

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2023
7:00 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President, Paul Morgan, Vice President Stephanie Reichert, Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts and Lucas Ortiz. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Engineer Tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also in attendance. Chief Greenwalt from the SCCRPD and Brent Hazelwood from Windriver Environmental were present. Three members of the public were in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER – President Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and announced the meeting is being recorded. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mr. Morgan thanked the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department for their swift response to the recent incident at the high school.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT – Chief Greenwalt updated Council on Halloween plans in the Borough, the reaccreditation dates, and the Blue Beards for Charity fundraiser which raises money to give back to the communities the police serve and protect. Participating officers make a charitable donation and are granted permission to grow facial hair throughout the months of October, November, and December. The organizations that benefit from this fundraiser are: [Unite for HER](#)— A West Chester based organization for survivors of breast and ovarian cancer; [A Child's Light](#): An Exton nonprofit supporting children and adolescents who have been traumatized; [The Crime Victims' Center of Chester County, Inc.](#): A West Chester, nonprofit supporting crime victims; Sambuco Children's Education Fund: A fund in memory of Sgt. Christopher Sambuco, a Chester County police officer. Last year, the charitable effort raised more than \$60,000 and police are hoping that 2023 will be even more successful with more police departments participating. All money raised will be sent to Blue Beards for Charity and the funds will be dispersed at a publicized event at the end of November. Additionally, the Department is getting pressure to allow officers to have facial hair.

BUSINESS:

Consideration of Eagle Scout Project – the Eagle Scout Project discussion has been postponed until the next Council meeting.

Consideration of No Parking on One Side of the Street in the Avon Mohr Subdivision – Mr. Morgan reported that he requested that Staff contact the Fire Company to request they run some practice drills in the neighborhood to determine what the correct course of action should be. Fire Marshall Guy Swift removed his parking recommendation until the Fire Company had the opportunity to complete this exercise. They agreed to run drills during different times of the day and different days of the week. Mr. Morgan noted that the Fire Company are the experts, not Council and they should be the ones recommending the solution for Council to consider. The following residents had public comment: Mr. Jerry Sulock, 8 Cook Court, commented on getting in and out of the neighborhood and is not in favor of restricting parking to one side of the street. He suggested creating an emergency access road for times when Indian Run floods and emergency vehicles and residents of Avon Mohr cannot get in and out. Ms. Kelly Williams, 15 Miller Drive, commented that parking should not be restricted. Solicitor Kim Venzie explained the process that would take place if Council decided to limit parking. She would draft an ordinance that would come before Council for consideration to advertise. The Ordinance would be advertised and then come back before the Council for consideration to enact. Residents who are interested in this topic should check the Council meeting agenda which is posted at least 24 hours prior to the Council meetings. Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted. Council member Mike Essmaker made a motion

to table this discussion until the Fire Company has completed their exercise and made a recommendation. Council member Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Consideration of Peace and Good Order Ordinance – Ms. Venzie reviewed the draft ordinance and answered questions from Council. She reiterated that the former ordinance used a sound measuring device – this ordinance does not and is more subjective. She cautioned that this ordinance should only be used when it is obvious there is a problem. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that Council authorize the Solicitor to advertise the new Peace and Good Order ordinance for enactment at a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Janet Watts. The motion carried 5-0.

Pedestrian Crossing at State Street and Pennsylvania Avenue – Communication with PennDOT – Mayor Susan Ruzicidlo explained that recently, the Borough received communication from PennDOT regarding a weight restriction being placed on the Bridge over the White Clay on Pennsylvania Avenue. The condition and repair of this Bridge has been a project she has been working on since she took office almost two years ago. There are no plans to fix the bridge in the next 12 years; however, engineering studies could begin in 2025. The Mayor explained this seemed like the right time to submit ideas on how to manage the pedestrian crossing at State and PA Avenue. She submitted two ideas to PennDOT for consideration prior to and during the Engineering study process. They are as follows: Install crosswalk signals at all four (4) corners that stop all traffic when any of the pedestrian crossing buttons are pressed. No turns on red would be permitted. The second is to have pedestrian crossing flashing signals at 3 of the 4 corners and have no pedestrian crosswalk permitted from the old Pusey hardware store to the Sunoco. The pushbuttons would stop traffic in the direction needed for safe crossing. Additional signage would be needed. Chief Greenwalt described what will happen once the weight limit is put into place. His feeling is that so many waivers will be requested which will overwhelm PennDOT and force them to suspend the weight limit restriction. He also discussed the way truck companies are notified. The Mayor requested that PennDOT allow waivers for emergency vehicles. The Mayor recommends that PennDOT implement the bridge repair/replacement similar to what they did with the two bridges on Route 41 in Atglen.

Update on Lead Service Line Identification and Authorization to Sign Letter of Intent with Funding Navigator – The Borough Council was provided with a plan on how the staff plans to meet the DEP unfunded mandate to identify lead service lines in all residences in the Borough by October 16, 2024. Phase One consists of identifying those houses with curb stops, opening them up and testing the pipe for lead. For those homes who do not have visible curb stops or the curb stop cannot be opened, a trained volunteer will enter the house, find where the pipe enters the house and test it. The Borough will utilize bilingual students from the Garage and train them on how to locate and test pipes for lead in the homes. Each student would be accompanied by a trained adult. The Borough will first try to make appointments with the residents, but the volunteers will end up having to go door to door for some properties. The Borough has secured a grant to fund Phase 1. Phase 2 is replacing any lead service lines that we find. The Borough is hoping to partner with area municipalities to make the job more attractive to contractors. Ellen Kohler is facilitating this effort as well as the effort to find funding for Phase 2. Residents will not be responsible for the replacement of any lead lines. The Borough is responsible. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that the Council authorize the President to sign the Letter of Intent from the Funding Navigator to allow the Borough to access the funds to begin Phase 1 of this effort. The motion was seconded and passed on a 5-0 vote.

WATER/WASTEWATER REPORT - Brent Hazelwood, Water/Sewer Plant operator, gave a progress report on the upgrades to the sewer plant. The VFDS will be installed the week of October 30th. The monitoring will begin, and we can determine whether the bypass at the reservoir can be installed. Another VFD was ordered for the wastewater side. Construction of the shed over the utility pumps has begun. The roof of the shed is designed to come off when pumps need to be pulled for repair or replacement. Pipe Data View will return in January to fix all 27 leaks in the collection system using the slip lining method. Pipe Data View is presently televising the storm system. They will return the second week of November to complete the project. They found that the pipe on Indian Run Road in the location of the metal plates goes nowhere. Mr. DiFilippo will remove that pipe and the plates and fill in the area with stone and dirt. Once the pipe is gone, water should no longer be a problem there. They also identified a pipe that sends flow from the company Positioning in New Garden Township which is unaccounted for. The flow has increased over the years. Mr.

Hazelwood requested that the Borough contact Aqua to seek permission to televise the pipes that send flow from New Garden into our system. We will get the Solicitor involved if we do not hear back by the deadline. Brent updated Council on the water repair at 162 Clay Creek Road repair and the challenges that Mr. DiFilippo and KBX faced when trying to shut off water to the house. They eventually had to shut down water to the Borough. Public Comment came from Mr. Sulock who said he had dirty water from that project. It was explained that every time the water is turned off, residents will likely get dirty water through the pipes once the water is turned back on. Residents should let it run for a bit and it should eventually run clear. Engineer Wilkes noted that the stormwater work would be good information for MS4.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Wilkes summarized some highlights from his written monthly report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Susan Rzucidlo reported on the following:

- Since the Harvest Festival was rained out, the Borough has lots of leftover pumpkins. Therefore, there is a PUMPKIN GIVEWAY on Thursday, October 19, 2023 from 3 PM to 6 PM at the Borough office. She encouraged everyone to stop by and pick up a free pumpkin or two.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the October 3, 2023 minutes as presented. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. September Treasurer's Report – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the September Treasurer's report. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. There were no questions. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.
- b. Preliminary Budget Discussion – Treasurer McVaugh noted that the Council should be ready to authorize the preliminary budget for advertising at the November 8th meeting to be adopted at the December 19th Council meeting. Ms. McVaugh went over details of the budget including the creation of a Reserve Fund. She also discussed transferring the street lighting millage to emergency services since the cost for street lights will be reduced once the LED lighting is installed. She stressed that this will not change the tax rate. She suggests this change tax affect in 2025.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Morgan made the following announcements:

- a. Halloween in the Borough is held on October 31, 2023 from 6 pm – 8 pm. Fire Police will be stationed at the following locations:
 - The Garage (former fire house)
 - Third Street and Route 41
 - Sixth Street and Route 41
 - Third Street will be closed between New Street and Garner.
- b. Pumpkin Giveaway, Thursday, October 19th from 3 PM – 6 PM. Grab a pumpkin and guess the number of candy corn in the jar.
- c. Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th. Residents vote at Borough Hall. The office will be closed that day. Remember to Vote!
- d. The next Borough Council Meeting is Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 7 PM. The November 21st Borough Council meeting is cancelled.
- e. The Borough office will be closed November 21 through November 24, 2023 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

PUBLIC COMMENT – there was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris
Sharon Norris, Secretary