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| **Mayor**  Robert Mullen  **Solicitor**  Atty. Matthew G. Boyd  Ufberg & Associates  **Chief of Police**  David Homschek  **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 September 14, 2023 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday September 14th, 2023, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHECK, presiding. The work session began at 1846HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1854HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Gary HALAGARDA.

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

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

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

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Stan WALESKI to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI 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 Gary HALAGARDA, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to direct the solicitor to advertise ordinance to amend/clarify Police Pension Plan for definition of compensation to earnings reportable as W2 wages. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to accept and approve the 2024 MMO for the Police Pension Plan ($13,346). Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes – Holly HOMSCHEK abstain.

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to accept and approve the 2024 MMO for

the NUF Pension Plan ($3,597). Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Dennis O’BRIEN, second by Joseph SATKOWSKIto adopt Resolution**#**10-2023 regarding State LSA Grant -Road and Sewer Improvements. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Alan KIESINGER to adoptResolution**#**11-2023 regarding State LSA Grant - New Police Vehicle. Roll Call Vote: (8) Eight Yes – Holly HOMSCHEK abstain.

Motion by Stan WALESKI, second by Mike Fuller to adoptResolution**#**12-2023 regarding State LSA Grant -Memorial Park Improvements. Roll Call Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI to adopt Resolution**#**13-2023 regarding State LSA Grant -Little League Club House Improvements. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Dennis O’BRIEN, second by Stan WALESKItoauthorize Council President, Holly HOMSCHEK to sign letter to Commonwealth Financing Authority Board regarding additional work at 630 Main Street Parking Lot for $4000.00. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes – Bob DOMMERMUTH abstain.

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Mike FULLER torehire part-time police officers for 3rd quarter of 2023 - see attached list of part-time officers. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes – Holly HOMSCHEK abstain.

Motion by Stan WALESKI to table a decision onTriguard Security Alarm at Community Center accept /decline proposal to update the system. (5) five year agreement – 42.00 per month. Stan Spagnuolo has more info. Table decision.

Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI, second by Mike FULLER torenew Police Professional Liability Policywith Joyce Insurance expires 10/11/2023 – expiring cost $12,903, renewal $11,180 (new carrier). Decrease $1723 Voice Vote: (8) Eight – Holly HOMSCHEK abstain.

Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to renew Public Officials Policywith Joyce Insurance expires 10/11/2023 – expiring cost $11,949, renewal $12,555. Increase $606. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

**Council Additional Notes**:

Stan WALESKI reported that the Landbank demolition at the (2) two homes in town has been complete. The Quiet Title for the Plane Street property is in the works.

Mike FULLER wanted to thank the Street Department for their work during the recent storms. FULLER also added that discussion about the part-time fire position did take place in the executive session.

Jim EMLAW asked if the Borough could investigate getting a speed enforcement sign. Many towns around us have digital display signs.

Bob DOMMERMUTH requested a moment of silence for the victims and families of the September 11th, 2001 attacks.

Alan KIESINGER complimented Paul PASONICK on the McAlpine Street Project and how nice the finished project looks.

**Street Department**:

Stan SPAGNUOLO was present.

**Audience:**

Duryea resident, Amy BRADY 1124/1126 Main Street, came to address her concerns regarding the alley behind her home. The alley, being the Wood Street alley that runs between Grove and Main Streets in the 1100 block. The alley has been blocked from through access between Plane and Church Streets with fences and a garage. BRADY’s concern is that is the only access to her property, and it leaves only one way in/out. The Avoca Borough Engineer and Solicitor will look into this matter, as it requires further investigation and discussion.

Avoca resident, Gary SHAFFER, rear 609 South Street (Bennett Street) presented his concern about a recent wall collapse in the Bennett Street alley. The retaining wall at the rear of 608 Grove (WHIPPLE Property) collapsed and is causing issues in Bennett Street alley. SHAFFER reported that there has been a water run off issue in the alley for years. The oil truck will not be able to come into the alley to deliver with the damage from the wall collapse. SHAFFER was advised that this matter will also be addressed by the Avoca Borough Solicitor and Engineer, as it requires further investigation and discussion.

Avoca residents, Wayne and Laurie WHIPPLE 608 Grove Street and William and Janice DOWDELL 606 Grove Street were also present in the audience with the same concern. The wall collapsed on the WHIPPLE property and the wall on the DOWDELL is starting to move. Water run off is an issue and there was a question as to who owns the wall and is responsible for the repair. Again, the Avoca Borough Solicitor and Engineer will be addressing the matter.

Avoca resident and Avoca Hose Company Officer, Michael LAMPMAN was also present in the audience. LAMPMAN asked if the Borough could add a trash can or two around town. He also asked about sidewalks being added or updated in the 800 Block of McAlpine Street. Walking is dangerous in that area as there are ruts in the dirt and you can twist or break an ankle.

LAMPMAN also asked about any progress from the Fire Committee meeting a few weeks back regarding the part-time fire position. He was advised that they did discuss the matter in the executive session. Council members were reaching out to other towns for information and meeting with the Duryea Council President, as well as talking to Steve YOKIMISHYN regarding payroll.

**Engineer:** Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated September 14, 2023) prepared and read by Paul PASONICK. (See attached)

**Police:** The Police Report was prepared by Chief David HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor Robert MULLEN. (See attached). Avoca Patrol Officer, Jonathon ALAIMO, was also present at the meeting.