

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 2021 – COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, January 14th, 2021 with Council President, John D. Boone, presiding. The work session began at 6:45p.m. The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Gary Halagarda.

Council members in attendance: Mike Fuller (via phone), Stan Waleski (via phone), Gary Halagarda, Frank Marriggi (via phone), Bob Dommermuth, Sam Diaz (via phone), John Vols (via phone), and John D. Boone. Joe Satkowski was absent.

Also in attendance: Mayor Robert Mullen, Atty. Matthew Boyd, Chief David Homschek, Engineer Paul Pasonick and Secretary Kelly O’Brien.

Motion by Sam Diaz, second by Frank Marriggi to accept the minutes of the December 10th, 2020 Council meeting as presented. Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Mike Fuller to accept the minutes of the December 23rd, 2020 special Council meeting as presented. Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Sam Diaz to pay all bills presented with monies available and adding to the bills paid list, an invoice from Mihalka Trucking & Excavating for the sewer repair work done at 225 Gedding Street in the amount of $6700.00. Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by Bob Dommermuth, second by Sam Diaz to accept new correspondence as presented. Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Mike Fuller to accept the December 2020 police report prepared by Chief Homschek and read aloud by Mayor Mullen. Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by John Vols, second by Mike Fuller – Resolution 3 of 2021, Avoca Borough requesting a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant in the amount of $650,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Main & McAlpine Intersection Improvements Project. Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Stan Waleski a contract agreement approval between Avoca Borough and PennEastern Engineers for the 2020 Community Development Program McLean Lane Drainage and Roadway Improvements Project. Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by Sam Diaz, second by Bob Dommermuth to approve change order & pay request from Multiscape Construction for the Plane Street Park Wall/Fence Project. The change order is for eliminating most of the concrete wall repairs and adding new concrete wall reconstruction. The change order increases the project cost by $19,140 to $166,161.00. This is still within the grant’s budget. Pay application is for $127,565.10. Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Stan Waleski – Resolution 4 of 2021, entering into a Tax Anticipation Note with Fidelity Bank in the amount of $40,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Seven ( 7 ) YES, One ( 1 ) NO – Vols MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Bob Dommermuth, second by John Vols to approve a quote from Kost Tire to replace tires on the Street Department Skid Steer at a cost of $794.00. Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Sam Diaz to recognize Gary Halagarda and Gerald Robert Dommermuth as street department volunteers on as “as needed” basis for snow plowing, snow removal and any emergency situations that may arise due to inclement weather. Six ( 6 ) YES, Two ( 2 ) Abstain – Halagarda & Dommermuth MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Mike Fuller to have the street department skid steer wire harness installed at a cost of $540 (labor). Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Engineers report was prepared and presented by Paul Pasonick. See attached.

Police report was prepared by Chief Homschek and read aloud by Mayor Mullen. See attached.

In other Borough matters:

Stan Spagnuolo supplied Council with 3 different quotes to replace the tires on the street department skid steer and asked if they had time to review them. Upon discussion, Council made a motion to accept one of the quotes.

John Vols made Council aware that Stan Spagnuolo also acquired quotes for tractors and grass cutting equipment and he will distribute that information to Council for the February Council meeting.

Stan Waleski touched on a few items. He is requesting that an updated budget reflecting the newly negotiated police salaries be provided. Stan also mentioned that now is the time to start preparing Main Street for the Sesquicentennial celebration and schedule street sweeping before the parade. Mr. Waleski would like to confirm that the Council members who volunteered to snow plow if needed will be properly insured under the Borough’s policy. Atty. Boyd will follow up with our carrier. Stan asked Chief Homschek if there are any safety concerns or any safety measures being taken locally for the January 20, 2021 Presidential Inauguration. Chief Homshek advised not at this point but will keep aware should anything arise.

Mike Fuller acknowledged that there has been an increase in residential sewer issues and he did reach out to the L.L.V.S.A for any assistance they can provide. Mr. Fuller said that he was given a verbal confirmation that Rossi Rooter would charge the same pricing to the Borough as they charge LLVSA.

Sam Diaz discussed the letter that was drafted in regard to the 900 block of Grove Street parking issue. Due to the extreme delay with the USPS, he did not feel 15 days for residents to respond to the letter was enough time. After a bit of discussion, it was decided that the letters would be hand delivered and sent via mail to avoid any issues with a response time. Mr. Diaz also questioned if the Multiscape Change Order would push the project over budget. Paul Pasonick advised no.

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Bob Dommermuth to adjourn meeting at 7:25p.m. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES