

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 19, 2022
7:00 PM**

Council Members Present: President, Paul Morgan, Vice President, Stephanie Reichert, Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts and Fernando Tena-Diaz. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Borough Engineer Dennis O'Neill, WWTP Representative Mike Bostic from KBX, Joan McVaugh, Borough Treasurer and Sharon Norris, Borough Administrator, were also 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.

Southern Chester County Regional Police Report – Lieutenant Jason Ward was in attendance to present his report and answer any questions the public or Council members had. Topics of note were National Night Out on August 2, 2022; Active Threat Response training with the Kennett Consolidated School District; Human Trafficking training classes for officers and the County's response training program for civilians who might deal with active shooter situations such as churches and similar organizations. The Council discussed complaints they receive about loud activity at one of the parks, and the Lieutenant directed residents to always call the SCCRP's non emergency number to report those kinds of disturbances. The non-emergency number is: 610-268-3171.

Resident and Public Comments – Ms. Judy Parsons, 135 W. State Street, thanked the Council for keeping the property at 141 W. State Road mowed. The Council discussed the property and the process to get refunded for the mowing costs.

Engineer's Report – Mike Bostic, from KBX, gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the gate at the new wells and the upcoming hydrant flushing. The Council members discussed his report. Mr. Morgan discussed the tarp and how the practice of pumping the water from it does not make sense anymore. Engineer O'Neill gave an update on that situation. Mr. O'Neill also gave an update on the costs of replacement parts needed at the Plant and the cost of labor once the parts are received. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council member, Mike Essmaker, made a motion that the Council authorize the purchase and installation of the replacement parts. Council Vice President, Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. O'Neill noted that the grinder and utility pump are not repairable and therefore new ones need to be purchased. Their cost would be approximately \$25,000-\$28,000. It is surprising since the grinder should have lasted 10 years or longer; the reason for them not lasting as long is most likely due to a lack of regular maintenance. Once Mr. O'Neill collects pricing information, he will bring this back before the Council. He is confident things can work successfully for a limited time without the grinder and pump. The Council member and Mr. O'Neill discussed the two companies that make this grinder and it was noted that this part is included in both grant applications that have been submitted.

Stormwater Ordinance Update: As part of the County's Act 167, the Borough must enact a new stormwater ordinance by September 30, 2022. The County has provided a template for all County municipalities. Mr. O'Neill discussed some of the updates. He will put together a document outlining the changes and provide that to the Council for discussion at the August 16, 2022 meeting. The goal is to adopt the Ordinance at the September 20th Council meeting. Everyone

agreed that they do not want to burden residents unnecessarily but noted that managing stormwater is very important in Avondale because of all the flooding. Mr. O'Neill also reported on the MS4 permit and that DEP is not accepting stream bank restoration as an acceptable TMDL project. The Council members and Mr. O'Neill discussed additional project ideas as well as looking for grants to help fund stormwater projects. Ideally, the Borough should get the project approved first by DEP and then seek out funding sources.

Regarding the high organic load in the wastewater system, Mr. O'Neill is working with a former DEP employee, who is now a consultant, to assist with finding the culprit(s). He reported on his meeting with Be Here Brewery. After a very thorough tour of the brewery, it was determined that although their brewing system contributes to the organic load, they are not the primary cause of the high reading. After the consultant looked at the grit screw and saw lots of seeds and vegetables they are now looking at food processing facilities. A map was developed and they determined 5 locations should be tested: the line coming from New Garden, the line from the Avondale residential side, the industrial and commercial lines along the 41 side and the manhole outside of the Borough building. This would be one week of testing, sampling every day for 7 days. Mr. O'Neill will gather pricing. The Council discussed at length various locations that may be contributing to this problem. The consensus of the Council was to authorize the Engineer to perform the necessary testing to find the source. Resolving this issue is important in many ways and Mr. O'Neill noted that the DEP requires the Borough to project a 5 year organic load amount which we cannot do with the current load at its high level, Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mrs. Watts made a motion that the Council authorize the Engineer to perform the testing to assist with the resolution of the high organic load in the Borough sanitary sewer system at a cost not to exceed \$3,500. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. O'Neill provided Council with a maintenance list for the water and sewer personnel. Anyone coming into the plant will now know what needs to be done and who should be doing it. The Mayor asked about RACP grants; Mr. O'Neill noted these grants have a high dollar match requirement. Dennis spoke about DCNR grant at Watson Park and their concern about the Park being a flood plain. After Dennis spoke with them and showed them the plan, they encouraged us to submit an application for the Feb. County and April DCNR application and there could be a September quick turnaround grant. The match rate is about a quarter of the project cost. Mr. O'Neill will keep us posted. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Solicitor's Report – Ms. Venzie updated the Council on the General Code budget, and where we are in the process. She also discussed providing the staff with agreements and documentation that is not available in the Borough office and would be of use to the Staff for reference. The Council agreed that Ms. Venzie should take some time to review her files and provide the Borough staff with information she thinks would be useful. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mrs. Reichert made a motion that the Council authorize the Solicitor to spend an hour per week to review her files and provide the Borough with any past information she feels would be of use. The motion was seconded by Mr. Essmaker. Mr. Morgan called for a vote. The motion carried 5-0. Ms. Venzie reported that has not heard from Wilkinson Builders. The Council discussed the cost of the builder speaking with the Borough Engineer.

New Business – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to move New Business "A" to this section. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Solicitor Venzie opened the public hearing regarding the enactment of Ordinance 2022-274, an ordinance

authorizing the Borough to join the already established Western County Council of Governments. Ms. Venzie went through the exhibits which included the proof of advertisement, the copy of the law library correspondence and went through the process of what will happen once the ordinance is enacted. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was none. Mr. Essmaker made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-274 entering into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the Western Chester County Council of Governments. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. The Council directed Ms. Norris to sign the appropriate documents. Ms. Venzie noted that Council members can attend meetings effective immediately. Ms. Reichert asked about the missing emails; Ms. Venzie had nothing new to report.

Mr. Morgan asked about adding an additional item to the agenda. Ms. Venzie noted that adding the additional item would require a motion and then the revised agenda needs to be posted on the website the following day.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Morgan called for a motion to approve the July 5, 2022 minutes as presented. Ms. Watts made the motion to approve the July 5, 2022 minutes. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was none. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Finance Committee – Mrs. McVaugh, Borough Treasurer, reported on her progress with reconciling the accounts, Invoice Cloud and her progress on getting ready for the 2021 audit. She opened up the payroll account at M&T bank and will open the additional account for water and sewer in the near future. She recommends moving all Borough funds to PLGIT by August 1st. Ms. McVaugh is working toward providing a comprehensive Treasurer's Report in the near future. Mr. Essmaker confirmed why we need to open two accounts at M&T; it is because PLGIT's structure doesn't work with Invoice Cloud. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to add an additional item to the agenda, Resolution 2022-13, adding M&T Bank as the third Financial Institution for Borough funds. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Rzucidlo reported as follows:

- National Night Out on August 2nd. The Borough Building will be open to the public for candy eating and restroom use. The Mayor will be putting up a misting tent.
- PECO provides a grant to assist with hosting a Borough movie night. Pomeroy Avenue would be the location. The Mayor has contacted two local municipalities who host movie nights in their parks.
- WIFI in the Parks – an associate of the Mayor is working on grants to expand broadband into various areas including the Borough Parks.
- Our Community Gardeners, Nick and Keith, want to create a Fall Harvest Festival and Pot Luck for the community.
- In August, an associate of the Mayor is taking a sabbatical from her job and will work on securing grants for the Borough to improve the parks.

Old Business:

- a. Trash Tech Discussion – Mayor Susan spoke to Amy Sadler, the co-owner of Trash Tech, about the issues the Borough is having with the company. Ms. Sadler is now the direct contact with Trash Tech and any issues should go to Mayor Susan who will contact Ms. Sadler. The Council discussed the situation and also the fact that today's recycling wasn't

picked up along with contract requirements. The Council discussed having a meeting with Ms. Sadler.

- b. Upgrade to Borough Office Computer Support Services – Ms. McVaugh discussed the 1 written and 2 verbal proposals received by the Borough to upgrade the computer support services (specifically to back up documents, host FlexiBill and have a shared drive for Staff.) The additional two written quotes were not available at meeting time. These quotes also included the email migration from the current provider to Microsoft Outlook using Office 365 which would have to be purchased. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that the Borough move forward with computer support and backup services at a cost not to exceed Help Now's quote. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.
- c. Mr. Morgan asked about the Borough truck which is currently for sale.

Ms. Watts shared her concerns with the Council about a traffic safety issue on Church Road where truck traffic at a local business is creating a hazard with their deliveries and also creating a ditch at the edge of the road. Lt. Ward and the Council discussed the topic. Mr. DiFilippo will be directed to armor the shoulder and edge of the road.

New Business:

- a. Avondale Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Plan – the Auditor General provided findings with the aid provided to the Borough with respect to the Borough's participation in the PA municipal pension plan for the years 2018 and 2019. The year 2020 has not yet been reported. The Borough did not address the findings and therefore, penalties were assessed. With the passage of time and the addition of penalties, the Borough currently owes \$3,188.00. Additionally, the Council discussed the Staff leaving this Plan and enrolling in a different plan at a cost of 4.5% of the Staff's annual salaries. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to move away from the current plan and allow the staff to choose a plan that is more suitable. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.
- c. Mr. Morgan made a motion to add a new item to the agenda concerning Mr. DiFilippo. The motion was seconded by Mr. Essmaker. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Morgan discussed Mr. DiFillipo's many contributions to the Borough and asked for the Council's approval to give him a raise. The Council discussed Mr. DiFillipo's additional responsibilities and the value he adds to the smooth running of the Borough. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council member Fernando Tena Diaz made a motion to raise Mr. DiFillipo's salary. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

The Mayor provided Council members with a Parks wish list that was drafted in 2019.

Announcements – Mr. Morgan announced that the next Borough Council meeting will be held on August 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM. The August 2, 2022 Borough Council meeting is cancelled as National Night Out is happening that evening. The Mayor encouraged everyone to attend.

Public Comment – The Mayor noted that a long time resident has passed away. The Council discussed different ways to recognize his passing. Ms. Watts made a motion to plant a tree and provide a plaque. The Council will vote on this in the Fall when it is tree planting time. At this time, the Borough will send a letter to the family.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris
Borough Administrator