

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 23 2024**

CALL TO ORDER and 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, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Engineer Tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris. Lieutenant Joseph Versagli from the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department and Mike Bostic from Windriver Environmental (KBX) were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Morgan announced that the meeting is being recorded and there would be an executive session after the meeting to discuss personnel matters and potential litigation. Mr. Morgan also announced that long time resident and community volunteer Dirk Robinson had finally succumbed to his illness and passed away on January 6, 2024.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT – Lt. Joseph Versagli presented the SCCRPD annual report which included the number of cases solved by detectives and still outstanding. He summarized the Traffic Safety Unit report and informed the Council that officers are now ticketing trucks that exceed the weight limit on the Route 41 bridge. Council Member Janet Watts discussed the two truck parking incidents she witnessed on Church Road in an area where No Parking signs are clearly visible. She also requested that Police look out for trucks trying to park overnight citing an incident she had with a truck parked adjacent to the Borough building. Council Member Stephanie Reichert discussed drivers cutting through the post office parking lot from Route 41 and out onto State road to avoid the intersection. The Lieutenant will follow-up with the Traffic Unit.

WATER/WASTEWATER PLANT UPDATE – Plant Operator Mike Bostic and Treasurer Joan McVaugh updated the Council on the chlorine line estimate, raising the manhole in the railroad area and getting a lock on the manhole by the electric company property. Ms. McVaugh discussed the idea of changing the permitted use of a storage tank to a tank that can process excess flow. This would require a change to the permit, something the Borough Engineer would handle. Doing this would increase our capacity and efficiency in dealing with the storms that bring in up to 500,000 gallons of extra flow into the system.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR (EMC) REPORT

Annual Report – Ulises Aguilera emailed his annual report to Council. He was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Emergency Signs – Mr. John Watts, Deputy EMC requested that the Council order emergency signs in the event of flooding and road closures. The Council discussed pull down signs on posts versus traffic cones with hazard signs (such as "Road Closed" and "Flooding") on top, number of additional cones needed, number of signs and which streets would be coned off.

BUSINESS:

Community Garden – Mr. Kirk Reichert, head of the Community Garden, explained that 70' of fencing in the garden area needs to be replaced to keep out animals and people. He has been implementing improvements in the Community Garden and fixing the fence is the priority at this time. There are 26 total planters with 13 available. The Scouts cleaned up the garden, built the planters and also built a new shed in the area. The goal is to eventually add a picnic table but at this time, there are no funds for that. The Garden received a Dockstader grant for \$2800. Some of that money has been used for a pump, mulch and the raised planters. The remainder they would like to put toward the fence but there is a \$1,100 shortfall which he hopes the Council will fund. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Vice President Mike Essmaker made a motion that Council authorize the expense of \$1,100 toward the cost of fencing at the Community Garden. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Resolution for Reservation of Sewer Capacity and Consideration of Form Capacity Agreement - Solicitor Venzie explained the process for reserving sewer capacity. When a developer is in the initial stages of development and wants to be guaranteed sanitary sewer capacity, the developer would enter into an agreement and pay a fee designed and calculated to amortize the cost of the system in proportion to the amount of sewer system capacity the developer is seeking. The developer's fee would be nonrefundable. Ms. Venzie requested that Mr. Wilkes provide a certified letter stating the Borough's available capacity. This will be discussed further at the Executive Session after the meeting.

Update on Trash Services Fee Ordinance Notice – At the September 5, 2023 meeting, the Council authorized an increase to the trash/recycling rate from \$55.00/quarter to \$72.25/quarter effective in 2024. On a motion by Mr. Essmaker, seconded by Ms. Watts, the Council authorized the Solicitor to advertise the Trash Fee Ordinance for enactment at the February 6, 2024 meeting. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Mr. Wilkes reviewed his report with the Council. He briefly spoke about the HUD grant and having difficulty moving forward with the project. Mayor Rzucidlo will follow up with HUD. Mr. Wilkes is working on a quote for the mapping project. Mr. Wilkes announced a new multimodal grant application with a 30% match. It can be used for streets and sidewalks. Council asked about grants that could be used for the match to this grant. Mr. Wilkes discussed his proposal to do an independent bridge study on the bridge over the White Clay Creek on Route 41. The Council is not ready to move forward with that project. They requested Ms. Norris to get 10 years of PennDOT inspections on this bridge and provide them to Mr. Wilkes for his company's review. Mr. Wilkes does not need to take any action at this time.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Susan reported that she attended a Solar Seminar held by Chester County Planning Commission. There appears to be lots of grant money available for solar projects in the County. The Mayor envisions a covered parking area on the vacant lot adjacent to the driveway at the sewer plant with permeable pavers that would have solar on the roof. She has also identified the Public Works buildings and the Borough building as places where solar panels could be successful.
- The Mayor reports she is the Borough Representative with CCATO (Chester County Association of Township officials).
- The Mayor met with the County representatives of Ready Chesco and developed new categories for people to use. Ready Chesco will be sending promotional materials for us to encourage residents to sign up to receive Borough information

FINANCE COMMITTEE

November Treasurer's Report – On a motion by Mr. Essmaker, seconded by Mr. Morgan, the November 2023 Treasurer's report was approved on a 4-0 vote.

December Treasurer's Report – On a motion by Mr. Essmaker, seconded by Ms. Watts, the December 2023 Treasurer's report was approved on a 4-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 19, 2023 – On a motion by Mr. Essmaker, seconded by Ms. Watts, the December 19, 2023 minutes were approved as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

January 2, 2024 – on a motion by Mr. Essmaker, seconded by Mr. Morgan, the January 2, 2024 organization meeting minutes were approved as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

January 2, 2024 Regular Meeting – On a motion by Mr. Essmaker, seconded by Mr. Morgan, the January 2 regular meeting minutes were approved as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

OTHER

- **Quote To Insulate The Back Room Of The Borough Office** – Mr. DiFillipo provided a quote to insulate the back office area. The council has discussed for several years how to heat and air condition the back office. Ms. McVaugh measured the temperature in the corner, and it was 55 degrees one recent January morning. Solicitor Venzie recommended that the quote be broken out into material and labor. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$8,600 to insulate the back office area. The motion carried 4-0.
- Mr. Morgan reminded Council members to come in and do financial checks with the Treasurer.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM on a motion by Mr. Essmaker and seconded by Ms. Reichert.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris, Secretary