

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
July 21, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

This meeting was conducted via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Shore, Dave Besselman, Bob McCue, Paul Morgan

GUESTS PRESENT: Mayor Steve Cummings, Sandy Masten, Jamie MacCombie, Dottie Howell, Vince Barbone, Nick Baccino, Kim Venzie, Lt. Joe Greenwalt, Lisa Lightner, Janet Watts, Lisa Lightner.

The meeting was called to order by President Shore.

2019 AUDIT

Nick Baccino reviewed the 2019 audit. Vince Barbone said the operations of the Borough are pretty consistent from year to year. The only fund that's a lager is the water fund; it's not sustaining itself. There are no significant issues to report. President Shore asked if Council had any questions. No questions. President Shore asked if the public had any questions. No questions. Dave Besselman made a motion to approve the 2019 Audit, 2nd by Paul Morgan, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Besselman made a motion to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting on July 21, 2020, by Paul Morgan, motion carried.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Lt Joe Greenwalt gave the following report:

The police department had the accreditation assessment done on June 22nd and June 23rd, which is an extensive inspection of the police department and its operations; including the facility, evidence operations, patrol operations, and records operations. We received a packet of information from the assessment team laying everything out in a report. On August 4th, they are going in front of the Commission in Harrisburg to answer any questions they may have. Coming out soon will be the second quarterly report which captures up until June. Including Avondale, we have seen a 35% decrease in Part 1 serious crimes. We have a 17% decrease in Part II crimes which is your quality of life crimes.

WWTP OPERATIONS REPORT

Fred Walton was not present for this meeting. President Shore said over the weekend there were some electrical issues with the influent pumps and the problem was resolved. Today, there were a couple of things that shut down and Dennis from MacCombie's office is checking with the electric company to see if we had a brown out in the area. We hauled extra sludge out of there today.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT

Jamie MacCombie gave the following report:

NEW WATER SUPPLY

On July 14th the faulty hydrogen sensor was replaced. The repair to the hypochlorite line was repaired. Also replaced the water softener. EFI was scheduled today to repair a leaking fitting and broken flange. The system is ready to go online. Fred Walton wants to do like to run a couple back wash cycles and then test the water for iron and manganese before the system goes online. The anticipated turn on date is August 4th. Dennis is in the process of drafting a letter alerting them of the possibility of cloudy water

RESERVOIR COVER

The pre-construction took place with the contractor. The reservoir cover replacement will begin on August 24th. They anticipate that the project will take about three weeks to complete.

WELLHEARD PROTECTION

The project is scheduled to go out to bid in the fall with an early spring start date.

POE – PRELIMINARY LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

The plans were reviewed and sent to Mr. Poe. A lot of the issues have been corrected. An extension was received from Mr. Poe until August 31, 2020.

BOROUGH SOLICITORS REPORT

Kim Venzie gave the following report:

WEBB EASEMENT

We needed to get a temporary and permanent easement in order to access Mr. Webb's property for the streambank stabilization project. We went back and forth with Mr. Webb's attorney, Mr. Cairns and we finally came to an agreement. We need Council to approve the Borough Council President to sign the agreement and also to approve the check for \$1,200.00 to compensate Mr. Webb for the easements. Dave Besselman made a motion to approve the President of Council to sign the easement and approve the check to Mr. Webb for \$1,200.00, 2nd by Paul Morgan, motion carried. Since Becky is a notary, she will coordinate with Mr. Webb to come to the Borough office to sign the agreement.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION COVERAGE

President Shore said we need to tighten up our existing workmen's compensation ordinance that covers our fire company volunteers for non-emergency activities. Kim said she has looked at some ordinances from other municipalities and thought the one from East Brandywine was the most specific in addressing the non-emergency activities that are covered. Kim asked Council to take a look at the ordinance and we can discuss at the next meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEEAPPROVAL OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM JUNE 2020.

Bob McCue made a motion to approve the Bills and Financial Statements from July, 2nd by Paul Morgan motion carried.

2021 BUDGET

Dave Besselman said we are going to start working on the budget for next year so let him or Sandy know if you have anything on your wish list. An update on last year's budget. \$25,000 was budgeted in parks and recreation and nothing was spent. \$35,000 was budgeted for streetscapes and we haven't spent anything. There will be \$5,000 left in accounting budget.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Steve Cummings gave the following report:

Mayor Steve said he has met with several people about the tree lighting. The tree lighting location will change because we aren't sure what's going on at Servpro this year. Liz Lawrence has agreed to let us decorate her big tree on Pomeroy Avenue. We are working on a plan for lights, decorations and entertainment. After discussion, the plan is to schedule the tree lighting on Tuesday, December 1st at 7:30 p.m.. This will be confirmed at a later date.

OLD BUSINESSBOROUGH BUILDING RENOVATIONS UPDATE

The new roof is on and the siding will be start next week. The drywall is about 90% done. The plumbing and electric inspections will be finalized tomorrow. We are looking to upgrade the meeting room table, chairs and accessories. We have a budget of \$4,000.00 but we are going to need up to \$6,000.00. Bob McCue made a motion to approve an additional \$2,000 for the meeting room furniture and accessories, 2nd by Paul Morgan, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESSINSURANCE CLAIM FOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS

On April 30, 2020, the storm damaged the traffic lights at the intersection of W. State Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. The damage was \$10,075.60, which Higgins & Sons repaired. A claim was put into the Borough's insurance company and we received a check for \$10,073.92.

FENCE PROPOSAL FOR PLAYGROUND ON POMEROY AVENUE

Bob McCue approved Fenceworks proposal for up to \$4,471.80 without the gates, 2nd by Paul Morgan, motion carried.

STORAGE SHED ON INDIAN RUN ROAD

Dave Besselman said there is a shed in bad condition on the Borough's property on Indian Run Road that should be torn down or sold. President Shore said it is a hazard and should be torn down. All agreed to have the building torn down.

CUTONE MUSHROOM – WATER USAGE COMPLAINT

President Shore said after investigating the complaint, it was found that the software system added another number to the meter reading and it wasn't picked up at the time. Cutone was overbilled and should receive a credit of \$4,734.82. Council agreed to the credit and President Shore signed off on the credit.

SINKHOLE ON PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

Bob McCue said there was a water service leak repair done across from 216 Pennsylvania Avenue and the blacktop repair job has sunk pretty good. The tractor trailers that hit the hole are really bouncing around and actually shakes his whole house. President Shore said he will look into it.

COUNCIL RESIGNATION - BECKA SCHLIMME

President Shore said we received a letter of resignation from Becka Schlimme because she has moved out of the Borough. Dave Besselman made a motion to accept Becka Schlimme's resignation from Borough Council, 2nd by Bob McCue, motion carried.

LETTERS OF INTEREST FOR COUNCIL POSITION

President Shore said he received two letters of interest for the Council position. One from Dottie Howell and the other from Janet Watts.

President Shore read each letter:

Dear Borough Council:

I am interested in the vacant Council position. I served as Mayor for Avondale Borough for 22 years and I have lived in Avondale my whole life. I am very familiar with everything going on in the Borough and I feel I would be a great asset serving as a Council person and to the residents of the Borough.

Sincerely

Doris (Dottie) Howell

Dear Becky

I hope you and your family are well. I am writing you this email because I am aware that there has been a recent vacancy on the Avondale Borough Council, since Becka Schlimme and her family are moving out of the borough. I wanted to officially let the borough council know that if they are seeking to fill that vacant council position, I am very much interested in it. I have resided in Avondale Borough since 2011 and plan to continue calling Avondale Borough my home for the next 15+ years. I feel it would be beneficial to continue having at least one female member on the council, and know that I am the ideal candidate to fill Becka's shoes. With my 20+ years' experience as an educator and my various volunteering experiences in our community and numerous other Chester County municipalities, I am a proven well-rounded leader who possesses good communication skills, leadership abilities, time-management skills, and takes great pride in completing any task at hand with proficiency and effectiveness. Please share this email with the current borough council members. I look forward to seeing you online during the meeting tonight. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks,
Janet Watts

President Shore asked if Council wanted to fill this position tonight? Kim Venzie said since you just accepted the resignation tonight; she recommends that Council follow a similar process as you did for the Mayor's position. President Shore said he disagrees with Kim's recommendation. He doesn't know any other person in the Borough who may want to step up and fill this position other than the two people who have already applied to fill this position. He doesn't know why we have to spend more of the taxpayers money on advertising, and other fees to get this position filled but this is just his personal opinion. Dave Besselman said he also respectfully disagrees. When we had a vacancy on Council before, we nominated Wilson and he was sworn in for the position the same night. Maybe it made a difference because Wilson served on council before. We need to move forward and not advertise. Bob McCue said he agreed with Dave's scenario. President Shore said he doesn't believe there is anything in the Borough Code that mandates we go through a procedure for council vacancy. Paul Morgan said he is having mixed feeling because we were just told about this today. Dave said he knows that Dottie is working on a complicated project for the Borough that will go with the memorial garden. Dave said from his standpoint and nothing against Janet, he would like to nominated Dottie Howell to fill the vacancy, 2nd by Bob McCue, Paul Morgan-nay, Bill Shore-yea, motion carried with a 3-1 vote. President Shore said that the mayor will need to swear in by the Mayor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Work Session – Tuesday, August 11, 2020 @6:00 p.m.
- Council Meeting - Tuesday, August 18, 2020 @6:00 p.m.

Dave Besselman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. 2nd by Bob McCue, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Becky Brownback
Borough Secretary