

**AVONDALE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Council President, Paul Morgan, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were members Mike Essmaker, Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts, and Lucas Ortiz. Also in attendance were Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Borough Engineer, Tom Wilkes, and Treasurer Joan McVaugh. Lieutenant Joe Versagli from the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department and Brent Hazelwood from Windriver Environmental (KBX) were in attendance. There were three members of the public in attendance along with David Payne, the Executive Director of the Avon Grove Library.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Mr. Morgan made the following announcement: there will be an executive session after tonight's meeting to discuss legal and contract issues.

**SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT** – Lt. Versagli provided a summary of the month of August. He started with a synopsis of traffic and continued with more serious crimes. A member of the force received a commendation from the FOP surrounding a rescue event performed in Avondale Borough. Mayor Rzucidlo, after being contacted by a resident, requested the speed sign be placed in another location on Indian Run to capture speeding. The Lieutenant noted there are lines of site issues and other requirements for issuing tickets. Mr. Morgan discussed sightings in the Borough of a particular motorcycle gang. The Department is aware and didn't think they were a threat.

**FACILITIES OPERATOR UPDATE** – Mr. Hazelwood updated the Council on the following:

- He has been trying to dispose of three, 55-gallon drums of magnesium hydroxide that are approx. 12 years old. He was told by the manufacturer that due to their age; the chemicals are inactive; however, they do not want it back and Delcora will not dispose of it. Brent is seeking guidance on how to dispose of it. Mr. Wilkes will check into it and work with Brent on how to dispose of this.
- Regarding converting the sludge holding tank to an EQ tank: he suggests holding off until he can see if the recent pipe repairs make a difference in the I&I. There will always be I&I; the question is how much we can reduce it.
- Received the backup grinder from Deckman
- Core & Main received the Plug Valves and will credit Eastern for the cost; Eastern will credit the Borough back (approximately \$10,000). Mark Yoder will ensure this credit is accounted for. The staff will put the altitude valve and pipe on Municibid.
- Reservoir Cover Project – JH Waters is scheduled next week to replace the new, ripped cover.
- He discussed the extra hours he will be working once Craig Lutz cuts down his work hours. Brent thinks he will be 2 hours, 3 days per week once Craig is gone.
- Council President thanked Brent for his eagle eye on the reservoir cover project.

**BUSINESS:**

- **Eagle Scout Project** – Arjay Gralewski-Goel, a Life Scout from Group 10 presented his Eagle scout project for a 5' x 10' x 8' gazebo structure with a gutter that would direct water from the roof into a rain barrel for the Community Garden. This gazebo will provide the gardeners with some shade when they need it and water for the barrels. It will be a welcome addition to the area. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve Arjay's Eagle Scout Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortiz and passed 5-0. The cost for this will come from the garden's Dockstader grant.

- **Avondale Grove Library** – David Payne, Library Director summarized the goings on at the library showing Avondale’s participation and presented an overview of library programs and attendance. The Library can now process first time passport applications. They are celebrating their 50 years in the community with a community event. Mr Payne also talked about programming for all aged children from preschool through high school, noting there has been an increase in participation.
- **Proposal for Zoning, Building and Property Maintenance Services** – The Borough received a proposal to provide building, zoning and property maintenance services. The Council discussed what services the current provider supplies vs what the other company offers and what the potential cost differences would be. Council asked some questions and will consider this at the next meeting after Council has had time to review the proposal.
- **Proposal for Road Repairs** – Mr. DiFillipo identified two areas of road – on Third Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to Pomeroy and ½ of Second Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to Chatham. that have deteriorated to the point that they need repair and can’t be patched with cold patch. The concern is that the road will be lost if these repairs are not made. The Borough staff and contractor will be meeting with the PennDOT municipal representative to discuss using liquid fuels. If LF funds are used, then these roads need to go out for bid. Council asked Tom to come out and take a look at the road. This topic will be tabled until the next meeting. The Engineer and Council discussed plans for a road program and incorporating one or both of these repairs into that program.
- **Security Film for Borough Hall** This item has come before Council previously. The Mayor brought this to Borough Council after receiving information at the recent PSAB conference. The Council and staff discussed the safety that these films provide; Council considered adding this to the budget discussion or applying for a grant for this item.
- **Ordinance Revision** – Mrs. Stephanie Reichert made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to advertise Ordinance 2024-281 amending Zoning Section 430-7 to include a definition for family and to revise the definition of residential conversion: to amend section 430-81 to update regulations and to amend section 430-107 to allow for reasonable accommodations to be made by the Zoning Officer. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. The Solicitor explained the review process by Chester County to ensure this Ordinance was consistent with Fair Practice Laws. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.
- **Proposal for Converting Sludge Holding Tank to an EQ tank** – the Council continued to discuss this idea and again agreed to wait to see if, once Pipe Data View has finished their repairs, this makes any difference in the I&I.
- **Grants and Open Space Accelerator Program Opportunities** – Ms. Watts discussed her conversation with this group and suggested that Council meet with them to find out the opportunities available to Avondale Borough. The Council discussed and requested that Ms. Watts invite them to attend a future meeting.
- **MS4 work with PennDOT** – this issue is not relevant as the consultant who had been working with PENNDOT on this program is no longer with PennDOT.
- **Flashing Signs** – We purchased two caution signs that we will apply flashing lights onto in an effort to slow down speeders.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT** – Mr. Wilkes reviewed his report dated September 16, 2024.

**MAYORS REPORT** – Mayor Susan Rzucidlo reported on the following:  
 Her recent Water Resource meeting  
 Playground project is moving forward, and the equipment has been ordered.

History Display – A Girl Scout Gold candidate with a desire to be a restoration specialist has agreed to create a mini history display in the Borough as her Girl Scout Gold project.

Another Girl Scout Gold Candidate will be creating a pollinator garden as her Girl Scout Gold project.

Bridge – No update

PennDOT – The Fire Company. alerted the Borough about ripples in the road in front of Sunoco that impair driving. After being informed, PennDOT came out immediately and evaluated the issue; they said they would fix it mid-October.

## OTHER

Memorial Wall – Susan reached out to Mike, Dave and Bruce because they engraved the wrong initial for Pastor Norton’s dad, and they will fix that. They will contact the Pastor. There is no update regarding a flagpole light or doing what needs to be done to the walls. Mr. Morgan would like to see this issue resolved and asked about pricing for what is needed to complete the installation of a flagpole with a solar light and an eagle at the top of the flagpole. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that Council authorize the Treasurer to purchase a flagpole not to exceed \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Morgan. The motion carried 5-0.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Ms. Watts made a motion to approve the August Treasurers report with transfers and disbursements as follows:

General Fund	\$132,690.56
Sewer Service	\$48,239.50
Water Service	\$51,342.00
Parks & Recreation	\$10,085.85
Street Lighting	\$702.74
ARPA Funds	<u>\$25,974.00</u>
Leaving a balance in all funds totaling	<u>\$527,921.76</u>

Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Council member Mike Essmaker, made a motion with a second by Lucas Ortiz to approve the August 20, 2024, minutes as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

## OTHER

- a. **After Hours Contact** – Mrs. Watts met with staff as a result of an after-hours emergency that occurred to create an after-hours contact sheet. This contact sheet reflects who to call in case of an after-hours emergency. This sheet will be incorporated into the Borough Emergency Management Plan.
- b. **Events Calendar** – Mayor Susan reviewed the events for 2024 and read the new dates for 2025. Mr Ortiz suggested hosting a clean-up twice per year, once in the Spring and once in the Fall.
- c. **Vision 2030:** The Council discussed putting the EQ tank on a 5-year plan.
- d. **Possible Project List:**
  - i. The line painting discussion was tabled.
  - ii. Security Camera at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street dumpster – people are overstuffing the dumpster leaving no room for the park trash to be emptied and creating a mess. The Council discussed getting a larger dumpster and installing a camera powered by solar. The Treasurer will look into cameras including one for Pomeroy. A larger dumpster has been installed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 7 PM
- b. The Avondale Harvest Festival takes place on Saturday, October 12 from 11 AM – 2 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sharon Norris*  
Sharon Norris, Secretary