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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 May 11, 2023 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday May 11th, 2023, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHEK, presiding. The work session began at 1844HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1859HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Alan KIESINGER.

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

Also in attendance: Mayor Robert MULLEN, Attorney Jordan DEMPSEY, Engineer Paul PASONICK and Interim Secretary, Sandra VAN LUVENDER. Police Chief Dave HOMSCHEK was absent.

Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI , second by Jim EMLAW to accept the minutes from last month’s meeting. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Gary HALAGARDA to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Stanley WALESKI, second by Holly HOMSCHEK to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Bob DOMMERMUTH, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI to accept police report prepared by Chief HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor MULLEN. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to purchase Power Grader through Liquid Fuels Fund for Street Department. Roll Call: (8) Eight Yes, (1) One abstain – Bob DOMMERMUTH

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to have Mayor Robert MULLEN verify the number of Amusement Machines at the various establishments in town for the 2023 year. Once numbers are verified, invoices will be sent. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Stanley WALESKI, second by Holly HOMSCHEK to sponsor a hole for $100.00 for the 2023 Queen of the Apostles Golf Tournament. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to adopt Resolution #9 of 2023 in support of Duryea residents concerning Co-Parts expansion on McAlpine Street. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Stanley WALESKI, second by Holly HOMSCHEK to donate $100.00 to the Teeners Baseball League who will be using the Flats Fields. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Dennis O’BRIEN, second by Jim EMLAW to negotiate the rent amount for the Community Center Apartment at 800 Main Street. Roll Call: (9) Nine Yes

**Council Additional Notes**:

Council member Stanley WALESKI commented about looking into grants available to help improve and repair the Flats Baseball Fields in town.

Council member Dennis O’BRIEN commented about witnessing the heavy water flow down McAlpine Street during the recent heavy rainfall.

**Street Department**:

Members Micky VOLCH and Stan SPAGNUOLO were present. Both related that the 48” Power Grader would be best for the alleys in town. It could also be used at the ball fields and to collect grass if need be.

**Audience:**

* Dr Richard STANIS attended the meeting to comment on the ongoing water issues on McAlpine Street. He explained that his family owns a residence on the corner of Bennett and McAlpine streets and there have been water issues in the past. The recent heavy rains caused problems in the alley by the residence, and they are worried about water issues again. Dr. STANIS brought a photo from the 1990s showing the ice that forms in that area during the winter months. Dr. STANIS commented that the current construction project on McAlpine should have a ruff coat of asphalt, rather than the stone and dirt currently being used.

Dr. STANIS cited Title 42 and commented that the Borough would be liable to protect his property. He also reported speaking with Heather GRAHAM from the Conservatory and Representative Jim HADDOCK about the water issues.

Dr. STANIS reported that his family did pay to pave part of the Bennett Street alley years ago. He is asking that the Borough consider paving Bennett Street to alleviate/help the water issue. Representative HADDOCK told him that there is grant money available.

Dr. STANIS did provide a copy of his notes for his council presentation. (See attached)

* Resident Ron CASPER also attended the meeting and again commented on the current McAlpine Street Project. He asked if the Borough is supplied with copies of the engineering plans for the borough projects or do we have to pay a fee for them. CASPER questioned what the engineer fees are. CASPER was advised that the Borough is supplied with a copy of the plans and the fees vary depending on the project.

**Engineer:**

Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated May 11, 2023) prepared and read by Paul PASONICK. (See attached)

Item #7 of the Engineer’s Report Main and McAlpine Intersection Improvements – council members do NOT want the borough to incur any cost for this project, as it is of no benefit to Avoca or its residents. It will increase the tractor trailer traffic over McAlpine Street.

Item #17 2023 Community Development Program – PASONICK commented that he would reach out to the Borough Solicitor, Matthew BOYD regarding this item.

Item #23 was added to the report – McLean Lane hole (rear 700 Block of Main Street) – PASONICK did meet with the Borough Street Department, and they feel they could handle fixing the cause for the hole, as well as the hole.

After the meeting, PASONICK took time to show and explain the current engineer plans for the McAlpine Street Storm Sewer Project to both Dr. STANIS and Ron CASPER.

**Police:**

Police Report was prepared by Chief David HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor Robert MULLEN. (See attached)

**Notes:**

BHW Construction permit fees collected for April 2023 - $404.90.

Routine Inspection of Flood Protection Project scheduled for 06/01/123 at 0930HRS. Street Department aware of date and time.

Upcoming Golf Tournaments: Friendly Sons Golf Tournament – Sat. May 20, 2023

Queen of the Apostles – Sun. June 4, 2023 – shotgun start 8am

Miles for Mike Golf Tournament – Fri July 28,2023 - $150 per golfer