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| **Mayor**  Robert Mullen  **Solicitor**  Atty. Matthew G. Boyd  Ufberg & Associates  **Chief of Police**  David Homschek  **Interim Secretary**  Sandra Van Luvender  **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**  Holly Homschek  **Vice President**  Gary Halagarda  Michael Fuller  Joe Satkowski Jr.  Jim Emlaw  Stanley Waleski  Bob Dommermuth  Dennis O’Brien  Alan Kiesinger |

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**Thursday March 9, 2023 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday March 9th, 2023, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHEK, presiding. The work session began at 1841HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1856HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Joseph SATKOWSKI.

Council Members in attendance: Jim EMLAW, Mike FULLER, Gary HALAGARDA, Holly HOMSCHEK, Alan KIESINGER, Dennis O’BRIEN, Joseph SATKOWSKI and Stanley WALESKI. Bob DOMMERMUTH was absent.

Also in attendance: Mayor Robert MULLEN, Attorney Matthew BOYD, Police Chief David HOMSCHEK, Engineer Paul PASONICK and Interim Secretary, Sandra VAN LUVENDER.

Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI, second by Alan KIESINGER to accept the minutes from last month’s meeting. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Stan WALESKI, second by Mike FULLER to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by James EMLAW, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to accept police report prepared by Chief HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor MULLEN. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Alan KIESINGER to confirm Paper Shred Event on September 9, 2023 - 9am to 3pm with Paper Eaters as the shredding company. Roll Call: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to adopt Stormwater Management Ordinance (Ordinance #5 of 2023) for the borough and repeal and replace the existing Stormwater Ordinance from May 12, 2011. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by James EMLAW, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI to Re-hire the following part time police Officers for the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2023: Mario SCOTTI, Sheri SALVO, Charles YARICK, Angel BRAZDZIONIS, Robert MARMO, Kenneth SALVO, Ryan KACHINSKY and Jeremy JONES. Roll Call: (7) Seven Yes (1) Abstain (Holly HOMSCHEK)

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to pass Resolution #7 to authorize Borough President, Holly HOMSCHEK to sign Franchise Cable Agreement with Astound. Roll Call: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Stanley WALESKI, second by Holly HOMSCHEK to donate $200.00 to the Duryea Wild Cats Football Association. Roll Call: (8) Eight Yes

**Council additional notes**: Council member, Stan WALESKI reported that he and Mike FULLER attended the Penn Dot open house meeting and discussed water run off issues in town, including areas of School, Grove and McAlpine Streets, as well as Winans Court. They also discussed sound barriers along areas not already protected. WALESKI asked if council could look into the sound barrier issues. Attorney BOYD related that he could send a request letter.

Council member, Dennis O’BRIEN asked if there was any progress on the clean up at some of the properties around town, namely 641 York Ave (BODOSKY) and 119 New Street (LAPSANSKY) in West Avoca. Neighbors have been complaining about both properties. Police Chief David HOMSCHEK did report that there has been some progress at both locations – 641 York has been cleaned up around the exterior.

**Street Department**: Michael VOLCH and Stan SPAGNUOLO present – will look into filling holes on Swift Street, as reported by resident, Beverly CHISDOCK.

**Audience**: Resident, Beverly CHISDOCK 213 Lehigh Street Avoca, PA asked about building Inspection at her 215 Lehigh Street address. She was provided with the Building Inspector contact information. She also asked if the holes on the alley portion of Swift Street could be filled in to make it passable. CHISDOCK also voiced concern about all of the trains coming through our area and what they might be transporting. With all of the recent train derailments, is there anything that can be done to make it safer. Fire Chief Thomas MATTHEWS was in the audience and reported that there are issues being addressed at a higher level because of the recent derailments.

**Engineer**: Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated March 9th, 2023) prepared and read by Paul PASONICK. (See Attached)

**Police**: Police Report was prepared by Chief HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor MULLEN. (See Attached)

**Notes**:

* Penn Dot data collection 03/01/2023 – 11/16/2023 – Railroad Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets and Mill Creek Rd between Jason and Howard
* Luzerne County Borough and Town Meeting 03/30/2023
* UGI work at upper tracks – install 6” pipe – work May 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023
* Barbie SEMPA – handicap parking sign installed by house.
* BHW remittance for January 2023 – received $1,378.25 for reviews and inspections.
* Easter Bunny will be around town on April 2, 2023.