

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 7, 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 along with Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), Ulises Aguilera and Deputy EMC John Watts.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR END OF YEAR SUMMARY – Mr. Aguilera, EMC, and Mr. Watts, Deputy EMC presented their end of year summary to the Council. Council and the two EMCs also discussed updates to the Emergency Operations Plan.

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Vice President Mike Essmaker made a motion to appoint the following people to the following positions. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion:

Solicitor – Kim Benzie, Buckley Brion

General Engineer – Carroll Engineers

Building Inspection/Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement - LTL Consultants LTD

Ulises Aguilera to a 1-year term as the Emergency Management Coordinator through December 31, 2025

John Watts to a 1-year term as the Assistant/Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator through December 31, 2025

Guy Swift as the Borough Fire Marshall through December 31, 2025

Secretary/Administrator – Sharon Norris

Treasurer – Joan McVaugh

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

BUSINESS:

Resolution 2025-01 Consultant fees and Salaries: Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01 outlining the consultant fees and salaries. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2025-02 – Treasurer’s Bond – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-02 setting the Treasurer’s Bond at \$1 million. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2025-03 – Emergency Management Designations – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-03 designating emergency service providers in the Borough. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2025-04 – Signer’s Resolution – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-04 authorizing any two Borough Council members and the Treasurer as signers on all Borough checks. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2025-05 – Financial Institutions – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-05 setting M&T Bank and PLGIT as the two Borough banks. Mr. Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2025-06 – Designating the Daily Local News as the Borough Newspaper for Legal Advertising. Mr. Essmaker made the motion, with a second by Mr. Ortiz, 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 any Borough Council Members and the Mayor as delegates to these annual conventions. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Susan Rzucidlo covered the following topics:

- The Mayor attending a meeting with DVRPC regarding a plan to put a path from the intersection of Baltimore Pike and Route 41 to McFarlan Road in Kennett Square. They are currently in the field study stage.

- The Mayor continues to look at grant opportunities including a grant to add parking with a solar panel in front of the sewer plant.

OTHER

Businesses on Pennsylvania Avenue - Mayor Susan would like to revise the Zoning to allow for all properties on Pennsylvania Avenue to put businesses on the first floor not just the properties in the TC District. The Council discussed the unintended consequences of making this revision and would like the code official to provide the Borough with a draft ordinance for the Solicitor's and the Council's review.

2025 Activity Schedule – the Council reviewed the schedule, made some additions, and noted that it should be sent to the Fire Police for their information.

Draft Comprehensive Fee Schedule – this was the first review of this update to the Borough's fee schedule which outlines the cost of doing business in the Borough. Council will revisit this at a future meeting.

Miscellaneous – the Council discussed the water situation at the Apartments and the status of collecting outstanding fees from the property owner. Mr. Morgan reminded each Council member that it is important to periodically stop in to the office and check the financial statements..

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Ms. McVaugh updated the Council on the settlement date for the \$125,000.00 Tax Revenue Anticipation Note.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the December 17, 2024, minutes as presented. Ms. Janet Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Norris
Sharon Norris, Secretary