

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 21, 2023
7:00 PM

Council Members Present: President, Paul Morgan, Council Members Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts, and Mayor Susan Rzucidlo. Vice President, Stephanie Reichert attended via telephone. Borough Engineer Tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also 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 – Mr. Bruce Mangini suggested following the Pledge of Allegiance with a moment of silence for Fallen Heroes. The Council agreed with this idea and will begin having a Moment of Silence at the next meeting.

Southern Chester County Regional Police Department Report: Acting Lt. Joe Versagli reported on the following: The speed monitor is in place on Pomeroy Avenue; the full scale active shooter response exercise took place at the Avon Grove High School. State Police Troop J coordinated this event and Acting Chief Greenwalt led the efforts of the SCCRPD. First responders and police from Kennett, Oxford and West Gove participated in this important event which proved to be very informative and successful. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was no public comment. The Council added their thanks to Detective Gregory Smith for all of his hard work on the Borough's fraud case.

Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Report – Mr. Mike Bostic of Wind River Environmental reported on the following: he attended the first meeting of the Water/Wastewater Committee meeting; the pinch valve is in bad shape. Mr. Bostic invited any who are interested to attend the upcoming DEP inspection at the plant. Engineer Tom Wilkes noted that Wastewater Engineer, Bill Malin will be in attendance at this inspection. Mr. Wilkes and Council discussed purchasing a new valve and repairing the current valve using the grant funds.

BUSINESS

Hero Wall Discussion – Mr. Bruce Mangini and Mr. Dave Besselman were in attendance to discuss this project. Mr. Mangini explained the process of digging up the current monument and the information he needs before he can move the current monument to the new location as well as the process required for situating the memorials in Pomeroy Park. Mr. Mangini is entering his busy season and he would like to be able to move forward with this project. He would also like to move the new Walls from his location to the Public Works area, so they don't get damaged. Mr. DiFillipo will contact Mr. Mangini to discuss. The Mayor explained that the Borough is working on an overall site plan for Pomeroy Park which must be completed before the Hero's Wall project can begin. The Council discussed marking the time capsule which is currently buried near the current location of the Memorial with a plaque so future Council members and residents will know where it is. Mr. Mangini announced that Cemetery Memorial and A&A Auto Tags are donating a flagpole, flag and solar lights for the new Memorial Park. The Council's consensus was that the Hero's Wall Memorial would be unveiled on Veterans Day.

Annual Rental Inspection Program – The Borough has a Rental Inspection Ordinance. Prior to the pandemic, rental inspections were scheduled throughout the year. However, they stopped once the pandemic hit. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo noted some specific incidents that would be resolved with the implementation of regular rental inspections. Council members agreed this is an important program that should get off the ground as soon as possible. The Mayor provided several forms to the Secretary which once finalized will be sent to the Building Inspection Underwriters for execution.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Multi-year Road and Pipe Replacement Program – Mr. Wilkes submitted an example of a multi-year road program he prepared for another municipality located in Delaware. He and Borough Council discussed methods used to evaluate pipes underneath roads prior to paving. He was also able to give the Council an idea of costs to prepare a comprehensive program which would include costs for each section of road.

The Mayor discussed an application she submitted for another federal appropriation. Mr. Wilkes said he would put together a matrix of projects and costs.

Mr. Malin will be speaking with DCED regarding securing an extension for the reservoir cover grant.

Mr. Malin is investigating hooking into the Chester Water Authority for backup during the reservoir cover project.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- **Comments About Water Ordinance** – Per the Borough Code, the Mayor listed her reasons for not signing the Water Rate Increase Ordinance. Specifically, she did not want to raise water rates as she felt it was too much of a burden on the residents and felt the Borough could continue to fund the Water account with money from the Sewer Account. After Mayor Rzucidlo made her comments, Council Members individually explained why they felt that raising the water rates to enable the water plant to sustain itself was important and fiscally responsible.
- **Application to Representative Houlahan for Water/Sewer Funding** – The Mayor was notified that another appropriation was available, but the deadline was 3 days away. She submitted an application requesting \$100,000 for mapping, sewer and water pipe evaluation and upgrades and plant upgrades. She was also able to get letters of support from the Chester County Commissioners, Representative Sappey and Senator Kane.
- **Parks and Playground Improvements** – The Mayor updated the Council on what will be included on the Pomeroy Park site plan. The Council discussed making the Hero's Wall Memorial a focal point.
- **Memorial Tree Plan Update** – Picking up from last meeting, the Mayor discussed the plan for a Memorial Tree Planting Program. Residents would purchase trees from a list of local nurseries provided by the Borough. The Borough would plant and care for the tree. The resident would purchase a plaque through the Borough in memory or in honor of their loved one. The Mayor is contacting local engraving companies to do the engraving on the plaque.
- **Church and Minor Streetlight Update** – The Mayor had a request from a resident to put a light in this dark area where a bus stop exists. We are still waiting for pricing from PECO.
- **PennDOT Update** – The mayor reported that PennDOT performed work on Third Street near the Park. Although it was not entirely the work that the Borough anticipated, it was still much appreciated.
- **TASA Program** – (Transportation Set Aside Program through Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission) – this grant program provides funds to build pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The Mayor suggested applying for this grant for sidewalk improvements. The Council agreed this looked like a good funding opportunity and would like to attend a meeting with a representative from DVRPC. Office staff will schedule the meeting.
- **Meeting with Red Cross Update** - The Mayor had a productive meeting with a representative from the Red Cross. They would like to make Avondale a center for distributing free smoke detectors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council Member Michael Essmaker made a motion to approve the March 7, 2023 minutes are presented. Council Member Janet Watts seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the February Treasurer's report. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Treasurer Joan McVaugh announced that the Borough has received \$128,290 in utility payments. \$113,800 came from checks and money orders. The remainder was paid through Invoice Cloud. Mr. Essmaker requested that a reminder to use Invoice Cloud be placed on the next quarter's bill. Mrs. McVaugh also updated the Council that she has been working with Chris Herr, the auditor, and has a plan in place to make the books ready for the 2021 and 2022 audits. The

Mayor is concerned that DCED still hasn't received our audits and directed Mrs. Norris to contact them to let them know where we are in the auditing process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Morgan made the following announcements:

- 1) A court date has been set to sentence the individual responsible for the bank fraud.
- 2) The next Western Chester County Council of Government meeting will be on March 29, 2023 at 7 PM at the Parkesburg Borough Hall. Mrs. Watts will be attending.
- 3) The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Mrs. Watts announced she would not be in attendance at the April 4, 2023 Borough Council Meeting. Mayor Rzucidlo also announced she would not be able to attend the meeting.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary