

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
October 19, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Shore, Dave Besselman, Bob McCue, Paul Morgan
Absent: Dottie Howell

GUESTS PRESENT: Mayor Cummings, Sandy Masten, Dennis O’Neill, Kim Venzie, Mike Bostic, Janet Watts, Chief Jerry Simpson, Susan McCue, Louise Cleveland, Susan Rzucidlo, Leah Reynolds, Jim Mercante, Luis Tovar, Richard Gaw, Michael Essmaker, Carrie Freeman, Amy Scheuren, Sara Dickens, Natalie Ortega, Kate Daneker.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order by President Shore.

RESIDENT AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

KENNETT AREA COMMUNITY SERVICE (KACS)

Ms. Leah Reynolds, Executive Director of the Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) said she and others are here to share with Council how the Avondale Apartment folks that were displaced from the flooding on September 1st are doing today. A total of 86 people from the first floor needed housing. One third required a hotel room and the remainder are staying with family, friends and upstairs neighbors. All the residents are back except for 1 or 2 apartments. KAC is spending (through donations) \$4,500 per week to pay for 9 hotel rooms. In 2020, heavy rains forced 45 residents to occupy 14 hotel rooms (again paid by KAC). We are here this evening to let you know that a volunteer community group has come together to discuss how to best prepare for and cope with future flood displacement of residents. The group will discuss and search for viable approaches to help the community, the Borough, the landlord, and the residents going forward. We are requesting Borough Council to solicit a volunteer from the council to collaborate and work with our community group and engage in conversations on options about how to fairly and equitably address the situation such that future occurrences can be prepared for and handled as expeditiously as possible with minimal impact on the landlord, the residents, local officials, emergency services, and the social service support organizations in a way that is sustainable and acceptable for all parties affected by these occurrences.

Dave Besselman said this isn’t the first, second, third or fourth time this flooding has happened and they keep moving back into the first-floor apartments. Ms. Reynolds said the key thing is that it is the only affordable housing in the area and they are very connected here. President Shore said since his tenure as EMC he has had to evacuate people 5 or 6 times out of the Avondale Apartments and it bothers him to no end watching them carry kids out of the apartments. Avondale Borough does not have the money to buy the building; it has to be the local, state and federal government working together to take care of that problem. Ms. Reynolds asked for a Council member to volunteer and sit down have conversations and work together as partners and make better plans for what may happen in the future. President Shore said there is an election coming up so it is best to wait to see who fills the three seats up for election before someone volunteers. Ms. Reynolds will reach back out after the election. President Shore thanked all of them for all they do for the community. Carrie Freeman from the United Way of Southern Chester County thanked all for allowing them to speak to keep Council current on what is happening with the people that were affected from the recent flooding. We are also hoping after the election that a Council member joins our group.

Mr. Besselman said Shane Morgan who is a watershed coordinator for the White Clay Creek program attended the September meeting to announce that two grants were awarded (\$75,000 each) for the study of the creek’s drainage system above the apartments. After the study is done, recommendations will be made and then they will

apply for a grant to do the actual work to minimize the flooding. This may take a year or so for the study but hopefully it will help with the flooding.

LARRY GRYBOSKI – C2C / 12 INDIAN RUN ROAD

Mr. Gryboski said he is here on behalf of Lancaster Home Builders regarding the proposed house at 12 Indian Run Road. Due to the amount of bedrock we had to re-design and move the house further from the road making the driveway longer. He is mainly here to see if there are any questions on the plans and on the drainage easement. Dennis O’Neill said his recommendation is to not divert the water to the street but to the quarry. After some discussion, Dave Besselman made a motion to approve the easement agreement contingent upon the Borough’s engineer and the Borough Solicitor’s review and approval, 2nd by Bob McCue, motion carried. Dennis said the Stormwater Management Plan and Operations and Maintenance Agreement are also needed. These are recorded with the deed and puts the stormwater operations on the homeowner to make sure it is operating correctly. The Stormwater facilities can not be removed without Borough approval and subject to inspections and maintenance requirements. Dave Besselman made a motion to approve the Stormwater Management Plan and Operations and Maintenance Agreement, 2nd by Paul Morgan, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Besselman made a motion to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting on September 21, 2021, 2nd by There was no quorum at the Work Session.

SCCRPD

Chief Simpson gave the following report:

The third quarter report is out. A special order was sent out to Council with information on the October 31st Halloween Activities with instructions and points of contacts.

WWTP REPORT

Mike Bostic said everything at the water and sewer plant is running well. The aerator was repaired. President Shore asked for a copy of the fire hydrant report that was done back in the Summer. Mike said he will send it to the secretary.

BOROUGH ENGINEER’S REPORT

Dennis O’Neill gave the following report:

BOROUGH PARKING LOT – PAVING QUOTE

Dave Besselman made a motion to approve Smith Paving to pave the parking lot for \$19,500, 2nd by Bob McCue, motion carried. This job is to tear up existing parking lot, repair areas and build base.

NEW WATER SUPPLY

DEP will be releasing the report in two weeks. Dave Besselman made a motion to approve the construction release of \$26,177.25 to Pact Construction, 2nd by Bob McCue, motion carried.

RESERVOIR COVER

Eastern Environmental and J.H. Waters are delayed on a project in central Pennsylvania. We are very concerned about timing now because it will start to get cold. Dennis said he will have a phone conference with them tomorrow to talk about the schedule.

STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT – Construction Release \$26,177.25

The trees are cut down by the fence. The wood was chipped and they were spread in the wooded area. We are to schedule the work by the in the area by the water plant.

WEST STATE STREET RECONSTRUCTION

The project should be done by tomorrow early afternoon.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Kim Venzie gave the following report

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION ORDINANCE

Council has a redlined copy of the proposed ordinance. Kim said she would like to come to a work session and explain the amendments that need to be made to the existing ordinance and talk through it.

RESOLUTION 2021-3 - ROUTE 41

Bob McCue made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-3, 2nd by Paul Morgan, motion carried.

FIRE / EMS TAX LETTER TO RESIDENTS

Dave Besselman made a motion to authorize the secretary to send the letter to all property owners advising the property owners of a possible tax increase of 1% for the Fire and EMS Division of the Avondale Fire Company, 2nd by Bob McCue, motion carried. All Borough Council members will sign the letter.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Paul Morgan made a motion to approve the bills and financial statements from September, 2nd by Bob McCue, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:RECYCLING

Bob McCue said Charmayne Lewis and Steve Sadler from Trash Tech came to the work session and we discussed with them our concerns about the recycling. Ms. Lewis gave us a letter that stated the main reason for putting the recycling in with the trash is because there is contamination a lot of the containers. They also have a high turnover of workers but they are going to speak to the drivers. Dave Besselman said we talked about getting some decals made with pictures to put on the recycling containers. We will look into some costs.

President Shore announced that Dominick DiFilippo passed away today. He was a great asset to the Borough through the years. There was nothing you couldn't ask him to do. He was a great man, father, grandfather and will be sorely missed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Work Session – Tuesday, November 9, 2021 @2:00 p.m.
- Council Meeting – Tuesday, November 16, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.
- There will be an executive session after this meeting.

Bob McCue made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., 2nd by Paul Morgan, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Becky Brownback
Borough Secretary