

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

**Council Members Present:** Vice President, Stephanie Reichert, Council members Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts, Fernando Tena-Diaz and Mayor Susan Rzucidlo. President, Paul Morgan was in attendance via telephone. Also in attendance were Solicitor Kim Venzie, Borough Engineer Tom Wilkes and Treasurer Joan McVaugh

**Call to Order** – Vice President Stephanie Reichert called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**BUSINESS**

**Ordinance 2023-277 – An Ordinance amending the Borough Code to increase water rates** – Solicitor Kim Venzie opened the public hearing. She introduced two exhibits – B1, the proof of publication of the public notice placed in the Daily Local News on February 24<sup>th</sup> and B2, evidence that a complete copy of the Ordinance was sent to the Daily Local News and the Chester County Law Library. The Council members individually expressed their support of increasing the water rates. The Treasurer also opined that this increase was appropriate and by implementing this increase, the water plant could sustain itself without the need for the annual transfer from the General Fund. . Mrs. Venzie closed the public hearing. Mrs. Reichert called for the vote. Council member Mike Essmaker made a motion that the Council enact Ordinance 2023-277, increasing water rates and updating the Borough Code to reflect this change. Council member Fernando Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mrs. Reichert called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

**Trash/Recycling Award** – Mrs. Reichert outlined the details of this agenda item. The current 3-year contract with Trash Tech expires on March 31, 2023. The Borough developed a trash and recycling bid package and put it out to bid. The Public Notice of this bid was advertised in the Daily Local News and the Borough received three competitive bids from the following companies: Trash Tech, AJ Blosenski and Republic. AJ Blosenski was the lowest responsive bidder. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo spoke about the difficulties with Trash Tech including the leaking trucks and managing all of the trash and recycling complaints she has had to deal with since she has been on Council. Mrs. Reichert called for a motion. Mr. Tena-Diaz made a motion that the 2023-2026 Borough Trash and Recycling Contract be awarded to AJ Blosenski in the following amounts: 2023: \$124,522.44; 2024: \$133,861.62 and 2025: \$143,901.24. Council Member Janet Watts seconded the motion. Mrs. Reichert called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

**Streetlight Change on Henson Street** – the Mayor reported that this light has been on 24 hours/7 days a week for quite some time and it has now been changed to a dusk to dawn light similar to other lights in the Borough. She had received a complaint from a resident who lives close by and was bothered by the nonstop light.

**Western Chester County Council of Local Government (WCCCOG)** – Mr. Tena-Diaz attended the COG meeting and updated the Council on the following: The WCCCOG scholarship requirements have been updated as follows: The amount of the awarded scholarship is \$2,000; it now allows for DACA students to apply; the grade point requirement has been lowered to 2.8 and other majors have been included. Updated information will be provided to the area schools. Mr. Tena also recommended that scholarship information be provided to area universities.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

- Third Street Update – the Mayor announced that PennDOT has fixed the sink hole and some paving and will come back to rebuild the berm at the park, shave the hill and fill the ditch with rocks. Mr. DiFillipo was in attendance to assist PennDOT with their plan.
- Update on Parks and Playgrounds
  - The Mayor is going to attend a HUD webinar to learn more about the appropriation the Borough received.
  - The Mayor explained her ideas for a tree planting memorial program. Since the Borough is going to be planting trees in the Borough parks as part of the MS4 program, the Mayor would like to incorporate a tree planting memorial program as part of the project. Residents could pick from a list of trees recommended by Shane Morgan of the White Clay Wild and Scenic and the people who design the tree planting can assist by letting us know where we should plant the memorial trees. The Mayor also noted that the Master Gardeners will assist with choosing trees that survive in wet areas. The Borough would take care of the trees; the residents would purchase the tree and memorial plaque. The Council agreed the memorial plaques should all be the same and trees that attract spotted lantern flies would be avoided.
  - State Bill 459 – The Mayor noted that Pennsylvania is the only state that doesn't allow local police forces to use radar guns. This bill, which would allow that, has passed the House and is moving to the Senate.
  - Update on Earth Day – The Mayor met with Boy Scout Troop 191 and they will be joining the Borough on Avondale Earth Day on April 22. PennDOT supplies gloves, safety vests and trash bags. The Council decided that the Borough would also purchase safety glasses to hand out. The Mayor will contact the high school, the Garage and put a message on Facebook and the website for volunteers. Additionally, she will reach out to Chester County Probation.

## OTHER

**Community Garden Update** - Mrs. Reichert noted that Mr. Reichert, head of the Community Garden has been notified that the Dockstader grant application passed the initial review and is moving onto Phase 2 of the process.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Reichert called for a motion. Mr. Tena-Diaz made a motion to approve the February 21, 2023 minutes as presented. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Mrs. Reichert called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Treasurer Joan McVaugh announced that the Borough has received a large number of water/sewer/trash payments. The amount from Invoice Cloud is approximately \$13,000 and the amount from checks and money orders is approx. \$70,000.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Reichert made the following announcements:

- 1) The next Western Chester County Council of Government meeting will be on March 29, 2023 at 7 PM at the Parkesburg Borough Hall. The Council briefly discussed what it would take to hold a virtual and in person COG meeting in the Avondale Borough Hall.
- 2) The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

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

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Norris*

Sharon Norris, Secretary