

**AVONDALE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 4, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**– Council President, Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7 PM. In attendance were Vice President Mike Essmaker and Council member Stephanie Reichert. Council members Lucas Ortiz and Janet Watts were absent. Also in attendance were Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, and Administrator Sharon Norris.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Morgan announced that an executive session will be held after tonight’s meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**BUSINESS:**

**Resolution 2024-08** – A resolution of Borough Council to enter into a professional services agreement with National Water Specialties Companies to implement a cross-connection control program in the Borough to survey the water distribution system, identify hazards and monitor the installation maintenance of backflow prevention assemblies. Solicitor Kim Venzie reviewed this resolution for Council. Vice President Mike Essmaker made a motion to adopt this Resolution and Agreement. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**Mapping Grant Award** – The Council briefly discussed the two proposals that were received. Council member Stephanie Reichert made a motion to award the mapping project to locate the water, sewer and stormwater lines, valves and pipes in an amount up to \$100,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Essmaker. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 3-0.

**Water Committee:**

Ms. Reichert discussed the chain of command regarding water emergencies. She would like the Borough to consider getting a dedicated phone for water emergencies which can be passed around between Council members. Emergency calls can be reviewed to determine the type of emergency and the timeline for action. This will also cut down on costs as residents will not be calling KBX directly. Mr. Lutz will develop an educational piece on what constitutes an emergency. Council, Solicitor and staff also discussed the for KBX to sometimes go onto people’s property and enter their homes to check the water pressure. The Council, Solicitor and staff discussed liability issues for the Borough and for KBX. The Council will continue this discussion.

**Letter of Support for Mushroom Industry Monitoring** – The Council discussed this topic and determined that at this time, they will not be providing a letter of support.

**Borough Audits** - Maille Inc. has performed the Borough audit for the last 3 audit years. The Treasurer has found Maille professional and easy to work with. The Council discussed how much less the Borough has paid with Maille than was paid to the former auditor. The Council decided to continue with Maille for the next 3-year audit period.

**Reservoir Change Order #5** – Mr. Essmaker made a motion that Council approve Change Order #5 for the Replacement of the Reservoir Cover Project to include compensating the contractor for extending the 6” fill line across the reservoir; compensate the contractor for additional fencing; and compensating the contractor for test digging to verify the ends of an unknown pipe discovered during the initial test digging. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reichert. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 3-0.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

**Mayor’s Report** – Mayor Susan reported on the following:

- **Route 41 Bridge** PennDOT will perform the Route 41 bridge inspection in July and the bridge inspector from Carroll Engineers will be on site to observe.
- Her trip to the Pennsylvania State Association of Borough’s (PSAB) annual meeting was worthwhile. She met a number of vendors including one that scans in records and a company that detects water leaks using auditory methods. The Borough of Modena wants to start a Chester County Association of Boroughs.
- DEP has provided the Borough with stream maintenance information that DEP would like the Borough to share with residents.

**Ellicott Road** – Mr. DiFilippo has reported that Ellicott Road is in a state of disrepair and needs immediate attention. It cannot be fixed with patching – it must be built back up. It is the section where Ellicott meets Route 41 and further down at the curve. The Council requested that Mr. DiFilippo get a quote from RT Price to do the work.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – The auditor is finishing the audit and will come in person to do the final paperwork. The Audit should be completed by end of July. The meters will be read at the end of the month. Ms. McVaugh has been trained in the credit card machine and we are ready to go.

**OTHER**

**Avondale Borough Vision 2030: Mapping our Vision for Tomorrow** – the Council discussed this briefly. They discussed the need for grants to get anything done. Ms. Reichert reported on her meeting with a property owner and his ideas on what kind of venue he would like to bring to the Borough. He intends to open this business in 2025. He said he is ready to file the permits. However, he has not yet done that. The Mayor has made him aware of grants that are available to business owners.

Mr. Essmaker reported that Mr. Wilkes is still working on securing multimodal grants. He also reported that the sidewalks are in the right of way. The Mayor will follow up with Mr. Wilkes about moving the HUD grant forward. Mr. Morgan added that he would like to be more proactive in contacting a property owner about potential open space and would like to contact the owner's daughter.

The Council discussed people illegally parking in the Indian Run Park and what steps can the Borough take to make it difficult to park there as the ground is being turfed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

May 7, 2024 – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the May 7, 2024, minutes and the May 21, 2024, minutes as presented. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 7 PM
- Bubble Palooza will be held on June 29, 2024, from 10 AM – 2 PM with Galilee UAME Church, The Garage Youth Center, and Grace and Mercy Ministries in the Second Street Park. This event is free to the public.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris, Secretary