

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
June 16, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

Due to COVID-19 and keeping with social distancing, this meeting was held outside at the Be Here Brewing Company located at 122 Pennsylvania Avenue, Avondale, PA 19311.

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Mayor Steve Cummings, Sandy Masten, Jamie MacCombie, Vince Barbone, Nick Baccino, Kim Venzie, Chief Gerald Simpson, Wilson Lysle, Lisa Lightner, Michael Essmaker

The meeting was called to order by President Shore after a prayer and pledge allegiance to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

SUSAN RZUCIDLO – NOT PRESENT

An email was received from resident Susan Rzucidlo stating that the meeting information on the website was wrong and today's meeting was supposed to be a Zoom platform meeting. Solicitor Kim Venzie said when you went to the website it did say a Zoom meeting but when you clicked on the links it gave you the correct meeting information and agenda. The webmaster did not take off a couple of lines from an old notice stating a Zoom meeting; as soon as it was discovered those lines were deleted. Kim said she feels comfortable that there were no Sunshine Laws violated because the correct information was there and the Borough Building was posted. These are unusual circumstances and if there were questions on the meeting anyone could have called the Borough Office.

LISA LIGHTNER

Ms. Lightner said she would like to point out that most people do not check out the Zoom until it is time for the meeting and many people have to facilitate childcare and she believes that was the issue tonight.

2019 AUDIT

Ms. Rzucidlo also wrote a letter stating the approval of the 2019 audit was not on the agenda and there must be time for the public to review before it can be approved. She is also asking to post the audit on the Borough's website. Vince Barbone said the audit is not available for public review until the Borough Council approves it. When the audit is in draft form, it can only be released to Borough Council.

Vince Barbone asked if Council would approve the audit or we will have to try and get a 30-day extension. After much discussion, Bob McCue made a motion to table the audit and have Vince ask the County for the extension as quickly as possible and let Council know if the County approved, 2nd by Dave Besselman, motion carried. Vince said he will notify Becky about the extension and she will notify Council whether we need a special meeting or if we can wait until next month, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Besselman made a motion to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting on May 19, 2020, by Paul Morgan, motion carried.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Gerry Simpson gave the following report:

National Night Out was re-scheduled by the Charter of National Night Out. If everything works well, we plan to hold National Night out on October 6th. We will be doing one in West Grove and one here in Avondale Borough.

We provided the Mayor with a copy of the SCCRPD's After Action Report even though we are still in the yellow phase here in Chester County. For the most part, the police department is at its new normal of operations. We have started our budget process. On June 7th, he attended a demonstration in West Grove Borough at the request of supporters of the Black Lives Matter group. He participated with questions, concerns and comments from the group on law enforcement and it was very peaceful. We have not had any requests from Avondale Borough. The quarterly report will be out on July 15th. The Police Department has its onsite assessment next week working toward being an Accredited Law Enforcement Agency.

WWTP OPERATIONS REPORT

Fred Walton was not present for this meeting

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT

Jamie MacCombie gave the following report:

NEW WATER SUPPLY

The fence installation is almost complete. There are still several issues with the punch list items.

RESERVOIR COVER

The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for June 25th @ 11:00 a.m. at the WWTP.

RECONSTRUCTION OF W. STATE STREET

The cost to reconstruct W. State Street from Pomeroy Avenue to the State Street Bridge will cost approximately \$102,300.00.

POE – PRELIMINARY LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Mr. Poe submitted revised plans last week. The plans will be reviewed and a recommendation will be made. An extension was received from Mr. Poe until August 31, 2020.

HYDRANT FLUSHING

The cost of the fire hydrant flushing will cost between \$2,500-\$3,000. He will get the cost for testing.

BOROUGH SOLICITORS REPORT

Kim Venzie gave the following report:

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. There have been a lot of non-emergency activities and he wants to make sure they are all covered. The ordinance is kind of open ended and we need to update the ordinance so there is no gray area. Kim Venzie will work on a draft.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM MAY 2020.

Bob McCue made a motion to approve the Bills and Financial Statements from May, 2nd by Dave Besselman, Becka Schlimme-nay, Paul Morgan-yea, Bill Shore-aye, motion carried with a 4-1 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

BOROUGH BUILDING RENOVATIONS UPDATE

Dave Besselman said the renovations are proceeding with no issues. The plumbing was approved and the electric goes in next week. They are still shooting for a finished date at the end of August.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The garden is in and there are about 10 people that have joined. We reimbursed Nicholas for out of pocket expenses for \$300.00 which is within budget. Currently, we are looking to repair the fence in conjunction with the fence at the Pomeroy playground. We are waiting on an estimate from the fence company.

ZONING HEARING BOARD APPOINTMENT - LISA LIGHTNER

Becka Schlimme made a motion to appoint Lisa Lightner to the Zoning Hearing Board, 2nd by Dave Besselman, motion carried.

VACANCY BOARD APPOINTMENT – MICHAEL ESSMAKER

Becka Schlimme made a motion to appoint Michael Essmaker to the Vacancy Board, 2nd by Dave Besselman, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

FACEBOOK PAGE

Dave Besselman said there has been some discussions in the past about an Avondale Borough Facebook public page and he thinks Paul Morgan would be a great candidate to do this. Paul accepted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Work Session – Tuesday, July 14, 2020 @6:00 p.m.
- Council Meeting - Tuesday, July 21, 2020 @6:00 p.m.
- There will be an Executive Session after this meeting to discuss real estate and possible litigation

Dave Besselman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. 2nd by Dave Besselman, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Becky Brownback
Borough Secretary