

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2024
7:00 PM**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Morgan, Stephanie Reichert, Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts and Lucas Ortiz. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Joan McVaugh and Sharon Norris were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Rzucidlo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and announced the meeting is being recorded. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS – The Mayor called for nominations for President. Council member Mike Essmaker nominated Paul Morgan for President. Council member Janet Watts seconded the motion. The Mayor called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Mayor Susan turned the meeting over to President Paul Morgan. Mr. Morgan called for nominations for Vice President. Council member Stephanie Reichert nominated herself for Vice President. Council member Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion failed on a 2-3 vote with members Essmaker, Watts and Morgan voting nay. Mr. Morgan again called for nominations for Vice President. Ms. Watts nominated Mr. Essmaker as Vice President. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

Appointed Positions:

Mr. Essmaker made a motion to appoint the following people to the following positions. Ms. Watts seconded the motion:

Secretary/Administrator – Sharon Norris

Treasurer – Joan McVaugh

Solicitor – Kim Benzie, Buckley Brion

General Engineer – Carroll Engineers

Building Inspection/Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement - Building Inspection Underwriters

Ulises Aguilera to a 1-year term as the Emergency Management coordinator through December 31, 2024

John Watts to a 1-year term as the Assistant/Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator through December 31, 2024

Guy Swift as the Borough Fire Marshall

Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

BUSINESS:

Consideration of and authorization to advertise the 2024 Borough Council meeting schedule: Mr. Essmaker made a motion to authorize staff to advertise the 2024 meeting schedule with one change. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Consideration of Resolution 2024-01 – Consultant Fees and Salaries – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-01 setting the fees for Borough consultants: Ms. Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2024-02 – Treasurer’s Bond – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-02 setting the Treasurer’s Bond at \$1,000,000. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2024-03 – Emergency Management Designations – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-03 designating emergency management officials in the Borough. Council Member Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion.

Resolution 2024-04 – Signer’s Resolution – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-04 authorizing any two Borough Council members and the Treasurer as signers on all Borough checks. The motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2024-05 – Financial Institutions – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-05 setting M&T Bank and PLGIT as the two Borough banks. The motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2024-06 – Designating the Daily Local News as the Borough newspaper for legal Advertising. Mr. Essmaker made the motion and Ms. Watts seconded the motion to designate the Daily Local News for all Borough legal advertising. The motion carried 5-0.

Appointments of Delegates to PSATS and PSAB – Mr. Essmaker made the motion to designate all Borough Council Members and the Mayor as delegates at these annual conventions. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Consideration of Emergency Management Salary – Currently, the Emergency Management Coordinator (Ulises Aguilera) and the Deputy EMC (John Watts) do not earn a salary from the Borough. The Council discussed how Mr. Aguilera and Mr. Watts are often out in the worst weather and in the middle of the night patrolling the Borough and keeping an eye on unsafe conditions. Other municipalities offer a small salary to their EMCs. Mr. Morgan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Essmaker, that Borough Council authorize an annual payment of \$1,500 for Emergency Management coordinator services and \$750 for Deputy Emergency Management coordinator services. The motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 PM on a motion by Mr. Essmaker, seconded by Mr. Morgan.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Norris
Sharon Norris, Secretary