

AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2024

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – There will be an Executive Session after tonight’s meeting to discuss real estate.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT – Lt. Versagli recapped the May monthly report. The Council reported several Borough issues such as minibikes on Pomeroy, kids running on Route 41 during rush hour, activity in Second Street park late at night and a dead deer in the creek off Indian Run Road. The Lieutenant noted that the Department has stepped up patrols and will keep extra eyes on the Second Street Park. He also noted that the bicycle patrols are out in the Borough.

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

- Pipe Data View is scheduled to come on June 20th to clean out and televise the areas that had been inaccessible when they were in the Borough before.
- The VFD in the RAZ room has gone bad. All three which were installed in 2006 have now gone bad. These will be replaced using grant monies.
- Reservoir Cover Project – the reservoir continues to fill and should be ready to go on Monday.
- The third utility pump that Deckman said they couldn’t repair has been repaired by AC Shultes.
- Brent has asked Mr. DiFilippo for a quote to replace the shed at the reservoir.
- DEP has said we need to disconnect the 8” pipe from the new wells as this was never permitted by the DEP.
- He would like to begin hydrant flushing on July 1st. Council expressed that they would like hydrant flushing to begin after the 4th of July weekend. Therefore, hydrant flushing will now be scheduled from July 8-10th.

BUSINESS:

- Reservoir Cover Project – Request for Payment #4. Vice President Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve Payment #4 to Eastern Environmental, at the recommendation of the Borough Engineer in his letter dated June 18, 2024, in the amount of \$171,639.18. Council member Janet Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for discussion. Treasurer McVaugh noted that she had expressed concerns to Bill Malin about some items that Eastern was charging the Borough. Mr. Malin recommended paying the bill in its entirety to meet the grant deadline for reimbursement. Although this payment closes out the grant award, there is a balance to finish of \$83,000. The Borough can deduct those charges we have incurred from the final invoice. Additionally, there are items that were purchased that were not needed and that Eastern still has: the altitude valve, the pit and the 5” pipe. Solicitor Venzie asked that Engineer Tom Wilkes draft a letter to Eastern spelling out these details and send to her for review. This letter will be included with the Payment #4 check to put Eastern on notice. Mr. Hazelwood and the Council discussed their dissatisfaction with Eastern and the subcontractor. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

- Consideration to authorize the Solicitor to Advertise a Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Address residential Conversions – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to advertise this zoning amendment for enactment at a future meeting. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
- Repair of Ellicott Road – Mr. Essmaker made a motion that RT Price do the repairs on Ellicott Road in an amount not to exceed \$14,000. Council member Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. The Council discussed what needed to be done. Ms. McVaugh noted that the funds would be paid from the Liquid Fuels account. The motion carried 5-0.
- Cancellation of July 2, 2024, Borough Council Meeting – due to the 4th of July holiday and Council members being on vacation, Ms. Watts made a motion to cancel the July 2, 2024, Council Meeting. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Mr. Wilkes reviewed his report. He noted that equipment has been ordered for Pomeroy Park and a road committee has been established. The Dirt and Gravel Road Program was discussed and the possibility of putting game cameras up on Chatham and Hoopes to do a traffic count was entertained. Roads with under 500 cars per day qualify for this program. Mr. Wilkes attended the PennDOT bridge inspection for the Bridge on Route 41. Traffic Planning and Design Inc. (TPD) performed the inspection. The report will be provided to PennDOT within 30 days. Mr. Wilkes went over his observations and said that it was encouraging that design work for a new bridge had already started. Mayor Rzucidlo noted she would reach out to PennDOT for a copy of the TPD report.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Solicitor Venzie discussed Mr. Lutz’s draft report to DEP that he had provided at an earlier meeting. She wanted to ensure that the facts were represented to DEP accurately. The Council and Solicitor Venzie talked about calls that were reported officially through the proper channels vs. those that were reported through Facebook. Ms. Venzie also reported that she heard from Bill Romanelli regarding the Quarry Project. According to Mr. Romanelli, using the Baltimore Pike entrance to begin construction of the proposed Quarry Development is problematic. Ms. Venzie noted this was one of the conditions of the conditional use approval that they had agreed to. Mr. Romanelli has requested to come to a meeting. No date has been set.

MAYORS REPORT – the Mayor reported that Bubblepalooza is on Saturday, June 29th – be sure to come and don’t miss the fun!

OLD BUSINESS

- Memorial Wall – nothing new to report – still waiting for cleanup work and landscaping. Hope to introduce the new memorial area at a Veterans Day celebration.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Morgan again asked Council members to come in and check on the Treasurer. The credit card machine is up and running. The Borough took in \$130,000 in sewer and water fees this period.

OTHER

- **Third Street Park Issue** – Ms. Watts is concerned about the number of cars she has seen parked in this park. She recommends adding more boulders. The Council discussed the lack of parking, noting that due to the size of the park and the PennDOT requirements, a parking lot is not feasible. The Council talked about parking on Garner Drive but felt that this would cause problems with residents of Carillon. Council all agreed that it was not the best idea to design a park with no parking available. Mr. Morgan recommended that if anyone sees people misbehaving in the park, the SCCRPD should be called.
- **Lead and Copper Service Line and Meter Inventory Program Update** – The door hangars will be hung next week alerting residents that the survey work will begin the first week of July.
- Translation Services – Mr. Essmaker made a motion that Council approve an hourly rate of \$15.50 for in-house translation services. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
- **Part Time “As Needed” Employee** – the Council thought that hiring a part timer to do odds and ends as needed would be beneficial for the staff. Council Member Lucas Ortiz has a person in mind and will reach out to her.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The Borough office will be closed on Wednesday, June 19th in celebration of Juneteenth.
- b. The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 7 PM
- c. Bubble Palooza will be held on June 29, 2024, from 10 AM – 2 PM in the Second Street Park. This event will be held in conjunction with Galilee UAME Church, the Garage Youth Center, and Grace and Mercy Ministries and is free to all.
- d. Hydrant Flushing will begin on Monday, July 8th.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary