

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 19, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Council President, Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Vice President Mike Essmaker, Council members Janet Watts and Lucas Ortiz. Member Stephanie Reichert was absent. Also in attendance were Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris. Lt. Joseph Versagli from the SCCRPD and Jack Robinson and Kurt Diener from JMR Engineering were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Paul Morgan congratulated Councilman Lucas Ortiz on achieving the rank of Drill Sargent with the National Guard. He also announced that there would be an Executive Session after tonight's meeting to discuss potential real estate opportunities.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT: Lieutenant Joseph Versagli updated the Council on the goings on in Avondale during the last reporting period. He reported that truck drivers seem to be fully aware of the weight restriction on the Route 41 bridge and the Department is not issuing many overweight related tickets. However, traffic on Newark Road outside of the Borough is still much heavier as trucks use this route trying to avoid using the bridge. The Department continues to work on grants and the grant they received for \$117,000 is going toward tasers and state of the art body cams.

BUSINESS:

JMR Engineers Proposal for Borough-wide mapping of Sewer, Water and Stormwater Systems - Mr. Jack Robinson, President of JMR Engineers, was in attendance with his colleague Jack Diener to present their company's proposal to do the mapping of the water, stormwater and wastewater systems. This is the last of the 3 proposals the Borough has reviewed. After a question and answer period, the Council determined they would continue their consideration of the proposals and make a decision at the April 16, 2024 Borough Council meeting.

Credit Card Payments for Utility Invoices – Treasurer Joan McVaugh led this discussion. The staff has found that many residents would like to make credit or debit card payments for their utility bills but cannot since the Borough is unable to process those payments at this time. Ms. McVaugh has been in contact with one agency that will offer credit card machines at a low monthly cost. The Council discussed offering credit cards as a way to make payments in the office and directed Ms. McVaugh to continue to investigate other options and bring it back to Council at a future meeting

Letter of Support for White Clay Creek Association Grant Application - Vice President Mike Essmaker made a motion to sign the letter of support of the White Clay Creek Association's application for a National Fish and Wildlife grant to conduct a flood study of the White Clay watershed. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

Consideration of New Little Library at the Borough Building – The Mayor proposed a new little library to be located adjacent to the Borough building in the area where the Veterans Memorial currently stands. The Little Libraries are donated and made by high school students. Mr. Morgan made a motion for a Little Library to be placed at the Borough office area when one becomes available. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Susan reported on the following:

- Playground Grants: The HUD grant is moving along. The Mayor applied for a \$10,000 Dockstader grant for Pomeroy Park.
- The Borough now has two pollinator gardens: one at Third Street adjacent to the Third Street Park; the other is at the new Veterans Memorial location.
- The Mayor is not available to participate in the Community Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 27th. Mr. Ortiz volunteered to be in charge.
- The Policy and Procedures Manual is still pending.

OLD BUSINESS

Streetlights – the PUC and PECO completed their review of the Borough's streetlight buyout and now Avondale's project can move forward. In the time it took for the paperwork to go through, the Borough is now eligible to receive a different

luminaire option that will generate more energy savings, likely more rebates and more dimming flexibility in the Avon Mohr subdivision. The equipment is ordered, and the project should begin by mid-to late April.

Reservoir Cover – The valves are ordered. Once installed work can begin.

Memorial Wall – waiting for ground to dry out

Lead Service Line Inventory Update – Garage students continue to work on designing social media, website pages, letters and postcard mailers. Met with neighboring municipalities to share strategies, DEP reporting and discuss ways to deal with lead service lines

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Watts made a motion to approve the January 2024 Treasurer's report with disbursements and transfers as follows:

General Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$85,151.37
Sewer Service with disbursements and transfers of \$41,606.61
Water Service with disbursements and transfers of \$12,291.43
Street Lighting Fund with disbursements and transfers of \$1,690.63
ARPA Funds with disbursements and transfers of \$67,327.66
Leaving a total cash balance for all funds of \$739,907.48.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Essmaker. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 20, 2024 - On a motion by Ms. Watts, seconded by Mr. Morgan, the February 20, 2024 minutes were approved as presented on a 4-0 vote.

March 5, 2024 - On a motion by Ms. Watts, seconded by Mr. Ortiz, the March 5, 2024 minutes were approved as presented on a 4-0 vote.

Announcements:

- The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7 PM
- The Community Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th from 8 AM – 11 AM
- Town Hall Meeting regarding the drinking water service is scheduled for May 9, 2024 at the Garage at 7 PM.
- The Borough is sponsoring a Union Apprenticeship Program at the Garage on April 30, 2024 at 7 PM. Senator Kane will also be in attendance to participate via Zoom.
- Mark your calendars for Bubble Palooza on Saturday, June 29, 2024 from 10 AM – 2 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT – Council member Janet Watts relayed that Mr. John Watts, 214 Mullen Drive, asked that the Borough contact PennDOT about fixing the potholes on Pennsylvania Avenue between First and Third Streets.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris, Secretary