

**AVONDALE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 03, 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 and Sharon Norris, Borough Administrator, were also in attendance.

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mr. Morgan noted that he would be changing the order of tonight's agenda.

**Southern Chester County Regional Police (SCCRP)** – Police Officer First Class Mario Raimato introduced himself, noting that he has been a Police Officer since 1993 and with New Garden since 1997. He is also a School Resource Officer and is a property owner in Avondale. Officer Raimato was available to answer any questions the Council members or members of the public had. There were no questions.

**Announcements** – Mr. Morgan announced that the next Borough Council meeting will be held on May 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Mr. Morgan also announced that there would be an Executive Session following this meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**Approval of Minutes** – Mr. Morgan called for the motion. Council Member Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve the April 19, 2022 minutes as presented. Vice President Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

**New Business** – Mr. Essmaker presented a proposal for Invoice Cloud an invoicing and payment system to make billing more efficient and payment easier and more convenient for the residents. Not only will the Borough be able to send bills, there is an option to include important (non-billing-related) notices along with the bills to keep residents up-to-date on Borough happenings. The Council discussed the proposal noting that residents would have more options to pay their bills including paying in person in the Borough building, paying with their phones, and paying at certain retailers such as Walmart. Additionally, it was noted that West Grove Borough has been using this system successfully. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council Member Janet Watts made a motion that the Borough enter into a contract with Invoice Cloud to provide sewer/water/trash billing as outlined in their proposal dated April 26, 2022. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reichert. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Essmaker proposed that the Borough enter into a contract with Evolution Payroll Service at a cost of \$55/per pay with an additional \$1/per person fee for a total of approximately \$1,200.00/year. Mrs. Reichert made the motion that the Borough enter into a contract with Evolution Payroll Service to provide payroll service for the Borough employees. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Essmaker gave an update on his discussion with Truist Bank. He was able to get \$2,000 in fees waived. The Lockbox will be disabled.

**Chester County Planning Commission Presentation** – Kevin Myers, Urban Centers Planner and Brian O'Leary, Executive Director from the Chester County Planning Commission, gave a presentation to the Council members on what the Planning Commission is, the resources they have to offer the Borough including grant programs, assistance with ordinance language, and a staff of consultants who can assist the Borough with some of the same services provided by higher

priced consultants. The Council Members asked questions of the Planning Commission members and expressed their appreciation for this thorough presentation. The Council plans on making the most of the services the CCPC has to offer.

**Consideration of Resolution 2022-06 in support of SCCEMS Grant Application** – Ms. Watts summarized the duties of Medic-94 and the Council members briefly discussed the resolution. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that the Borough Council adopt Resolution 2022-06 in support of Southern Chester County Emergency Medical Services' (Medic-94) American Recovery Plan grant application to receive grant funds to assist with the establishment of a permanent southern Chester County emergency operations center to house Medic 94 at a central location in Penn Township. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

**Old Business** – Ms. Watts asked about continuing the practice of allowing the Avondale Fire Company (AFC) to store their snow plow in the Borough's shed, as they currently do not have space for it. Ms. Reichert made a motion that the Borough agree to store the AFC's snow plow in the Borough's equipment shed for the off season. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0 with Ms. Watts abstaining as she is a member of the Fire Police crew.

It was announced that Andy DiFilippo, Paul Gaynor and Dennis O'Neill would be receiving meter training on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Reichert discussed sink holes on Indian Run Road. In discussions with Andy, he noted that these holes are caused by old pipes that are deteriorating and patching the holes will not work. Ms. Watts made a motion that the Council members authorize the Public Works Department to put down metal plates on Indian Run Road and to purchase two (2) new metal plates if necessary. Council member Fernando Tena Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. The staff will notify the Engineer to review this area and make a recommendation for a permanent fix to be discussed at a future meeting.

**Consideration of Removal of "Private Drive" sign at the Community Garden.** The Council discussed this topic noting that the Private Drive is misleading as people don't know they can continue down the road to the Community Garden. The Council voted unanimously to remove the private drive sign.

**Mayor's Report - Route 41 Conversation** – Mayor Susan Rzucidlo was contacted by a reporter about recent discussions for improvements to the Route 41 corridor. The Council and Mayor noted they are very willing to participate in the group discussions and all participants are clear that Avondale Borough does not want a traffic circle in downtown Avondale.

**Third Street Bridge** – Mayor Susan presented a plan from PennDOT to add additional warning signs and reflective markers to the Third Street Bridge. This adds an additional layer of safety for the children and all residents who travel over it. PennDOT needs the Council's approval before moving forward. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the PennDOT drawing for the Third Street Bridge improvements. Mr. Tena Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

The Mayor noted that Shane Morgan of the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic would like 100 people from Avondale to take their survey regarding flooding.

The Mayor attended a meeting with the Chester County Water Resources group to discuss the ongoing flooding issue near Second Street. She would also like to contact the Army Corp of Engineers to perform a study regarding the flooding. Ms. Reichert made a motion that the Mayor contact the Army Corps of Engineers to investigate a flood wall in the area near Second Street. Mr. Tena Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0 as Ms. Reichert was unavailable at voting time.

The Mayor requested that the Council approve the refurbishment of the Basketball Court on Third Street to include resurfacing and repainting the Court, repainting the poles and backboard and replacing the rims and nets at a cost of approximately \$3,000. Ms. Reichert made a motion to approve this cost and Mr. Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

The Mayor reported that the resident who owns and is renovating the old train station noticed a water problem after this most recent rain. The Building Official noted that this was an engineering issue. The staff will contact the Borough Engineer and ask him to come prepared to the next meeting with suggestions and costs for possible solutions.

The Mayor announced that former Borough Council member, Howard Thompson, had passed away. The Council made a motion to send flowers. Mrs. Rochester from Toughkenamon also has passed away.

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris