

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 18, 2023
7:00 PM

Council Members Present: President, Paul Morgan, Vice President Stephanie Reichert and Council members Mike Essmaker and Janet Watts. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Borough Solicitor Kim Venzie, 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 – There was no public comment.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT – Acting Chief Greenwalt was in attendance and reported on crime in the Borough, National Night Out, and evening bike patrols starting back up. The Council thanked the Chief and the Department for their efforts on behalf of the community.

WATER/SEWER PLANT REPORT – Mike Bostic of KBX/Wind River Environmental, the water/sewer plant operator, reviewed some upcoming projects at the plant using grant funds and answered questions from the Council.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Engineer Wilkes summarized his report. Highlights were: Connecting to Chester Water is not a good short term solution to provide water to the Borough during the reservoir cover project; The DCNR and HUD grant projects are moving along a little more quickly than the Rain Garden project which is moving ahead but more slowly. The Borough received its MS4 permit and outfall inspections are currently being performed. The discussion of the Road Program will be on the June 2 agenda.

BUSINESS

Consideration of Resolution 2023-06 – appointment of Lucas Ortiz, Jr. to Borough Council. Mr. Morgan called for a motion to appoint Lucas Ortiz to Borough Council to a term to expire on December 31, 2023, filling the vacancy created by Mr. Tena's resignation. Council member Mike Essmaker made the motion. Council member Janet Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for discussion – there was none. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVPRC) Regional Streetlight Procurement Program (RSLPP) Community Revitalization Program – Mr. Michael Fuller, the President of Keystone Lighting Solutions, the company awarded the contract to upgrade municipalities from existing lights to LED lights, was in attendance and presented the findings from the Feasibility Study. The scope of the project is to replace the existing streetlights which are owned by PECO with LED lights to be owned by the Borough which would reduce the borough's energy costs. The results of the feasibility show that this goal would be attained and the Borough would begin saving money after only 2.6 years. The next Phase of this project is for Keystone Lighting Solutions is to prepare an exact cost of what this changeover would be. Mr. Morgan called for a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-07, approving Keystone Lighting Solutions to move forward with Phase 2, Project Development, of the DVPRC Streetlight Procurement Program at a cost not to exceed \$1,800.00. Mr. Essmaker made the motion. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. The Council discussed the project with Mr. Fuller and noted that at this stage, with the information they were presented, this program looked like a win for the Borough. Mr. Fuller's team would begin their streetlight count and review on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

Watson Park Soccer Field Usage Request – this item was not discussed as the league representative did not attend the meeting.

Ordinance Updates – Solicitor Venzie walked the Council through the proposed updates to the ordinance to allow for the proposed development on the current quarry property to move forward. The Council, Ms. Venzie and Engineer Wilkes discussed the proposed changes and made some revisions to the document.

Mr. Morgan called for a motion that the Borough Council authorize the Solicitor to move forward with drafting and advertising an Ordinance incorporating the revisions to the Code discussed tonight for adoption at the next available Council meeting at which time a Conditional Use Hearing would also be held to consider the Wilkinson Quarry Project. Mrs. Watts made the motion and Mr. Essmaker seconded it. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0. The proposed Ordinance will be advertised and will be considered at the July 18, 2023 Borough meeting.

Discussion of Trash Rates: This item has been a discussion topic at the 3 previous Council meetings. The Borough will be paying the new trash rate to AJ Blosenski beginning with the second quarter billing. The 2023 rate is approximately \$40,000 more than was paid to Trash Tech last year. The Council has been contemplating different ways to address this increase, either through a trash rate increase or using funds from other sources to offset the increased price. The Council is aware that residents are being hit with increased costs for many services and want to figure out ways to not increase this bill until next year. Some ideas were: wait until we see what the recycling grant award will be; increase the rate in 2024 and let residents know now so they can plan. It was recommended that a plan is put into place for future council members to use as a guide in situations such as this. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting. At a previous meeting, a motion was made to move forward with creating the ordinance to increase the trash rates. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to rescind that motion. Mrs. Watts seconded that motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Susan Rzucidlo reported on the following:

TIP List – the Mayor attended the SAVE meeting and good news is that no one wants a roundabout in Avondale. The bad news is that the Bridge on 41 over the White Clay is not on the TIP list. The “keeper” is what seems to be the holdup in making the determination on where the Historic District begins/ends. Mayor Susan will continue to try and get in touch with the decisionmakers and find out what is going on. The Council discussed getting the Fire Company, the County Commissioners and Representatives Sappey and Houlahan involved. Mr. Morgan requested a copy of the last PennDOT inspection of this Bridge.

2023 Avondale Harvest Festival – Saturday, October 14th is the date of this year's Harvest Festival which takes place on the 2nd Saturday of October. Hours are 11 AM – 3 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the May 2, 2023 minutes as presented. Council Member Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Morgan called for a motion to approve the April 2023 Treasurer's Report. Mr. Essmaker made the motion and Mrs. Reichert seconded the motion. The Council discussed setting up a Reserve Fund. Ms. McVaugh will make a recommendation closer toward the end of the year. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0. The Treasurer has provided the Auditor with all of the necessary information to begin the audits.

OTHER

Mr. Morgan commented on the Streambank restoration project along Indian Run and the big boulders that wind up in the creek.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Morgan made the following announcements:

- 1) The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary