOT has not provided the Borough with the results of the recent core sampling on the PA 41 bridge and the Mayor will continue to follow up.

OTHER

Chatham and Poplar Streets Water Service Lines - Due to the cold weather, the Borough experienced water leaks on Poplar and Chatham Streets. The size of the service line on Poplar and the condition of the pipe on Chatham is a cause for serious discussion on upgrading these two areas. The Mayor and Council discussed upcoming grant opportunities for water line replacement and paving as well as loan opportunities.

Replacing Signs in the Borough – several of the Avondale Borough signs welcoming travelers into the Borough are fading and in need of replacement. Council and the Mayor discussed the condition of the signs, whether to update the existing logo and how to do that (i.e., a contest, contact the art department at the schools for design assistance, utilize the artistic abilities of the students at the Garage). The staff will get a price to replace the sign at the Dunkin Donuts with no changes.

Starting Process to Increase Compensation for Council and Mayor – due to a recent update to Act 131, the Council and Mayor are eligible for an increase to their compensation. Council and the Mayor discussed this and agreed it is something they would like to move forward with. The staff will direct the Solicitor to prepare the necessary Ordinance to be able to implement this increase at the next election. Council members and the Mayor will not see an increase until they are next elected; newly elected council members and Mayor would see the increase once their terms begin.

FINANCE

Mr. Morgan thanked Council members Reichert and Watts for reviewing the bank statements.

MINUTES

Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the January 21, 2025, minutes as presented. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Morgan announced that he has the stakes and flags needed to map out a trail in the Webb Preserve. He and the Trail Committee will begin once the weather is milder.
- Mr. Morgan discussed his thoughts on the expense of the new all-accessible park.
- Ms. Watts discussed trucks on Church Street and Mayor Susan thanked the Cutone's for being good citizens of the Borough.

Vision 2030: Mapping Our Vision for Tomorrow – Mayor Susan discussed she is stepping back from the idea of parking and solar panels at the sewer plant and focusing more on grants for water and roads.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Pennington advised that he contacted Representative Sappey's office and Senator Kane's office for possible grant opportunities and guidance with Carillon's stormwater issues.

ADJOURNMENT – On a motion by Mr. Essmaker, seconded by Mr. Morgan the meeting adjourned at approximately 8 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Norris
Sharon Norris, Secretary