

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 5, 2023

7:00 PM

Council Members Present: President, Paul Morgan, Council members Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts and Lucas Ortiz. Vice President Stephanie Reichert was absent. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo and Treasurer Joan McVaugh were also in attendance. There was one member of the public at the meeting.

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.

Announcements: Mr. Morgan switched the order of the agenda to begin with Mr. David Payne, the new Director of the Avon Grove Library. After Mr. Payne, Mr. Morgan noted that any new project ideas that individual Council members are interested in moving forward with, should first be discussed with the Treasurer. Secondly, in an effort to keep costs down, any questions for the Borough Engineer should first be asked at a meeting where the Engineer is in attendance. If it cannot wait, the question could be run by the staff members to see if they know the answers. If not, then the Engineer should be contacted.

BUSINESS:

Introduction of New Library Director – David Payne, the new Director of the Avon Grove Library, introduced himself to the Board, noting he most recently came from the Baltimore Area Library System. He gave a summary of Library activities, first noting that the Library has been without a Director since 2021. Improvements include adding additional programming for adults, working closely with the Garage Youth Center to support community youth and their families. Additionally, the Library is connecting with schools and daycares. And, they now have a Spanish speaking staff member which is an added benefit for community members visiting the Library. Mr. Payne reminded Council members that the Avon Grove Library is part of the large Chester County Library system and resources from around the world are available to Library card holders. The Council and Mayor wished Mr. Payne and the Avon Grove Library much success in the upcoming year.

Zoning Hearing Board Resignation – Council member Mike Essmaker made the motion to accept Lisa Lightner's resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) and authorized staff to place a ZHB Vacancy Notice on the website. Council Member Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0. The Mayor and Council expressed their thanks and appreciation to Ms. Lightner for her volunteer service to the Borough.

Budget Discussion – One of the largest expenses the Borough has is its contract with the Southern Chester County Regional Police. Currently the Borough has a 3-year contract. The Council and Mayor discussed the options available for police protection, and the Council's level of satisfaction with the service the Borough currently receives. The Council would like to review the contract and requested that staff send them each a copy. Council and Mayor Rzucidlo will discuss this topic at their next workshop meeting which will be held September 5th.

Other

Consideration to Schedule a Work Session to Discuss Conditional Use Process – Since the Quarry Project Conditional Use Plan will be Council's first experience with the Conditional Use Process, the Council plans to hold an informational work session on July 13, 2023 at 7 PM - this would be an information only session on the Conditional Use process, the process for reviewing a plan and gathering any questions Council members may have.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rzucidlo reported on her ongoing correspondence regarding the status of the Bridge repair on Route 41. She has communicated directly with "the Keeper" who is affiliated with the National Park Service in

Washington DC. The Keeper issued a directive to all the interested parties (PennDOT, the PA Museum and Historical Commission) that all must meet and include the Mayor in the next meeting. However, the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission responded that there was no need to do so. The Mayor will contact the “Keeper” again.

Third Street Park – The Mayor has discussed her plan with the Public Works Director to plant a Wildflower garden in the area where the rocks are now located. Andy and Mayor Susan will work together to prepare the area for planting once the season arrives. The Council agreed with this idea and thanked the Mayor for organizing and executing this project.

Solicitation Update – Two energy companies were soliciting in the Borough without first obtaining a solicitation permit. The Mayor has confirmation that over 67 residents were contacted. When approached, both companies said they had obtained a permit from the Borough. The Code Official is sending violation letters to the two companies with notice of a \$50/per offense fine. It was noted that only religious organizations, nonprofits and politicians are exempt from the solicitation permit requirement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the June 20, 2023 minutes as presented. Council Member Janet Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Morgan made the following announcement:

- 1) The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary