

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 20, 2023

7:00 PM

Council Members Present: President, Paul Morgan, Vice President Stephanie Reichert and Council members Mike Essmaker and Janet Watts. Council member Lucas Ortiz arrived at approximately 7:25 pm. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Borough Engineer, Tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also in attendance. Solicitor Kim Venzie arrived at approximately 7:08 pm. There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

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.

WASTEWATER/WATER PLANT OPERATOR REPORT – Brent Hazelwood from Wind River Environmental updated the Council on sewer plant upgrades, and the water leak and repair on State Street. The Council and Brent discussed progress on the organic load issue. Brent noted it was not coming from the Chinese food restaurant (they have been closed for 3 weeks now) nor New Garden Township. DEP continues to press the Borough to find the culprit and fix this issue. When Pipe View Data performs the televising and cleaning, they should figure it out.

BUSINESS

Proclamation for Peter Malchione – Mr. and Mrs. Malchione were in attendance for this agenda item. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo congratulated Mr. Malchione on his over 50 years of serving customers in Avondale Borough. She presented him with a proclamation for his service to the community and the Council wished him well.

Consideration of Changing the Noise Ordinance – the Council and Solicitor continued the discussion from the last meeting where the Borough Council discussed changing the Noise ordinance to do away with the decibel reading requirement and go to a more subjective noise disturbance ordinance similar to West Grove. The Solicitor will review New Garden's and West Grove's disturbance ordinances and bring back a draft ordinance for Council's review.

Parking on Miller Drive – The Council, Engineer, Solicitor and Avondale Fire Company President, Guy Swift, discussed the parking on Miller Drive and limiting parking to just one side of the road. Currently, the Avondale Fire Company's ladder truck could not make it up the street with cars parked on both sides. The Engineer will visit Miller Drive and put together a plan for review at the next available meeting.

Consideration of Engineer's Road Program Proposal – Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council Member, Mike Essmaker made a motion that the Council authorize the Borough Engineer to develop a pavement management system study to include a review of the water and sewer pipes as well as sidewalks at a cost not to exceed \$14,000. Council Member Janet Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Grants – Mr. Essmaker asked Mr. Wilkes to pursue a grant that could be used as a match for a sewer grant the Borough has already applied for but has not yet been awarded.

Morris Street – the Council received a request from a resident about the possibility of making Morris Street a one-way street. The Engineer provided an outline of what is required to achieve this. The Council will not move forward with this item.

Grass Clippings – The Council and Engineer discussed regulations on blowing grass clippings into the street. It was decided this issue could best be addressed with public education through the newsletter, the website and Facebook. Anything the Borough publishes can be used as part of our MS4 annual report.

Consideration of Resolution 2023-08 an updated Signers Resolution – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-08, the updated signers resolution, adding Lucas Ortiz to the list of authorized signers for all Borough checks. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watts. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion of Trash Rates: The Borough Council did not discuss this agenda topic noting that the Council would discuss trash rates again at a future meeting.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Mr. Wilkes summarized his report and answered questions from the Council.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Solicitor Venzie reported on the plan for the Wilkinson Conditional Use hearing and the ordinance updates. Both will be considered at a public hearing to be held at the July 18, 2023 meeting beginning at 7 PM.

MAYOR’S REPORT

The Mayor was approached by residents with the following concerns:

- Minor street – property lines and tree ownership – the Solicitor advised that this was a private matter and not for Council’s consideration.
- Dog Waste – the Mayor received a complaint about people not picking up their animal’s waste. The Council briefly discussed this, and the Mayor will put a message on Facebook.
- Pomeroy Park Rain Garden Status – Mayor Susan was informed at a recent meeting that the rain garden project planned for Pomeroy Park will not move forward. The project has been transferred to the Garage and redesigned to better suit their needs. The Deed to the Park prohibits digging in part of the area where the rain garden was planned. This is due to an environmental issue that occurred many years ago. The Council expressed their disappointment that the project is not moving forward.
- Solicitation without a permit – the Mayor noted that representatives from two companies were actively soliciting in her community as well as the surrounding area. Both companies said they secured a solicitation permit which they did not do. The Mayor has asked the Code official to start the process to fine these companies. The Solicitor has advised what path the Code Official should follow.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the June 6, 2023 minutes as presented. Council Member Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the May Treasurer’s Report. Vice President Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Morgan made the following announcements:

- 1) The Borough office is closed on Monday and Tuesday, July 3, and 4, 2023.
- 2) The next Borough Council meeting is Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 7:00 PM

OTHER

Ms. Watts commented on the Borough’s website and requested that she have access to be able to make updates. The Council was agreeable, and staff will arrange for a new login for her to use.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Borough Administrator/Secretary