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| **Mayor**Robert Mullen**Solicitor**Atty. Matthew G. BoydUfberg & Associates**Chief of Police**David Homschek**Secretary**Kelly O’Brien**Treasurer**Jennifer Davitt**Engineer** PennEastern Engineers, LLCPaul Pasonick | Borough of Avoca950 Main St.Avoca, Pa 18641Secretary@AvocaBorough.comTelephonesSecretary: 570-457-4947 Fax: 570-451-1750Police Department: 570-457-4011 Street Department: 570-451-0625 | **Council** **President**Bob Dommermuth **Vice President**Gary Halagarda Michael FullerJoe Satkowski Jr.Jim Emlaw Stanley Waleski Holly Homschek Dennis O’BrienAlan Kiesinger  |

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH, 2022 – COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

 The regular monthly meeting of Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, March 10th, 2022 with Council President, Bob Dommermuth, presiding. The work session began at 6”30p.m. The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:50p.m. and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Jim Emlaw.

 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. Matt Boyd, Chief Dave Homschek, Engineer Paul Pasonick and Secretary Kelly O’Brien.

 Motion by Jim Emlaw, second by Stan Waleski to accept the February 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Jim Emlaw to pay all bills presented with funds available. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

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

 Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Alan Kiesinger to accept the February 2022 police report prepared by Chief Homschek and read aloud by Mayor Mullen. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Holly Homschek, second by Mike Fuller to adopt Ordinance 5 of 2022, vacating a portion of Hawthorne Street connecting to the Kiesinger property. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Holly Homschek, second by Joe Satkowski to appoint Mr. Bob Bejeski as Avoca Borough’s sewer inspector for all new hook up’s. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

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 Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Joe Satkowski to re hire the following part time police officers for the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2022: Mario Scotti, Sheri Salvo, Charles Yarick, Angel Brazdzionis, Kevin Santos, Fabrizio Bivona, Robert Marmo, Kenneth Salvo, Ryan Kachinsky, Mario D’Ambrosio and Jeremy J. Jones. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Mike Fuller to adopt Ordinance 6 of 2022, approving a policy amendment regarding the NorthEast Landbank Authority, creating a 7th independent member due to Hughestown Borough’s withdrawal. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Alan Kiesinger, second by Holly Homschek to approve a donation request from Greater Pittston Area Little League in the amount of $100 for field sign renewal. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Dennis O’Brien to approve a donation request from the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick to benefit two scholarship grants in the total amount of $200. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Jim Emlaw, second by Mike Fuller to approve Resolution 4 of 2022, applying for a Statewide LSA grant in the amount of $131,600 to be used for Community Center Improvements. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Jim Emlaw to approve Resolution 5 of 2022, applying for a Statewide LSA grant in the amount of $221,600 to be used for VFW Renovations and Addition. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Holly Homschek to approve Resolution 6 of 2022, applying for a Statewide LSA grant in the amount of $169,300 to be used for West Avoca Park Improvements. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Dennis O’Brien, second by Joe Satkowski to approve Resolution 7 of 2022, applying for a Statewide LSA grant in the amount of $109,300 to be used for Lampman Street Improvements. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Alan Kiesinger to TABLE the item of accepting or rejecting bid proposals regarding the 630 Main Street Parking Lot Improvement Project. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Alan Kiesinger, second by Mike Fuller to advertise/publish Ordinance 7 of 2022, a mutual aid agreement between Avoca Borough and Hughestown Borough police departments. 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:

Stan Waleski updated Council on the latest Landbank information. Mr. Waleski also asked if May 29th, 2022 is still reserved at the Community Center for the Blaskiewicz court dedication. There will be a social at Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall after the dedication and everyone is invited to attend. Mr. Waleski also informed Council that Avoca resident, Mr. Bob Joyce, was nominated as Man of the Year by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, which is a big honor.

Holly Homschek asked for clarification regarding the statewide LSA grant application for the community center, stating that she is on the recreation committee and wasn’t aware of what the application contained or who made the decisions on what should be done. Paul Pasonick explained the view of the overall project. Mrs. Homschek then asked if the project would impact any ADA requirements for the building. It was then asked if the AED machine was

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ever ordered & received for the Community Center. Gary Halagarda advised two AED machines were ordered

(currently on back order) for the Borough Building and the Municipal garage. Stan Waleski advised he is going to get with Mr. Halagarda to get the third AED machine for the community center ordered and paid for.

Mrs. Homschek stated she was speaking with a few residents regarding Rear Howard Street (Cavalieri Drive) and the poor condition of the road. The residents stated that the road was never paved and Holly would like to see something be done being that they pay taxes to the Borough, they should have safe access to their home. She asked Paul Pasonick if putting in a CDBG application would be feasible to which Mr. Pasonick advised yes. He will follow up on when the applications come out and other information.

Stan Spagnuolo showed Council pictures and information of a skid steer lift attachment that would be beneficial when repairing road signs, cutting tree limbs that hang over roads,etc.

Micky Volch advised Council that there are 3 storm drains in need of repair on Plane Street. After a bit of discussion, Mr. Bejeski said that he had steel plates that he would loan to the Borough if needed, to get the drains covered until they can be repaired

 Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Joe Satkowski to adjourn meeting at 7:15p.m. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES