

**AVONDALE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022
7:00 PM**

Council Members Present: President, Paul Morgan, Members Mike Essmaker, and Janet Watts. Council Vice President, Stephanie Reichert arrived at 7:03 PM. Council Member Fernando Tena-Diaz and Mayor Susan Rzucidlo were absent. Also in attendance were Solicitor Kim Venzie, Borough Engineer Dennis O'Neill, WWTP Representative Mike Bostic from KBX, Joan McVaugh, Borough Treasurer, Sharon Norris, Borough Administrator and one member 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.

Southern Chester County Regional Police Report – Police Chief Simpson gave a brief report, updating the Council on a variety of topics including money raised from National Night Out and recipients of those funds, retirements, personnel shortages, and staffing for a school resources officer. He noted that Open Range Day will be on a Saturday in October. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Request to Apply for Liquor License – 42 Gap Newport Pike – William Shehwen, Esquire introduced his client, Avondale resident and business owner, Ms. Rodriguez, who has opened a grocery at this location and is looking to expand that business into a dine-in restaurant with the option for takeout and also offering entertainment. She hopes to purchase a liquor license and serve alcoholic beverages. To apply to the Liquor Control Board, she must first receive permission from the Borough Council to apply for an inter-municipal transfer of liquor license that would allow for an existing license to be transferred from another Chester County municipality into Avondale since none are available in the Borough. The process requires the Council to pass a Resolution at a public hearing, authorizing this application. Ms. Rodriguez described her plan in detail. Kim Venzie, Borough Solicitor, and Council members discussed the plan with the Applicant and her attorney. 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. Solicitor Venzie will review the Resolution and this item will come back before the Council at their October 18, 2022, meeting. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Engineer's Report

- Mike Bostic, from KBX, gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant, reporting that the post aeration blower is bad. Additionally, DEP has 30 new parameters to use for testing at the wells. Mr. Bostic has provided these new parameters to BSC labs for pricing. He reported on the repair on 2nd street and noted that the pipe will be flush with the road after the final paving process. He also reported that the maintenance schedule is being followed.
- Dennis O'Neill, Borough Engineer, updated the Council that the Chester County Commissioners announced the first round of ARPA funding, and the Borough was not in that first round of awards. The recipients were mostly food banks and health services.
- **Intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and State Street/First Avenue Discussion** – The Council discussed this intersection and the need for pedestrian safety improvements to be implemented as drivers do not respect the pedestrians. This intersection is on the PennDOT Improvement list; however, the Borough's projects are still a few years out. Mr. O'Neill and Council discussed the issues and possible solutions. Mr. O'Neill will email PennDOT and

see what is approvable. The Borough would have to update its PennDOT permit, and the Council discussed with Mr. O'Neill alternatives to hiring a Traffic Engineer to do this.

- **MS4 TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Plan** – Mr. O'Neill explained that the Borough has an MS4 permit that needs to be renewed. The permit renewal application requires the Borough to prepare a TMDL plan that will address the reduction of sediment and nutrients in the streams within the Christina River Basin. The plan requires the Borough to reduce the existing load by 69.8%. During the 5-year permit term, the Borough must implement a sediment reduction plan by constructing stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to reduce either the full TMDL load reduction required or 10% of the existing sediment load. Two rain garden BMPS are proposed which will satisfy the short-term TMDL obligation. The rain garden projects will be organized and managed by the White Clay Creek organization. Mr. O'Neill is trying to put together a consortium with other municipalities to reduce costs. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council Member Mike Essmaker made a motion that the Council ratify the advertisement of the 30-day review period for the TMDL plan. During this review period, the plan is available for viewing on the Borough website and in the Borough office. The motion was seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Morgan called for public comment; there was no public comment. Mr. O'Neill noted that this is an unfunded mandate and that there is a grant opportunity through Growing Greener for this purpose which he will submit.
- Mr. O'Neill proposed to Council that he send out a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for sewer and water emergency repair work. This is in response to the cost of the emergency repair work performed after-hours on Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that Mr. O'Neill move forward with the preparation of an RFP for emergency after-hours water and sewer repair. The motion was seconded by Council Member Janet Watts. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

Solicitor's Report

- **Stormwater Ordinance** – Solicitor Venzie opened up the Public hearing for new Stormwater Ordinance 2022-275 which amends the current Borough ordinance, which was adopted on January 28, 2014, as Ordinance 243 and adopting amendments required by the 2022 Chester County Model Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance. Ms. Venzie introduced two exhibits, the proof of publication and proof of providing the ordinance for public inspection. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made the motion to enact the revised Stormwater Ordinance 2022-275 as presented. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.
- **Wilkinson Project Update** – Ms. Venzie summarized her most recent communication with the developer. She answered questions from the Board about the plan and the developer's proposed ordinance changes. Discussion included the lack of parking on the plan, a lack of open space and the Engineer's observation that the plan has houses being built on steep slopes. The Group is looking forward to seeing what Wilkinson comes back with.
- Ms. Venzie suggested that the Fall Festival Committee seek sponsorships from the Borough's consultants and businesses. The Council will send out letters.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Morgan called for a motion to approve the September 6, 2022, minutes as presented. Ms. Watts made a motion to approve the minutes. Vice President Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

Payment of the Bills – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the payment of the bills September 7 through September 20, 2022. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Finance Committee – Ms. McVaugh reported on ARPA funds. The Council agreed that no money should be spent from the sale of the 2013 Ford F150 or from ARPA funds until it is determined whether the Borough receives the sewer grant that it applied for. Mr. Essmaker discussed and will investigate investment options. Ms. McVaugh explained that the new PLGIT credit card gives rebates and recommended that the Borough use it as much as possible. She also noted that she is working on the New Garden AQUA billing.

The Council members discussed the state of the community garden.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Rzucidlo provided a written report, summarized below:

- The Autumn Fest is renamed the Avondale Harvest Festival – vendors are signing up and the Mayor is meeting with Kennett Light Rotary seeking assistance with volunteers for children's activities.
- PennDOT has added the needed road repairs on Third Street to their list.
- Fels Institute of Government Update – The project applications were submitted to the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. The two projects submitted were, "Development of a Borough Policy and Procedure Handbook" and a "Comprehensive Comparison for Keeping vs Selling the Water/Sewer Plant and the Long-term effects of Selling on Residents." Both were accepted by the Institute; now a student has to choose one or both for their capstone project. It was recommended that both of these projects be considered as a group project and the Borough did not oppose that idea.
- T-Mobile Update – An associate of the Mayor is working on a grant application for a T-Mobile playground equipment grant on behalf of the Borough. The grant amount is \$50,000.
- DCED (PA Department of Community and Economic Development) Grant Update – The Borough had submitted a grant for sewer plant upgrades; The Borough had to reapply to LAS for that same grant which was completed on September 12th.
- The Mayor has asked that the Council allocate \$35,000 of the ARPA funds toward a matching funds grant from DCNR. The application deadline is October 27th. This discussion was tabled until October 18th.
- DVRPC Streetlight Information – DVRPC (Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission) has an LED streetlight replacement program. They will provide a free, no-cost, no obligation, feasibility study for the Borough to convert its existing street and traffic lights to LEDs. The Council agreed to move forward with the study. Council directed Ms. Norris to do some research with PECO regarding if they have a replacement program of their streetlights with LEDs.
- Consideration of speed tables and electronic speed signs – this was tabled.
- Trees – The Mayor would like the Council to consider having a company come out and look at the dead trees on Borough property and selling them for lumber.

Old Business –

- Mrs. Watts asked if there were any updates on the Memorial Wall. The Council noted there have been no updates.

- Mrs. Watts provided the staff with permit information from neighboring municipalities to assist with revising the current fee resolution.
- F150 Truck Update – the truck was sold for \$17,500 to the Lehigh Valley Zoo.

New Business – Proposals for Discussion:

- a. One quote for security cameras at the sewer plant was received. The Staff will seek two others.
- b. The Council reviewed a quote for cameras at the new wells that Mike LaFrance had submitted last year and had already been authorized by the former Council. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to honor this quote for the purchase and installation of six (6) cameras at the new wells on Pomeroy Avenue. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watts. Mr. Morgan called for a vote. The motion carried 4-0.
- c. One quote was received for live streaming public meetings. The staff will seek two additional quotes.

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 October 4, 2022.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris

Borough Administrator