

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Council President, Paul Morgan, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were members Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts, and Lucas Ortiz. Vice President Mike Essmaker and Mayor Susan Rzucidlo were absent. Also in attendance were Borough Engineer, Tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, and Administrator Sharon Norris. Lieutenant Joe Versagli from the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department and Brent Hazelwood from Windriver Environmental (KBX) were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – There was an executive session on May 7 and May 16, 2024, to discuss personnel issues.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT – Lt. Versagli recapped the April monthly report. Officer Eric Carrasca, the Department’s newest hire, is completing his training, and the Department is glad to have him on Board. The Lieutenant discussed an incident at the Third Street Bridge which Sgt. Blue did an outstanding job of handling. The Council was very appreciative of his and all of the Department’s efforts. Mr. Morgan asked the Lieutenant to follow up on Mr. Garcia’s restitution payments.

FACILITIES OPERATOR UPDATE – Mr. Hazelwood updated the Council on the following:

- Pipe Data View is scheduled to begin the repairs to the sewer lines in late June.
- The 6” ‘found’ line has been determined to be inactive.
- the continued lower than normal pressure would not improve until this project was over. He described air and debris in the system and the small sizes of the lines as factors. Once the reservoir project is completed, the hydrants will be flushed completely (something the Borough usually does in August), and the system pressure should return to what it was prior to this project.
- Being on the bypass went well and the process gave the Borough some good information.
- Once the reservoir is drained, it will be cleaned, and the liner will be checked and repaired if necessary.
- An AWWA approved method of disinfection will allow the reservoir to be drained one time, not two times as was first thought. The disinfection method employed is surface contact with high-strength chlorine solution for a specific period. Proof that disinfection has been accomplished is provided by the results of bacteriological sampling and testing that show the absence of coliform organisms.
- Currently there are questions about the overflow pipe and where a 4” pipe goes.
- Mr. Wilkes added that there were many unknowns at the start of this project, and we did get a lot of good information; however, there are still unknowns. The Borough will most likely have maxed out the grant award after the next payment to the contractor.

The Council spoke about the need to replace items but at this time, nothing is in dire need of replacement.

BUSINESS:

- Reservoir Cover Project – Request for Payment #3. Council member Janet Watts made a motion to approve Payment #3 to Eastern Environmental, at the recommendation of the Borough Engineer, in the amount of \$48,426.29. Council member Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion.

Mr. Morgan called for discussion. Discussion topics included wells 1 and 2 supplying water to the town, the schedule for filling up the reservoir, (start at 9 PM, stop at 5 AM), and the chlorine disinfection method of refilling the reservoir. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

- Constable Compensation Payment - Ms. Watts recused herself from this agenda item due to her connection to the elected Constable. Ms. Reichert made a motion to approve the payment of \$20/per posting in the Borough, \$25/per posting just outside of the Borough and \$30/per posting in areas further away, plus mileage. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for discussion. The Council discussed the different payment options that had been gathered from neighboring municipalities and the County constable. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 3-0.
- Stormwater Work on Church Road – Since no pole was found in the stormwater pipe, Ms. Watts made a motion that the Borough return the check to Verizon. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for discussion. The Council, Treasurer McVaugh and Mr. Wilkes discussed the situation. Ms. McVaugh, after speaking with Pipe Data View, now thinks that it was not a pole but a piece of wood that was blocking the pipe. Mr. Wilkes and Ms. McVaugh will review the video. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.
- M&T Credit Card Services - Mr. Ortiz made a motion that the Borough enter into a contract with M&T Bank at a one-time cost of \$400 for the credit card machine plus monthly fees of \$17.98 to be able to offer a credit card payment option for utility and permit payments. Transaction fees will be passed on to the customer. The motion carried 4-0.
- MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer) Opportunities – Mr. Wilkes discussed this unfunded mandate and the borough's obligation to meet the MS4 permit requirements. One of the Borough's future BMPs is to build a raingarden in Pomeroy Park. Mr. Wilkes reviewed the email from Micah Thompson of Resource Environmental Solutions asking the Borough to partner with them on a stream restoration project they are doing in the East Branch of the White Clay in conjunction with PennDOT. He thinks it is worth investigating. Council agreed that he should follow up with RES, get details of the project and an idea of the cost to the Borough. He will report back to Council once he has connected with Mr. Shapiro.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Mr. Wilkes reviewed his report. He spoke to PennDOT about tress and sidewalks along their roads and PennDOT does not take responsibility for either. They allow homeowners and the borough to make any fixes, after getting PennDOT authorization. The Council spoke with Mr. Wilkes about providing water pressure to the new Wilkinson development when it is built. Mr. Wilkes explained that a water tower would provide good pressure. When asked, Mr. Wilkes reported he has not heard from anyone at Wilkinson about this project for a while.

OLD BUSINESS

- Streetlights – The new LED light installation begins on May 20, 2024.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Ms. Watts made a motion to approve the April Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Morgan. There was no discussion and the motion carried 4-0.

OTHER

- Lead Line and Water Service Inventory Town Hall Meeting Update – Ms. McVaugh reported that the Town Hall Meeting provided in Spanish had more attendees than the May 9th Town Hall meeting and Augustin, the Volunteer from the Garage and Mr. Ortiz did a great job of providing the information to the attendees.

- Avondale Borough Vision 2030: Mapping Our Vision for Tomorrow – Ms. Reichert brought up the topic of getting assistance with revitalization either by an excited resident or by hiring a consultant. The Council discussed the historic property at 100 Pomeroy Avenue (the basement floods during rain events from water coming from the Edlon property) and how to assist with resolving the problem. The flooding is preventing the mechanical equipment from being installed. The railroad has been agreeable to assisting with anything they can so this project can move forward. Ms. Reichert also offered the idea of contacting Mr. Basciani to request he allow parking for all Borough residents in his lot; she suggested the Borough enter into an agreement with him.
- Project Summary Overview – Ms. Norris summarized the project worksheet for the council. The Council discussed pressure regulators in the homes in Carillon.
- Council and staff also discussed providing pressure gauges to Mr. DiFilippo and Mr. Hazelwood to be able to check the pressure at residents’ homes. They discussed liability issues when Mr. Hazelwood enters people’s houses and decided they don’t want him to enter people’s houses or garages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 7 PM
- b. Bubble Palooza will be held on June 29, 2024, from 10 AM – 2 PM in the Second Street Park. This event will be held in conjunction with Galilee UAME Church, the Garage Youth Center, and Grace and Mercy Ministries and is free to all.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Norris
Sharon Norris, Secretary