

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JUNE 6, 2023**  
**7:00 PM**

**Council Members Present:** President, Paul Morgan, Vice President Stephanie Reichert and Janet Watts. Council Member Mike Essmaker was absent. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also in attendance. Guy Swift, President of the Avondale Fire Department and two members of the public were in the audience.

**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.

**OATH OF OFFICE** – Mayor Rzucidlo administered the Oath of Office to Lucas Ortiz, Jr., the Borough's newest Council member who took Fernando Tena Diaz's Council position. The Board and members of the public congratulated Mr. Ortiz and thanked him for his service.

**SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT** – Acting Lieutenant Joe Versagli was in attendance and gave a summary of current news, including the Department hiring two new officers.

**BUSINESS:**

**Noise Ordinance Discussion** – Over the weekend there had been a party in a neighborhood where the police were called multiple times to address noise disturbances and safety issues and problems caused by cars parking on lawns and blocking driveways and the fire hydrant. The current noise ordinance calls for someone to have a decibel meter. This requires the noise level to reach a specific level before the police are able to enforce anything. A decibel reader must always be calibrated and police do not carry them in their vehicles. The Council wishes to revise the current noise ordinance to allow the Police to better deal with noise disturbances. Lt. Versagli, Guy Swift and the Council discussed what should be changed. Both Mr. Swift and the Lieutenant. pointed to our neighbors New Garden and West Grove's noise ordinances as two ordinances that better deal with noise than Avondale's current ordinance. They discussed the reasons why. The Council decided to move forward with drafting an ordinance similar to West Grove's. The discussion then turned to fire safety and how to prevent parking on both sides of the street. A fire truck could not have made it onto this road during this event because of all of the cars. They discussed adding signage and prohibiting parking on one side of the street not just in this location but in other locations too. Council Member Janet Watts noted that trucks are no longer an issue on Church Street since Mr. Cutone put up the signs. Lieutenant Versagli, Mr. Swift and Council will continue this conversation at the June 20, 2023 meeting.

**Avondale Fire Company** – Mr. Swift gave an overview of recent fire company activities including their new shed, the 1<sup>st</sup> boot drive and number of calls in the Borough. He will be back in July to present the half year review. The Council questioned Mr. Swift about a burn ban, and he recommended checking the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCNR) website for updates ([www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov)).

**Consideration of Updated Phone System** – The staff noted that the current telephone system is not working properly. Callers are unable to leave messages, sometimes callers cannot be heard or cannot hear the staff and both lines ring at once. They contacted several companies to provide quotes for a new system and recommended going with Schneider Communications at a cost not to exceed \$2,350. This quote includes a monitor so the back office personnel can see who is entering through the front door of the office. Mr. Morgan called for the motion. Vice President Stephanie Reichert made a motion that the Council authorize this purchase. The motion was seconded by Council member Lucas Ortiz. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

**Purchase of Memorial Benches** - Mayor Rzucidlo was approached by a resident with a request to purchase a memorial plaque and bench in memory of a family member. The purchase and installation

costs would be covered by the resident. Mr. Morgan called for a motion that the Borough Council allow residents to purchase a memorial plaque and bench, approved by the Borough which the Borough staff would install at the residents' expense at a location approved by Council. The motion was made by Ms. Watts and seconded by Mr. Ortiz. The motion carried 4-0.

**Discussion of making Morris Street a One-Way Street** – a few residents requested that Council consider making Morris Street a one-way street. There are several steps that need to be taken to accomplish this goal if the Council chooses to move forward. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Discussion of Engineer's Road Program Proposal** – this item was tabled and will be discussed at the June 20, 2023 meeting when all Council members are present.

**Continuation of Discussion of Trash Rates:** This item was tabled and will be discussed at the June 20, 2023 meeting when all Council members are present.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Susan Rzucidlo reported on the following:

**Route 41 Bridge over White Clay Creek** – The Mayor recently learned there is no funding for work on this bridge until after 2034. She managed to get in touch with the “keeper” who is the senior historian at the National Register of Historic Places for the National Park service who oversees reviewing this project. The Keeper informed the Mayor that she is waiting for information from PennDOT and offered to schedule a conference call with both parties to work on finalizing district boundaries and discuss outstanding issues. The Mayor requested to be a part of that call.

The Mayor attended the Mighty Writer's Anti Human Trafficking Meeting which outlined their program to help combat human trafficking. Fortunately Chester County does not have the huge problems that areas like Delaware County and Philadelphia have.

The Mayor was contacted by a State Representative who is working on his MBA at the University of Pennsylvania who would like to take on our project to develop a Policy and Procedures manual as his senior capstone project.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Ms. Reichert made a motion to approve the May 18, 2023 minutes. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Treasurer Joan McVaugh informed the Board that she has opened a Parks and Recreation checking account at the advice of the Solicitor to keep track of the grant money. She also requested that Brent Hazelwood, the plant operator, be able to work an additional two hours each day when the upgrade at the plant begins so he can oversee the work. The Council agreed this was a good idea. She also reported that the Chinese restaurant is closed for the next two months. This was good news with regard to the “vegetable soup” problem the sewer plant has been experiencing. The Borough Engineer had been investigating the issue and even hired a consultant to assist him, but they had been unsuccessful in finding the culprit. After the first week, the “vegetable soup” problem is still going on, but Brent is going to give it another week or so before making a final determination.

## **OTHER**

**Community Garden Update** – Ms. Reichert reported that the garden needs one more rain barrel. Their plan is to put a gutter on the shed to collect rain water. She is hoping Andy can fix the fence. They are also looking to install a picnic table. The Council discussed installing cameras at the garden and purchasing additional cameras. Ms. Reichert made a motion to purchase additional cameras at a cost of up to \$400. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watts. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Morgan asked the staff to follow up with the District Attorney's office on when restitution payments would begin regarding the fraud case. He also asked about air conditioning in the back room of the office and several building and zoning issues.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Morgan made the following announcements:

- 1) There is a Zoning Hearing Board Public Hearing on June 14, 2023 at 6 PM at the Borough Hall to consider 38 Gap Newport Pike's application to convert a single family residence to a four unit multi family dwelling.
- 2) The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM

**Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Norris*

Sharon Norris, Secretary