

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2022
7:00 PM**

Present: Council President, Paul Morgan, Vice President, Stephanie Reichert, Members Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts, Fernando Tena-Diaz and Mayor Susan Rzucidlo. Also in attendance were Solicitor Kim Venzie (via telephone), Borough Engineer Dennis O'Neill, Joan McVaugh, Borough Treasurer, Sharon Norris, Borough Administrator and SCCRP Chief Simpson, and two members of the public.

Call to Order – President Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Morgan announced that he adjusted the agenda to accommodate tonight's guests.

Southern Chester County Regional Police Report – Police Chief Simpson gave a brief report, updating the Council on a variety of topics including working on the Department's 2023 budget, the school resources program, focusing on the Early Learning Center in 2023 and announced that the Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for October 19th at 6 PM at the West Grove Borough building. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Resolution 2022-16 Allowing the Transfer of a Liquor License into Avondale Borough at 42 Gap Newport Pike – Due to illness, Solicitor Venzie was attending via telephone. She opened the public hearing noting that public notice had been duly advertised. She gave an overview of the Resolution stating that signing the resolution just allows for the transfer of an existing liquor license from another Chester County municipality into Avondale Borough. It has nothing to do with the issuance of a liquor license which is handled through the Liquor Control Board. William Shehwen, Esquire representing the Applicant, Ms. Ruth Rodriguez, outlined the project. Ms. Venzie and Council members discussed the plan and some concerns with Mr. Shehwen. It was noted that this is the first step in a multi-step process and that the restaurant would have to go through the Borough's permitting process. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council Member Mike Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-16 allowing the transfer of a restaurant liquor license into Avondale Borough when one becomes available. Vice President Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was no public comment. Ms. Venzie closed the hearing.

Charity's Place Update – Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Poe, the property owners and applicants, were in attendance to request a reduction in their Letter of Credit. They gave a summary of some of the obstacles they've run against since the plan was approved and gave an option that they would like the Council to consider. The Council discussed the request with the Applicants and the Borough Engineer, Dennis O'Neill. Mr. O'Neill said he would review the agreement, get input from the Solicitor and provide a written report for discussion in time for the November 1, 2022, Borough Council Meeting.

Hero's Wall Update – Mr. Essmaker read an email update from Dave Besselman noting that the tablets could arrive in December. The Council discussed some of their concerns. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. Mrs. Poe asked about the Hero Flags. The Council explained that the Borough has to borrow a bucket truck to put the flags back up.

Engineer's Report

Sewer – Mr. O'Neill gave an update on sewer plant maintenance:

- 1) Grinder pump which can be repaired for \$5,375
- 2) Utility pump needs repair
- 3) Purchase 3 pumps (one each year for 3 years) at \$3600

Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the costs to purchase and repair these items. Council Member Fernando Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. O'Neill noted that the plant looks good. He also noted the high quality of Mr. DiFillipo's work at the Reservoir, the manhole is fixed, and the meter is out of the pump room. They have one more to-do item on the DEP violation list and then Mr. O'Neill will contact DEP to let them know all of the items have been addressed.

MS4 TMDL Plan – Mr. O'Neill summarized the process of advertising the draft plan for a 30-day public review. That review ended on October 18th. The Borough received no comments or questions. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council Member Janet Watts made a motion that the Borough Council authorize the Engineer to submit the MS4 TMDL Plan to DEP. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2022-15 Pomeroy Park Rehabilitation Grant – Mr. O'Neill will be submitting a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) "Rehabilitation and Accessibility Improvements" Grant and the Borough needs to adopt a resolution in support of the grant application. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Vice President Stephanie Reichert made a motion that the Council adopt Resolution 2022-15 in support of the Pomeroy Park Rehabilitation Grant Application and authorizing the 20% grant match if awarded. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Organic Load Update – Mr. O'Neill updated the Council that the results of the testing have been analyzed. The load in the line in front of the shopping center is twice what it should be. On Thursday, November 5th, representatives from his company will be doing in-person inspections of businesses along that line. As part of this project, Mr. O'Neill has recommended that the sewer ordinance be revised to include specific numbers for organic loads and solids. There should also be standards for domestic waste. Mr. O'Neill will provide his recommendations to Solicitor Venzie and also look to see how other municipalities charge for overages.

Mr. O'Neill informed the Council that a recent local share grant application for streetscapes made to DCED has been withdrawn since the Borough does not own the sidewalks. Mr. O'Neill will speak with Solicitor Venzie regarding ways to get the sidewalk work done and have the residents own them after the repair work is completed.

Thanks to the efforts of State Representative Christina Sappey's office, the Borough was awarded a \$417,125 grant for sewer plant improvements. Mr. O'Neill discussed what the grant award will cover. Since the Borough received this grant, Mr. O'Neill suggested contacting the County regarding another grant application the Borough had made for sewer improvements and reducing that grant amount request which in his opinion may put the Borough in a better position to receive an award. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that the amount of the County grant application for sewer improvements be reduced to \$450,000. Mr. Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. O'Neill will contact the program administrator.

Mr. O'Neill said he would schedule the replacement of the reservoir cover.

Approval of Minutes – The October 4, 2022 minutes were not available and will be on the November 1st agenda for review and approval.

Finance Committee – Mrs. McVaugh presented the Treasurer's Report for Council's review, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. McVaugh explained the 2023 budget process and the chart of accounts. She tasked the Council members to come to the next meeting prepared to discuss any budget requests they may have. The Mayor asked for an increase to the Events budget. The Park Budget needs to be increased. Mrs. McVaugh explained her thoughts on the Liquid Fuels fund being used for larger scale road projects. The Council also discussed the Fire/EMS budget, taxes and some of the difficulties with the water/sewer billing. The 2023 Budget will be discussed at the next meeting.

Announcements – Mr. Morgan announced that the Harvest Festival is scheduled for October 22, 2022, from 1 PM – 5 PM. The next Borough Council meeting will be held on November 1, 2022.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris
Borough Administrator