

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023
7:00 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President, Paul Morgan, Vice President Stephanie Reichert, Mike Essmaker, and Janet Watts. Council Member Lucas Ortiz was absent. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also in attendance. Guy Swift, President of the Avondale Fire Department and three (3) members of the public were in the audience. Lt. Versagli from the SCCRPD and Brent Hazelwood from Wind River Environmental were present.

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 – President Paul Morgan acknowledged the recent devastating fire in Oxford and extended thoughts and prayers to all of the victims and the first responders. He also thanked the many first responders who assisted in extinguishing the blaze and the many organizations who have stepped forward to help the displaced families. He also cautioned that anyone donating money should be aware that scammers are already trying to get in on the action.

Mr. Morgan thanked the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department, specifically the following officers for their actions at a serious event in the Borough: Officer Madonna, Officer First Class Busam, Detective Townsend, Officer Huver, Officer Alvarez, and Officer Syska. Their quick thinking and decisive actions helped diffuse a volatile situation and no injuries were reported.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT – Lieutenant Versagli updated the Council on the recent resignation of their newest hire due to personal issues. He also reported on police activity in the Borough. The Department's traffic officer has been working with the owner of the shopping center regarding the large amount of vehicular traffic that cuts through the shopping center. He noted that the Department has no jurisdiction on private property regarding traffic, but they have discussed traffic calming measures. He also gave more details about the altercation mentioned above.

WATER/WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT – Brent Hazelwood, Water/Sewer Plan operator, reported on hydrant flushing (went well). He discussed upcoming sewer plant upgrades using sewer grant funds, and those that have already occurred. Projects include: the roof of the sewer plant was replaced. Pipe View Data is currently cleaning and televising the sewer pipes (any problems will be addressed with a proposal once their project is completed). So far, they have discovered problems on Indian Run Road (joints have gaskets missing). The SCADA system has been replaced with the Mission System. It is operational and in the testing phase. Andy DiFillipo fixed the water problem at Well #2 by redirecting the water that had been flooding into the storm drain next to the building. Next week Blooming Glen will be in the Borough; the crane will be pulling the utility pumps. He continues to get quotes for the chlorine contact tank. The Council asked Mr. Hazelwood and Mr. DiFillipo to review the sinkhole issue on Indian Run Road.

BUSINESS:

Resolution 2023-09, Consideration of Streetlight Procurement Program Phase 3 and 4 – Michael Fuller from Keystone Lighting, the contractor chosen by DVRPC to lead this procurement program summarized the project. It has been running for many years. The Borough is part of the 4th round. His company has replaced streetlights in over 70 municipalities. This has resulted in significantly reduced CO2 emissions and maintenance costs over time. Since PECO owns the lights currently, the Borough has to buy them back. They will be replaced with lights that are higher performing, and that we have better control over. The Borough has gone through the Feasibility process and now has concrete numbers on how much the initial cost will be and when the Borough will begin recouping its money. In 20 years, the Borough should have saved close to \$170,000! DVRPC did the procurement process, so the participants do not

have to bid on contractors, equipment or develop agreements. To move on to Phase 3 (construction) the Council must pass a resolution. The Council and Mr. Fuller discussed the program and asked about adding additional lights. 74% of the lights in the Borough are 100 watt mercury vapor, a light source that dims over time. This means we have a relatively low light output. Mr. Fuller will be sensitive to lighting levels when setting the levels for the new lights. There is an option for manual controls or network controls. Council agreed to manual controls. The contractor stays in the Borough until the lighting is satisfactory to the Borough. The project should begin in late 2023 and will take three-four days. Council member Mike Essmaker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-09, authorizing cooperative purchasing and participating in Phases 3 and 4 of the Regional Streetlight Procurement Program administered by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission as outlined at tonight's meeting at a cost to the Borough of not greater than \$40,000 which includes the base upgrade and final scope and contingent upon the final approval of the Borough Solicitor. The motion was seconded by Council member Janet Watts. The motion carried 4-0.

AGREM (Avon Grove Regional Emergency Management) - Marty Wilson, President of AGREM, Chuck Frees, charter member of AGREM and Harold Walls, Treasurer of AGREM attended the meeting to give Council a history and overview of this organization and answer any questions the Council had. AGREM was actually created in response to Y2K. They represent all municipalities in the Avon Grove School District. Their initial goal was to reduce costs to individual municipalities by purchasing equipment that could be shared amongst the group. They maintain their own radio station (which is increasingly expensive) Tune in to AM 1670. They have a FEMA trailer that they bring to emergency exercises and to actual emergencies. They have an additional two-way radio system in case something happens to the cell towers. AGREM is recognized as the most successful regional group in Pennsylvania. All Emergency Management Coordinators (EMCs) are members of AGREM. Like every organization, they have difficulty maintaining volunteers. Unfortunately, they will have to raise dues for next year due to the high costs of broadcasting their 24/7 radio station; they are working on grants for a new transmitter and operating costs.

PARKING ON MILLER DRIVE – This agenda item was added since Borough Fire Marshall, Guy Swift, attended to report his findings when he measured Miller Drive. The Council and Mr. Swift discussed the variety of measurements he took and whether a fire truck could enter Miller Drive. Mr. Swift recommended that Council limit parking to one side of the street. The Council and Mr. Swift discussed which side of the street they should allow parking on. This will be on the October 5, 2023 agenda.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Susan Rzucidlo reported on the following:

- She would like to apply for two Local Share Grants. The highest award amount is \$1 million. These grants are attractive because they have no matching costs associated with them. The first grant would be to connect the old wells to the new wells and to raise Well 1 out of the flood zone. The second grant is for pipes, streets and sidewalks. Planning, engineering and soft costs are all included in the grant award. The Mayor will need to work with the Engineering firm to write the applications. The Council authorized the Mayor to work with the Engineer on these two grants.
- The Garage is sending volunteers for the Harvest Festival.

OTHER

Mr. Swift discussed the water usage during the Oxford Fire. The Council discussed the water options the Borough has in case of fire. Mr. Morgan requested that Mr. Swift work together with Mr. DiFillipo and Mr. Hazelwood to come up with a Plan B for fire emergencies.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the September 5, 2023 minutes as presented. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the August Treasurer's report as presented. Vice President Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.
- b. Preliminary Budget Discussion
 - Ms. Reichert proposed push buttons on the poles at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue, First Street and State Street to assist with safe pedestrian crossing. The Council discussed details of the project, including who is responsible for the crosswalk, the need for a traffic study, walk-up flashing crosswalk alerts at the Presbyterian Church and at Second Street and where the funds for this project would come from. Ms. McVaugh will contact PennDOT.
 - The Council agreed to start a Reserve Fund.
 - Mayor Susan discussed the grant writing and town budget amount.
 - Council member should contact the Treasurer with their budget requests or bring them to the next meeting

The Council decided to adopt the preliminary budget no later than the November 8th Council meeting and authorize it for advertising. They decided they would only hold one meeting in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Morgan made the following announcements:

- a. The next Borough Council Meeting is Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 7 PM
- b. Don't miss the Avondale Harvest Festival October 14, 2023 from 11 AM – 2 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT – there was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary