

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**  
**7:00 PM**

**Council Members Present:** President, Paul Morgan, Vice President Stephanie Reichert, Council members Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts and Lucas Ortiz. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo and Treasurer Joan McVaugh were also in attendance. Solicitor Kim Venzie joined the meeting via phone at 7:18 pm. There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

**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.

**Announcements:** Mr. Morgan announced there was an Executive Session on August 24, 2023 to discuss legal issues.

**Public Comment** – Barbara and Jerry Duvall commented on traffic and speeding on Route 41; bypassing Route 41, the bridge on Route 41, moving the 35 mph speed limit sign up toward the London Grove line to slow down traffic and installing a flashing speed sign similar to the one in Chatham.

**BUSINESS**

**Hero’s Wall – Authorization to Approve New Location** – Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Council member Janet Watts made a motion to approve the new location. Council member Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. The new location is not yet marked, and the Memorial should be in place by Veterans Day. Mayor Susan stated the new sign renaming the area as “Avondale Veterans Memorial Park” would not be completed by Veterans Day. Mr. Dave Besselman inquired whether the Borough would endorse a Veterans Day celebration of some kind, landscaping and enlisting the assistance of the Boy Scouts. He also asked whether a walkway was planned around the memorial. Council was not aware of a plan for a walkway.

**Wilkinson/Quarry Project - Approval of Conditions of Conditional Use** – Solicitor Venzie reminded the Council that the Conditional Use Plan was already approved and at tonight’s meeting, Council is approving the conditions applied to that Plan. Council member Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve and execute the Conditional Use Decision. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

**MAYOR’S REPORT** – The Mayor reported on the following:

- contacting PennDOT regarding crosswalk improvements at Pennsylvania Avenue, State and First Street.
- continuing to work on the Pollinator Garden at the Third Street Park.
- The Harvest Festival is on Oct. 14, from 11 AM to 2 PM. There are still vendor spaces available. The vendor fee is \$20.
- The Fire police and State police have been contacted with regard to street closures for the upcoming church gathering.

**OTHER**

- a. Miller Drive Parking Discussion – Township Engineer, Tom Wilkes, provided his recommendations on limiting parking to one side of Miller Drive. Prior to voting on that, he recommends contacting the Fire company and the SCCRPD for their feedback. Mrs. Watts noted that parking should be on the opposite side of the street from the hydrants. Council discussed issues surrounding this decision such as congestion, emergency vehicles, lack of parking, enforcement and other streets and roads in the Borough having these same problems. It was also recommended that the residents be notified prior to a decision. The Council will wait for the Engineer’s road assessment before making a final determination.
- b. Port-a-potty discussion – this topic was tabled to gather more information from the Public Works Department.

- c. 2024 Trash Rate Discussion – The Council continued their discussion on the trash rate. The new contract with AJ Blosenski is significantly higher than the previous contract. Council did not raise the rate in 2023. Mr. Essmaker made the motion to raise the 2024 rate for trash from \$55.00 to \$72.25 and continue to use the recycling grant award money to subsidize the amount to meet the real cost of the trash removal contract. The Council will revisit this fee during the next budget season in late 2024. Council member Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. Mr. Duvall commented on letting residents know that the Borough receives grant money from the amount of recycling we bring to SECCRA. The Council discussed ways to alert the public that recycling properly means more money for the Borough.
- d. Grant Application Consideration – The Borough Engineer alerted the Council to a Local Share Account Grant Program which does not require a monetary match. The award amount could be up to \$1,000,000 and used for many projects including roads, infrastructure and sidewalks. Council discussed two big projects they would like to accomplish: connecting the new wells to the old wells and road/pipe repair. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that the Borough Council authorize the Mayor to work with the Borough Engineer to determine the best plan forward with regard to applying for this grant to meet the November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. The motion carried 5-0.
- e. Road Paving Discussion – Mr. Morgan wanted to get Council thinking about road repairs and costs associated with road projects. Treasurer Joan McVaugh discussed the Chester County Conservation District’s Dirt and Gravel Road Program and their Low Volume Road Program. Council discussed using permeable pavers/asphalt on some of the low volume roads. It was noted that using those methods would be a boost to the Borough’s MS4 program. The Mayor will contact the CCCD for more information.
- f. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to change the Tuesday November 7, 2023 Borough Council meeting to Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> due to election day. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.
- g. Mr. Morgan asked each Council member to list their priorities for 2024 to make sure that these are accounted for in the 2024 budget. Priorities included: improving walkability, infrastructure and creating a multi-year improvement plan; Route 41 improvements, water improvements, the Community Garden, beautification of the Borough including trash pickups and updated signs. The Mayor would like to continue with park and playground improvements.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the August 3 and August 15, 2023 minutes as presented. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Morgan made the following announcements:

- 1) The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM.
- 2) Do not miss the Avondale Harvest Festival on October 14, 2023 from 11 AM – 2 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Mrs. DuVall suggested a Borough-wide yard sale to be held in the spring on Pomeroy Avenue. The Council discussed a variety of activities that volunteers could host.

**Adjournment** – On a motion by Mr. Essmaker, seconded by Mr. Ortiz, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Norris*

Sharon Norris, Secretary