

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 16, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Council President, Paul Morgan, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were members Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts, and Lucas Ortiz. Also in attendance were Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Borough Engineer, Tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, and Administrator Sharon Norris. Lieutenant Joe Versagli from the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department, Guy Swift, from the Avondale Fire company and Brent Hazelwood from Windriver Environmental (KBX) and 7 members of the public were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pastor Arlene Norton from Grace and Mercy Church commented on the Veterans Memorial, the spelling of her father’s name on the memorial and opening a health center or shelter in the Borough.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mr. Morgan made the following announcement: there was an executive session on Tuesday, July 2 to discuss real estate. The Borough has purchased a 3.2-acre parcel off Clay Creek Road which will be used for passive recreation. It will be named the Webb Preserve.

AVONDALE FIRE COMPANY REPORT – Mr. Guy Swift, President of the AFC, summarized the fire company’s activities for the first six months of 2024.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT – Lt. Versagli recapped the 2nd quarter report, reported on the Church Street traffic count (from May 4 – July 15, 42,390 cars were counted on Church. 70% of the drivers were traveling at 25 mph or less.)

The Lieutenant invited everyone to National Night Out on August 6th and reported that the Department is at their staffing complement. Council member Stephanie Reichert requested that an officer monitor speeding on State Street.

FACILITIES OPERATOR UPDATE – Mr. Hazelwood updated the Council on the following:

- Hydrant Flushing Results – Pressure at the hydrants was not as high as desired. When results from this year are compared with last year, the pressure readings are lower. He discussed AWWA (American Water Works Association) pressure standards and suggested that some issues that people are experiencing is that plumbing is not updated in the house and expecting pressure to get to a 3rd floor bathroom is not realistic. The Engineer is working on the leaking valve issue and lining up the pipe detection company to detect any possible leaks in the system.
- Reservoir Cover Project – the meeting with Eastern and JH Waters to discuss the tear in the cover was disappointing as they are saying the reservoir needs to be drained to make the repair. The Borough will not consider doing this until the pressure issues are resolved.
- Unused equipment from reservoir project – several expensive parts purchased for this project as recommended by the former engineer were not used and Mr. Hazelwood discussed with Council on how to get rid of them. Municibid is an option. Reaching out to LB Water is an option. He doesn’t want these parts to sit; the palette of grout and the altitude valve will deteriorate over time. Mr. Hazelwood will follow up with those companies that he thinks might be interested in purchasing these leftover items.
- AC Schultes must come back to redo some of the work on the seals and the basket strainer. The plan is for them to come next week to install the basket and connect the utility pump.

- Mayor Susan commented that Good Neighbors is an organization that can help with booster pumps. There are some specific requirements that homeowners must meet. She also discussed educating residents on what to look for in their house to assist with pressure such as changing filters and screens. Brent reinforced her comments by saying the best way to check if pressure is getting to your house is to open the outside water faucet if one is available. They discussed the hard water.

BUSINESS:

- **Garage Youth Center Mural Presentation** – Representatives of the Garage Youth Center were in attendance to present their vision for a mural on the south facing side of their building. The artist was in attendance with a rendering of the mural and explained how she and the students settled on the design and what each component represents. She reviewed the materials they are using for the design and hopes to begin the painting in August. Mr. Swift offered the artist some advice about the experiences the Fire company had with peeling paint when they occupied the building.
- **Discussion on How to Get Electricity to the Reservoir for Lighting and Security** – currently there is no electricity available at the reservoir. The Borough received a very high rough quote to bring electricity to the site. The Council directed the staff to seek quotes for solar panels to provide the electricity.
- **Local Share Account (LSA) Grant** – the Plant Operator would like the Borough to convert the sludge holding tank to a flow equalization tank/surge tank. Treasurer McVaugh noted that the tank will provide protection in the event of big storms to allow for water to disperse slowly. The engineer opined that the work would be between one quarter to one half of a million dollars and could take two years to complete. To prepare the grant would be \$1,700 - \$1,800. Ms. Reichert made a motion to authorize the engineer to move forward with preparing the grant application. Council Member Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for additional discussion. There was no more discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Mr. Wilkes reviewed his report. Mr. Morgan questioned Mr. Wilkes about contracting with Eastern and outsourcing the work to JH Waters, Mr. Wilkes noted this was not uncommon and normally the subcontractor is listed in the bid agreement. Eastern did most of the work except for the cover. The Council and Mr. Wilkes discussed hydrant flushing and the air issues. The Council questioned finding and fixing a leak under a creek. There are no solid answers, but this issue must be resolved. Engineer Wilkes briefly discussed the notices of violation – one for the new well pipe connection and the other for the boil water notice. The road committee has discussed seeking a multi modal grant for a road program to include paving Chatham, Thompson, Poplar, Maple and Minor Streets and also the unpaved portion of Pomeroy. Liquid Fuels funds will also be used. The GIS mapping project has begun, and Zachery and Anthony from Carroll Engineers are in the Borough mapping curbstops. The Council discussed the Church Street properties traffic study and stormwater.

MAYORS REPORT – Mayor Susan Rzcudlo reported on the following:

- The PennDOT 2-year route 41 bridge inspection report is not available yet.
- Solar Ordinance – initially the Mayor was going to pursue a grant opportunity to assist with the development of a solar ordinance; however, the Mayor will now do some research and see if she can find a template that the Borough can customize. Once found, this will be added to the list of future ordinance updates.
- Future summer fun to include a foam pit and tug of war with Borough Council and WG Borough Council.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Ms. Reichert made a motion to approve the June Treasurer’s report. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. Treasurer McVaugh talked about the expenses the Borough has incurred in a short period of time and discussed the possibility of seeking a short-term loan. She will come back to the next meeting with some loan information. She stressed that the Borough is not at risk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Council member Lucas Ortiz made a motion to approve the June 4 and June 18, 2024, minutes. Council Member Janet Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

OTHER

Avondale Borough Vision 2030: Mapping Our Vision for Tomorrow – Mr. Morgan was approached by three residents who would like to start an Open Space Committee. The Council was supportive of this action. The Council discussed names for the new preserve.

Lead and Copper Service Line and Meter Inventory Program Update – This project is moving forward; the Garage volunteers are gaining access to houses and doing the testing. A handful of residents have done the testing themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The Borough office will be closed from July 24 through July 29 due to staff vacations.
- b. The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8th at 7 PM
- c. Don’t miss National Night Out sponsored by the SCCRPD on Tuesday, August 6th from 6 PM-8PM in the Post office parking lot. It is a night of free family fun so don’t miss out.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary