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| **Mayor**  Robert Mullen  **Solicitor**  Atty. Matthew G. Boyd  Ufberg & Associates  **Chief of Police**  David Homschek  **Secretary**  Kelly O’Brien  **Treasurer**  Jennifer Davitt  **Engineer**  PennEastern Engineers, LLC  Paul Pasonick | Borough of Avoca  950 Main St.  Avoca, Pa 18641  [Secretary@AvocaBorough.com](mailto:Secretary@AvocaBorough.com)  Telephones  Secretary: 570-457-4947  Fax: 570-451-1750  Police Department: 570-457-4011 Street Department: 570-451-0625 | **Council**  **President**  Bob Dommermuth  **Vice President**  Gary Halagarda  Michael Fuller  Joe Satkowski Jr.  Jim Emlaw  Stanley Waleski  Holly Homschek  Dennis O’Brien  Alan Kiesinger |

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 3RD, 2022 – COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of Avoca Borough Council was held on Monday, January 3rd, 2022 with Council President, Bob Dommermuth, presiding. The work session began at 6:40p.m. The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:50p.m. and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Holly Homschek.

Council members in attendance: Jim Emlaw, Mike Fuller, Gary Halagarda, Holly Homschek, Alan Kiesinger, Dennis O’Brien, Joe Satkowski, Stanley Waleski and Bob Dommermuth.

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

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Jim Emlaw to accept the minutes of the December 2021 Council meeting as presented: Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Alan Kiesinger to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Joe Satkowski to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Dennis O’Brien to accept the December 2021 police report prepared by Chief Homschek and read aloud by Mayor Mullen. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Alan Kiesinger, second by Joe Satkowski to approve the rental cost for any recreational basketball league that will use the community center at $1000.00 per season due to general rising costs of electric, heat. Etc. Stan Waleski raised a question before the vote, asking if there was an itemization on the numbers of what was increasing as far as bills. President Dommermuth advised there is not an itemization list, but one can be provided if necessary. Stan also asked if the other tenants rent was increasing. President Dommermuth advised no since each tenant has their own electric meters along with other separate heat sources. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**MON. JAN. 3RD, 2022 – COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES- PAGE 2**

Motion by Holly Homschek, second by Joe Satkowski to remove Avoca Borough from the sponsorship of the Avoca Basketball League as the Borough does not have any affiliation within the league itself. Before a vote, Alan Kiesinger brought up that his league has been called the Avoca Basketball League for years. President Dommermuth advised Mr. Kiesinger that is still is and can be called the Avoca Basketball League, just the Borough will not be listed as a sponsor. Stan Waleski also provided some background on the league and how funds for the community center lessened as Borough budgets got tighter. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) 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:

Kevin O’Brien Sr., resident and Avoca Borough Emergency Management Coordinator, addressed Council asking if they ever did or would consider combining MS4 Project issues with Duryea Borough and Moosic Borough regarding Mill Creek. Mr. O’Brien also brought up the concern that the freezing pipes in the creek are what causes the flooding during winter and he suggested an addendum to have the pipes fully removed so it doesn’t impede the ice/water causing the flooding. After some discussion between Mr. O’Brien, Council and Engineer Paul Pasonick, it was agreed that Council would look into Mr. O’Brien suggestions.

Mr. Waleski gave Council a brief update on LandBank properties and projects. Stanley also asked Att. Boyd if there is anything that needs to be done with the rapid increase of COVID-19 cases throughout the area again. Atty. Boyd advised for the Borough to follow the current CDC/PA Dept of Health guidelines as provided at this time.

Mr. Halagarda referenced a letter that was sent to Council from garbage haulers, J.P.Mascaro, which implied an increase for garbage collection may be in the near future. Gary’s concern is that pricing was just set for the 2022 calendar year at the December 2021 Council meeting. After a bit of discussion, it was stated that we are still under contract for a certain price for 2022 and Atty. Boyd will further look at the contract and follow up on any other correspondence that may come regarding a price increase.

Council President closed by welcoming new Council members Alan Kiesinger, Dennis O’Brien and Holly Homschek and wishing them luck as their terms begin.

Motion by Jim Emlaw, second by Joe Satkowski to adjourn meeting at 7:20p.m. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES