

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 21, 2022
7:00 PM**

Council Members Present: President, Paul Morgan, Vice President, Stephanie Reichert, Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts and Fernando Tena-Diaz. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Borough Engineer Dennis O'Neill, WWTP Representative Mike Bostic from KBX and Sharon Norris, Borough Administrator, were also in attendance.

Call to Order – President Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Southern Chester County Regional Police Report – Lieutenant Joseph Greenwalt was in attendance to present his report and answer any questions the public or Council members had. Topics of note were DUI checkpoints, hiring of part-time officers, National Night Out, and the need to pursue a different vendor for updated body cameras. Lt. Greenwalt discussed security measures in place at local schools and the training he and department members receive in Active Threat response. The Lieutenant is an Active Threat Response Instructor. Lieutenant Greenwalt and the Council members had a lengthy question and answer period on this topic. The Lieutenant spoke about the CRAZE program which is designed for civilians.

Resident and Public Comments – Mr. Don Morgan along with a resident of Landenberg Hunt made a presentation on how gases produced during mushroom operations ((hydrogen sulfide, ammonia and methane) negatively affect air quality. Mr. Morgan stated there is evidence that these gases also contribute to the rapid decay of machinery and appliances. They discussed the difficulty in measuring air quality using current DEP standards. New Garden Township has agreed to support a study to measure air quality using parameters that measure air quality differently than what is currently being used by the PA DEP. The Council members asked questions of Mr. Morgan. Mr. Morgan suggested that Avondale Borough may also wish to have a study performed. The Council members thought it would be cost prohibitive and were not ready to make any decisions at tonight's meeting. Mr. Morgan encouraged the Council and residents to contact DEP and complain about the air quality caused by mushroom farming. The person to call is Jim Rebarchak at 484-877-0124 (Monday through Friday 8 AM – 4 PM) and after hours: 800-541-2050. Complaints can also be made online at www.dep.pa.gov; click on the Environmental Complaints icon and then on the Environmental Complaint form.

Engineer's Report – Mike Bostic, from KBX, gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Council members asked about the wells on Pomeroy Avenue. Engineer O'Neill gave an update. When asked, Mr. O'Neill noted that when the new wells come online there will be more flow/volume. The Council members and Mr. O'Neill discussed the water issue at a residence on Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. O'Neill reported on Hydrant flushing. The Borough will include a notice to residents about the flushing in the upcoming sewer/water/trash bills. The flushing process will take two days. Grease trap inspections have concluded. There is an issue with the water waste from the Brewery. Mr. O'Neill will continue exploring the nature of the issue and will work with the Brewery on a solution. He noted that this issue could also involve water waste from VaLa Winery. Other topics included: Mr. O'Neill's determination about the water complaint at the old train station property. Mr. O'Neill determined the water is not coming from Edlon and recommended that the owner install some gutters and downspouts. He opined that Edlon could install a pipe on the railroad property to assist with the water that is flowing onto this property from the railroad property

The Council discussed whether or not KBX had additional responsibilities now that the Borough's part-time water employee is no longer employed by the Borough. The Council also noted they would like to use Mr. DiFilippo's services as much as possible. The grinder is not functioning correctly. It is 5 years old which is not considered old when it comes to this type of equipment; however, it is not under warranty. The cost of a new grinder is estimated to be \$24,000. The Council agreed that if it could be repaired, that's what they would like to do. Mr. O'Neill will take it to Deckman's for repair. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council Member Janet Watts made a motion that the Borough Council authorize up to \$1,200 for the rental of a crane to pull out the grinder and bring it to Deckman's for repair. Council Member Fernando Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was none. Mr. O'Neill noted that the Chlorine Gas Monitor is not working and the cost of a new unit is \$5,350. Additionally, Mr. O'Neill and Council discussed specifics of the DEP violation letter. They all agreed they are hopeful to be awarded the grant to be able to fix some of the issues.

Line striping was also discussed.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Morgan called for a motion to approve the June 7, 2022 minutes as presented. Council member Mike Essmaker made the motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was none.

Finance Committee – Mr. Essmaker reported that Mrs. McVaugh, the Borough Treasurer, is looking for a different bank to handle the Borough's payroll services. Mr. Essmaker worked with Truist to get a refund of some of the existing fees. The Lockbox will be closed effective June 30, 2022.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Rzucidlo reported as follows:

- Swings for Watson Park (also known as the Second Street Park). The Mayor noted that this park is in need of some kind of playground equipment as it has none. She stated this park is used by many local youth. Currently, the structure to hold the swings is in place. The Council discussed different options to pay for this project. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council Member Stephanie Reichert made a motion that the Council approve the purchase of the necessary equipment to provide for swings at Watson Park. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.
- The Council tabled the Street Sweeping discussion until a future meeting so that the Staff can provide a quote.
- The Mayor brought her concerns about the sudden removal of the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge from the PennDOT/DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) list. After making calls to PennDOT, she was told it is because the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) said the bridge was in the Historic District (which is incorrect). Until this issue is resolved, PennDOT will not consider repair or replacement of the bridge. Additionally, there is concern that the bridge has lost its spot on the list and will move to the end of the list once this issue is resolved. This bridge is currently rated in poor condition. The Mayor and Council are going to set up a meeting to include all public officials representing Avondale and the surrounding area to discuss the serious nature of the bridge's removal. PennDOT is accepting Public Comment on the TIP list until June 26th. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to submit public comment to PennDOT regarding the serious nature surrounding the removal of the bridge from the TIP program. Mr. Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Morgan called for public

comment. There was no public comment. Additionally, the Mayor will contact the Fire Chief, Police Chief, the Chester County Emergency Services Department and the Borough Emergency Manager to also provide public comment.

- The Mayor discussed recent complaints she received about speeding on Church Street between New Garden Township and Third Street and also on Clay Creek Road. The Mayor and Council briefly discussed speed bumps or speed humps as a way of managing the speeding. The Mayor will gather more information and come back before the Council at a future meeting.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Kim Venzie brought the Board up to date on the progress of the Codification project. The first step in the process has been completed and the next step is to review it once General Code has pulled it all together. Solicitor Venzie noted that she has the final documents for the Council to enact the ordinance to join the Western Chester County Council of Governments (WCCCOG). This will be before the Council at their July 19th meeting. Finally, Ms. Venzie noted that she hasn't received any revisions from Wilkinson although they said they were sending them.

Other – Mrs. Reichert brought up the good news that Christiana Hospital is taking over the vacant Jennersville Hospital building. Mrs. Watts will look into putting together a safety kit for the Borough.

Announcements – Mr. Morgan announced that the next Borough Council meeting will be held on July 05, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Mr. Morgan also announced that there would be an Executive Session following this meeting to discuss legal issues.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

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Borough Administrator