

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 06, 2022  
7:00 PM**

Council Members Present: President, Paul Morgan, and members Mike Essmaker and Janet Watts. Council member, Fernando Tena-Diaz arrived at 7:08 pm. Vice President, Stephanie Reichert was absent. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Joan McVaugh, Borough Treasurer and Sharon Norris, Borough Administrator, were also in attendance.

**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** – Chief Simpson was in attendance and gave a brief report. The council had no questions.

**Resident and Public Comment** – Lillian Yerkes phoned the office and reported that the unpaved section of Pomeroy Avenue is very rutted and requested that it be fixed. The Council agreed to have the Public Works Department repair that section of road.

**Approval of Minutes** – Mr. Morgan called for a motion to approve the August 16, 2022, minutes as presented. Council member Mike Essmaker made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for public comment. There was none. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

**Finance Committee** – Mrs. McVaugh provided a report to the Council. She is still working on having a complete Treasurer's Report to the Council in the near future.

- a. Approval of the Bills - Mr. Morgan called for a motion to approve the bills. A motion to approve the bills was made by Mr. Essmaker. The motion was seconded by Council Member Janet Watts. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Essmaker will close the Sewer Account, the Water and Sewer Account and the Water Account at Truist Bank. These accounts are now open at PLGIT. The Council also discussed whether there would be a reduction in the recycling grant award due to Trash Tech combining trash and recycling.

**Old Business**

- a. F150 Truck – The council discussed the sale of the 2013 Ford F150 truck. At this time, there are two interested buyers. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mrs. Watts made a motion to sell the 2013 Ford F150 truck to whomever makes the best offer. Mr. Tena-Diaz seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Rzucidlo reported as follows:

- The Mayor would like the Council to approve the purchase of a variety of benches and seating options with the proceeds from the sale of the 2013 Ford F-150 truck and gave examples of what she would like to purchase. She emphasized that there are no places to sit at the parks. The Council discussed the purchase. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Tena-Diaz made a motion to authorize the purchase of benches and other types of seating equipment in an amount not to exceed the purchase price of the truck. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.

- Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for: Legal Services, Engineering Services, Insurance and Trash. The Council members agreed it made good business sense to put out RFPs for these services. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that the staff work with the Mayor on developing Requests for Proposals for the above-mentioned services. Mrs. Watts seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0.
- Fels Lab at University of Pennsylvania Capstone Project Proposal – CCATO alerted the Borough that the University of Pennsylvania has a program where students in the University's Master of Public Administration program will consider undertaking a nonprofit or government project as their capstone project. These students function like a pro-bono consultant. The Borough would benefit because it would allow it to receive useful recommendations at no cost. The Fels Lab is accepting proposals through October 15, 2022. The Mayor suggested two projects to submit: Consideration of the Options for the Water and Wastewater treatment plant and developing a Policies and Procedures Manual. The Council discussed these ideas and this program and were very positive about pursuing this opportunity. Mr. Morgan called for a motion. Mrs. Watts made a motion that the Borough prepare and submit the two proposals to the FELS Lab at the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Mr. Morgan called for the vote. The motion carried 3-0 (Mr. Tena-Diaz was unavailable at voting time).
- The new signage and road markings on and near the Third Street Bridge, that PennDOT put in, have been well received by the neighbors.
- The Mayor reported that someone informed her that the Third Street Park property could be larger than is currently being mowed. She asked the staff to investigate this.

The Council members discussed the status of the County Treasurer's Department collecting the Borough's real estate taxes – there is no update.

Mrs. Watts discussed purchasing a swing bucket that the Borough can use as a backup in case one of the ones in use gets damaged.

### **New Business –**

- a. October 22, 2022, Harvest Festival Funding – the Mayor discussed the funds in the Events budget and discussed all of the different ideas for the festival including a dancing performance, pumpkin decorating (not carving) and allowing vendors to set up tables. The other two events for the year are the tree lighting and a family friendly New Year's Eve celebration.
- b. Strategic Planning
  - i. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds – the Council discussed various projects to use the ARPA funds including signal improvements at State St. and Route 41, playground improvements, sewer repairs, removal of dead trees, installation of broadband service, sidewalks and streetlights.
  - ii. Fire & EMS – the Council discussed the emergency services tax. Mrs. Watts gave a thorough summary of ways the Avondale Fire Company has tried to reduce expenses.
  - iii. Road Repair – The Council discussed the area on Church Street that needs to be fixed and the value of identifying nearby areas to also fix in an effort to get the most from hiring a paving company to come out and do the work. The Staff will work with Mr. DiFillipo to identify some other areas.
  - iv. Dead trees in the Indian Run Park – The Council asked Mr. DiFillipo to mark all of the trees on the Borough property that are dead and determine whether to seek an estimate from a tree service or whether he can remove them.

**Announcements** – The Mayor announced that Mr. DiFillipo did a great job on the reservoir project. She also reminded everyone to come to the Harvest Festival on Saturday October 22, 2022, from 1 PM – 5 PM. Mr. Morgan announced that the next Borough Council meeting will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Norris*

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Borough Administrator