

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2022
7:00 PM**

Council Members Present: Vice President Stephanie Reichert, members Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts, Fernando Tena-Diaz and Mayor Susan Rzucidlo. President, Paul Morgan was in attendance via phone due to illness. Also in attendance were Joan McVaugh, Borough Treasurer and Sharon Norris, Borough Administrator. There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

Call to Order – Vice President Stephanie Reichert called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment – There was no public comment. Council member Janet Watts thanked the members of the Fire Police and all other volunteers for their help with Halloween and the Harvest Festival.

Hero's Wall Update – Mr. Dave Besselman gave a status report on the Hero's Wall project. He requested that Council consider contributing additional funds toward this project. The Council and Mr. Besselman discussed the length of time this project is taking and the difficulties that have been impeding the project from moving forward, including the lack of volunteers and the difficulties that the manufacturer is facing. The walls should be ready to ship in late December. Both Mr. Besselman and Council are anxious to see this project completed but not at the additional expense of Borough residents. Council member Mike Essmaker and Mr. Besselman will meet to continue to discuss possible solutions.

New Business

Charity's Place – Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Poe, the developers of this project, were in attendance to request a reduction to the Letter of Credit amount so they can get started on this project. Borough Engineer, Dennis O'Neill, issued a memo with his opinion on this subject; however, he was not in attendance to discuss the memo. The Council and Mr. & Mrs. Poe agreed to table this discussion until the November 15th Council meeting when both the Borough Engineer and Borough Solicitor will be in attendance.

Consideration of Resolution 2022-17 to Appoint Chester County Treasurer as Avondale Tax Collector – The Council has been working with the County throughout the year to enter into an agreement with the Chester County Treasurer to collect the Borough tax. Having the County collect the real estate taxes will save the Borough a significant amount of money each year. Ms. Reichert called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made the motion to adopt Resolution 2022-17 appointing the Chester County Treasurer as Borough Tax Collector effective January 1, 2023. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. Ms. Reichert called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Consideration of Resolution 2022-18 Setting Compensation for Elected Tax Collector Beginning at the Next Municipal Election – Ms. Reichert called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-18 setting the compensation for the elected tax collector beginning at the next municipal election. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watts. Ms. Reichert called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Reichert called for a motion to approve the October 4, and October 18, 2022, minutes. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve these minutes. Council member Fernando Tena -Diaz seconded the motion. Ms. Reichert called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Finance Committee

Ms. McVaugh presented the draft 2023 preliminary budget and reviewed the categories with Council. She asked Council members to provide her with their project "wish list" so she can enter those numbers into the preliminary budget for a final review at the next meeting. She reminded Council that the preliminary budget must be advertised for 30 days prior to adoption. The final budget should be adopted at the December 20, 2022, meeting.

Mayor's Report

- The Mayor reported that the Autumn Festival was a big success and thanked all of the volunteers for their help in making it one. She especially thanked Ms. Kelly McGuffin for her outstanding contributions to the event.
- Western Chester County Council of Government (WCCCOG) Meeting Update – the Mayor reported that the meeting was very informative. The one notable discussion was the discussion on the WCCCOG members forming their own animal protection organization. The next WCCCOG meeting will be held on November 16, 2022.
- Upcoming Activities – The Holiday Tree Lighting will be held on the first Saturday in December (December 3, 2022) from 6 PM - 8 PM. There will be a drawing for the kids to flip the switch that turns on the tree lights. It is rumored that Santa will be attending. The Council also discussed having a contest for best Holiday House Decorations which will be judged by Council.

Announcements

Ms. Reichert announced that the next Borough Council meeting is November 15, 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 21st. She also announced that November 8th is election day. The polling location for Borough residents is Borough Hall.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris

Borough Administrator