

Borough of Avoca

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

950 Main St.
Avoca, Pa 18641
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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2022 - COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, September 8th, 2022 with Council President, Bob Dommermuth, presiding. The work session began at 6:30p.m. The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:45p.m. and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Holly Homschek.

Council members in attendance: Mike Fuller, Gary Halagarda, Holly Homschek, Alan Kiesinger, Joe Satkowski, Stanley Waleski, Dennis O'Brien (via phone due to illness) and Bob Dommermuth. Jim Emlaw was absent.

Also in attendance: Atty. Matthew Boyd, Engineer Paul Pasonick and Secretary Kelly O'Brien (via phone). Mayor Robert Mullen and Chief Dave Homschek were absent.

Please note, at the beginning of the work session President Dommermuth called for a moment of silence in remembrance of all 9/11 families and victims.

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Stan Waleski to accept the minutes of the August 2022 Council meeting as presented. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Mike Fuller to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Gary Halagarda to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Alan Kiesinger to accept the August 2022 police report prepared by Chief Homschek and read aloud by President Dommermuth. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Alan Kiesinger to accept the lowest responsible bidder at the recommendation of the Borough Engineer to award the McAlpine Street Storm and Sewer Improvements Project to Stafursky Paving Company Inc. in the bided amount of \$265,857.75 (Alternate A \$129,035.00). Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Alan Kiesinger to accept and approve the 2023 MMO's for the police pension plan (\$6296) and the NUF Pension Plan (\$3536). Voice Vote: Seven (7) YES, One (1) Abstain- Homschek
MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Alan Kiesinger, second by Joe Satkowski to re-hire the following part time police officers for the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2022: Mario Scotti, Sheri Salvo, Charles Yarick, Angel BrzdziŃonis, Nicholas Lugin, Kevin Santos, Fabrizio Bivona, Robert Marmo, Kenneth Salvo, Ryan Kachinsky and Jeremy J. Jones. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Alan Kiesinger, second by Mike Fuller to approve the renewal quote for the police professional liability policy set to expire 10-11-22 at an annual premium of \$12,903. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Mike Fuller; second by Alan Kiesinger to approve the renewal quote for the public officials liability policy set to expire 10-11-22 at an annual premium of \$11,949. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Joe Satkowski to advertise for bids for next terms garbage contract. Current contract set to expire 1-31-23. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Alan Kiesinger - Resolution 12 of 2022, a resolution to apply for local share account (Luzerne county) funds on behalf of the North East Pennsylvania Land Bank Authority to complete projects in each of the participating municipalities in the amount of \$500,000.00. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Holly Homschek, - Resolution 13 of 2022, applying for a Luzerne County CDBG in the amount of \$172,380 for Cavaleri Street Drainage and Roadway Improvements. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Holly Homschek, second by Stan Waleski - Resolution 14 of 2022, applying for a 2023 LSA grant in the amount of \$963,655 for road and sewer improvements on Wood Street, Pine Street, Vine Street, Campbell Street and Gedding Street. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Stan Waleski - Resolution 15 of 2022, applying for a 2023 LSA grant in the amount of \$1,289,344 for a new emergency rescue truck on behalf of the Avoca Hose Company. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES

Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Stan Waleski - Resolution 16 of 2022, applying for a LSA grant in the amount of \$65,804 for a new police department vehicle. Voice 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 President Dommermuth. See attached.

In other Borough matters:

Several residents from the 900 block of Grove Street addressed Council over their displeasure with the newly installed road signs publicly advertising that the block is now a one way road and there is restricted parking on one side of the road. It was stated that the ordinance approving these changes was made at the July 2021 Council meeting and prior to the decision, letters were delivered and sent to all homeowners in that block advising them of possible changes and asking for suggestions to rectify the problem of emergency and borough vehicles not being able to access the road safely due to parking issues. A legal notice prior to the decision was also advertised in a locally circulated newspaper. Please note, signage was just placed recently due to a delay getting the signs. Several of the residents stated they were never notified and this is a great inconvenience to those who live in that block. A few suggestions from the residents were made and after some back and forth discussion, it was stated by Council and Atty. Boyd that the Borough will look into different options to possibly amend the current ordinance, making it better and more acceptable to the residents

Lisa Jackabowski of 254 Lampman Street addressed Council about paying the Avoca Borough's annual sewer maintenance fee from 1995-2020, when it was determined by dye testing that her home tied into the Duryea sewer lines. Ms. Jackabowski was asking Council if she can be reimbursed for all of the years she paid the Avoca fee.

Resident Mike Haduck spoke on the new building inspector and stated he would like to meet with him in the near future.

Stan Waleski gave everyone an update from the North East PA Land Bank and the Greater Pittston Compost Facility meetings.

Mike Fuller thanked the street department for taking care of a water problem that arose over the weekend and for their swift response. Mr. Fuller also updated Council on the recent Fire Dept Committee meeting.

Holly Homschek stated that after contacting the North East PA Land Bank, the property owned by the Land Bank on LeHigh Street that was scheduled to be demolished may not happen soon, as the Land Bank is waiting for funding to complete the demolition job/project.

Motion by Alan Kiesinger, second by Holly Homschek to adjourn meeting at 7:25pm. Voice Vote: Eight (8) YES