

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 24, 2022
7:00 PM**

Council Members Present: President, Paul Morgan, Vice President, Stephanie Reichert, Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts, and Fernando Tena-Diaz. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Engineer Dennis O'Neill and Sharon Norris, Borough Administrator, were also in attendance.

President Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Morgan called for a moment of silence in honor of the lives lost at the recent school shooting at Robb Elementary in Ulvade, Texas. Mr. Morgan noted that he would be changing the order of tonight's agenda.

Southern Chester County Regional Police (SCCRP) – Lieutenant Jason Ward was in attendance to present his report and answer any questions. Items of note were: National Night Out will be held on August 2nd in both Avondale Borough and West Grove Borough from 6 PM – 8 PM. This is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and is a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. The Lieutenant noted that the SCCRPs First Quarter 2022 report is now available. The Memorial Day parade will be held on May 29th starting at 9 AM. He recognized Corporal Stephen Madonna, and Brendan Cole of the Avondale Fire Company, who due to their quick thinking, saved someone's life at Modern Mushroom by quickly applying a tourniquet to their severely lacerated arm and transporting them quickly to the hospital. The Council, Solicitor and Lieutenant discussed the protocol for installing cameras in the Borough as a way to deter vandalism and the variety of cameras available.

Resident and Public Comments – Senior Pastor Arlene Norton and her daughter, Candace, introduced themselves and their congregation, Grace and Mercy Ministries, which opened in the former Methodist Church, in April 2021. Pastor Norton asked if anyone knew how to operate the church bells. The Council members and Mayor invited the Church to set up a table at the National Night Out and welcomed them to the Borough.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Morgan called for a motion to approve the minutes. Council Member Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve the May 3, 2022 minutes as presented. Council Member Fernando Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Finance Committee – Mr. Essmaker updated the Council members on moving forward with Invoice Cloud, putting a hold on contracting with Evolution Payroll and the status of the Truist Lockbox. Residents will be notified via letter and on their actual bill with details about the Invoice Cloud system. Securing a Borough credit card with PLGIT (Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust) was also discussed.

Old Business – Council member, Janet Watts, asked about the progress of the Borough joining the Western Chester County Council of Governments (WCCCOG). Solicitor Venzie is working on the required Ordinance for enactment at a future meeting.

Engineer's Report – Dennis O'Neill, Borough Engineer, presented an update of ongoing Borough projects. He reported there are no issues with the water and sewer plants. He and his staff performed grease trap inspections in all Borough restaurants that they could gain access to. The Borough will step up enforcement of the grease trap ordinance. Mr. O'Neill reported that testing

has shown that there is a high organic load in the Borough system that he is working to resolve utilizing the services of a former DEP expert. Mr. O'Neill discussed AQUA PA's purchase of New Garden Township's sewer plant and New Garden's contract with Avondale for use of a portion of the Borough's sewer system. Mr. O'Neill also reported on his recent visit to Edlon in response to a property owner's complaint of flooding at their property. He determined that the issue is not illicit discharge from Edlon and more of an issue that should be corrected by the property owner. PennDOT contacted Mr. O'Neill about a recently paved driveway on Third Street. The Engineer, Council and Mayor discussed the situation. Mr. O'Neill noted that the meter reading training occurred. He will determine which meters require battery replacement and order new batteries. Regarding the sink holes on Indian Town Road that currently have metal plates over them, Mr. O'Neill determined that he will need a camera to put into the collapsed pipe to see if it actually discharges somewhere as he was unable to find the other end of it.

Solicitor's Report – The Council discussed reducing the speed limit on Garner and Mullen Drives to 15 mph. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to reduce the speed limit to 15 mph on Garner Drive and Mullen Drive. Mr. Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Solicitor Venzie will prepare an ordinance as all Borough road speed limits are set via ordinance. The Council also discussed the speed on N. Clay Creek Road on the small section of road in Avondale Borough. Solicitor Venzie will correct any speed limits if needed, as part of the Codification process.

Solicitor Venzie discussed the Codification process and outdated Zoning regulations. She recommended that the Council consider adopting any quick fixes to the Zoning during this process and not try to make significant zoning changes as part of the codification process. Ms. Venzie opined that a project to make substantive changes to the entire ordinance could take approximately two years. Council members Watts and Reichert will work with Ms. Venzie on the Codification project.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Susan reported on the following items:

- The Third Street Bridge Basketball Court will be closed on May 29th through June 1st for sealing and repainting, along with painting of the basketball poles and installation of new hoops and nets. She thanked the volunteer who cleaned off the Court and surrounding area in preparation for this work.
- The Borough is not moving forward with the purchase of a swing set as the installation of the footings is cost prohibitive.
- The Mayor is researching the cost to purchase and install new benches that cannot be easily stolen.
- All 31 graduating seniors from the Borough have been given their congratulatory certificates from the Mayor.
- The Mayor noted that National Night Out is scheduled on the same night as the regularly scheduled Council meeting. Mr. Morgan called for a motion to cancel the August 2, 2022 Borough Council Meeting. Mr. Essmaker made the motion. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

New Business –

Removal of Current Treasurer – Mr. Morgan called for a motion to remove Mr. Peter Barsz as the Borough Treasurer. Mr. Essmaker made the motion to remove Mr. Barsz as the Borough Treasurer effective immediately. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Barsz and his associates for all of their assistance.

Appoint Borough Treasurer – Mr. Morgan called for a motion to appoint Joan N. McVaugh as the Borough Treasurer. Mr. Essmaker made the motion to appoint Ms. McVaugh as the Borough Treasurer effective immediately. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Accept Resignation of Avondale Historian – Mr. Morgan called for a motion to accept the resignation of Robert W. Cleveland, Jr. as Avondale Historian effective immediately. Mr. Essmaker made the motion to accept Mr. Cleveland's resignation. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Consideration of Resolution 2022-07 regarding Workers' Compensation Coverage for Avondale Fire Company – Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that the Council adopt Resolution 2022-07, confirming, approving and acknowledging workers' compensation coverage for certain members of Avondale Fire Company. Mr. Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0 with Ms. Watts abstaining.

Mayor Susan noted that the new Community Garden signs have been installed and look great.

Mr. Morgan brought up the issue of noise disturbances. The Council, Solicitor and Lieutenant discussed having a noise ordinance versus a nuisance ordinance and determined that a nuisance ordinance is a better vehicle for enforcement. It was decided that when the Borough gets complaints about a noise disturbance, the first step in the process will be to send a letter to the offender. The Staff will draft a letter in both English and Spanish. Once approved, the letter, with a copy of the current ordinance, will be sent to the offender. Currently, there is one known property that is violating the noise ordinance.

Announcements – Mr. Morgan announced that the next Borough Council meeting will be held on June 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Mr. Morgan also announced that there would be an Executive Session following this meeting to discuss legal issues.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris

Borough Administrator

