

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2022  
7:00 PM**

Council Members Present: President Paul Morgan, Vice President Stephanie Reichert, members Mike Essmaker, Fernando Tena-Diaz and Mayor Susan Rzucidlo. Member Janet Watts attended via telephone due to illness. Also in attendance were Kimberly Venzie, Borough Solicitor, Joan McVaugh, Borough Treasurer and Sharon Norris, Borough Administrator. There were 0 members of the public in attendance.

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

**Southern Chester County Regional Police Report** – Chief Jerry Simpson gave a brief update primarily focused on the shortage of police officer recruits in our area and all over. Unfortunately, there are no easy solutions to this nationwide dilemma.

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

**Business**

**Charity's Place – Request to Reduce the Letter of Credit** – in the absence of Borough Engineer, Dennis O'Neill, this discussion will take place at the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Introduction of Codification of the Borough's Code of Ordinances** – Solicitor Venzie explained that a requirement of the Borough Code in adopting a Codification of the Borough Ordinances is that the codified ordinance gets "introduced" to the Council and the public at a public meeting. She explained the notification process which is required due to some substantive changes made to the Code during the Codification process. The Codification is available for review on the Borough website and in person in the Borough office. It will be advertised for adoption at the December 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

**Solicitor's Report** – Ms. Venzie has heard back from Wilkinson regarding the new townhome community they are contemplating.

**Engineer's Report** – In his absence, Mr. O'Neill submitted a written report. He summarized the status of the reservoir cover project and has noted that the contractor is scheduled to remove the existing cover and install the new cover the second week of January. The estimated time for the project is one week. There is discussion about extending the fill pipe to the far side of the reservoir. The cost of that is estimated to be \$10,000; however, the contractor cannot determine the exact cost until the existing cover is off and the reservoir is drained. At that time, they can determine what pipe, fittings and support bracket they will need.

Mr. O'Neill has spoken with the developer of Charity's Place and recommended he get new estimates from a couple of contractors. And finally, Mr. O'Neill is working on several grant applications; one for a sanitary sewer project to help reduce inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the sewer system and another to loop a couple of the small water lines to help with water quality and volume.

**Invoice Cloud** – Council Member, Janet Watts expressed concern over a system-generated reminder email from Invoice Cloud that she received reminding her about her payment. She found the tone of the email to be negative and the wording to be misleading. She suggested that the Borough change the program so that 3<sup>rd</sup> notices did not go to residents. The Council discussed the notices and agreed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> reminder notice should not be sent if it can be perceived as negative.

Ms. Watts also announced that the next meeting of the Western Chester County Council of Government (WCCCOG) will be November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Valley Township building. They are holding a Government 201 program which all Council members should attend.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Morgan called for a motion to approve the November 1, 2022, minutes. Council member, Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve the November 1st minutes. Council member Fernando Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

### **Finance Committee**

Ms. McVaugh presented the November disbursements for approval. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the disbursements. Vice Chair Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Treasurer McVaugh noted that the new PLGIT credit cards are on their way.

### **Mayor's Report**

- The Mayor reported that she and the staff will be meeting with the student from the Fels Program on December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- She is working with Senator Casey's office and Representative Christina Sappey's office on grants.
- Thursday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> is Trade Union Night at the Garage. She and Mr. Morgan will be attending.
- The December 3<sup>rd</sup> Tree Lighting Program from 6 PM – 8 PM is one of three activities in the Borough on this night. The Garage fundraiser is that night and Be Here Brewery will be hosting a Comedy Night. The owners of Be Here are concerned about parking. The Borough wants to be a good neighbor and will do what it can to secure additional parking for tree lighting guests. The Mayor noted that the tree lighting will always be on the first Saturday of December. There will be a DJ and dancers at the holiday event.
- Creation of a Planning Commission (PC) – the Mayor would like the Council to work on gathering volunteers for a PC. She has found two residents who are interested.

**2022 Preliminary Budget** – Ms. McVaugh guided the Council members through the budget process and the various fund categories and answered questions from the Council. Of note is that the amount of money the Emergency Services tax generates does not cover the amount of funding provided to the emergency service providers. After going through all of the funds and much discussion, Mr. Morgan called for the vote to approve the Preliminary Budget and authorize it for advertisement for adoption at the December 20, 2022, ++meeting. Mr. Essmaker made the motion to adopt the 2022 Preliminary Budget and authorize the staff to place the advertisement in the Daily Local News. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Morgan asked the Council to strategize on how to get the Hero's Wall Project completed. The Council members discussed various ideas. Mr. Essmaker will contact Mr. Besselman to continue the conversation and report back to Council.

**Announcements**

Mr. Morgan congratulated Mayor Susan on her selection as one of Pennsylvania's Federation of Democratic Women of the Year, noting she will be honored at an event on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The Council members shared their congratulations.

The next Borough Council meeting is December 6, 2022, at 7 PM.

The Borough office and Public Works Department will be closed the week of Thanksgiving. There will be no pickup of yard waste on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Avondale's Holiday Tree Lighting is on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 PM – 8 PM.

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

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Norris*

Sharon Norris

Borough Administrator