

# Borough of Avoca

## 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

## Council

### President

Holly Homschek

### Vice President

Gary Halagarda

Michael Fuller

Joe Satkowski Jr.

Jim Emlaw

Stanley Waleski

Bob Dommermuth

Dennis O'Brien

Alan Kiesinger

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[Secretary@AvocaBorough.com](mailto:Secretary@AvocaBorough.com)

## Telephones

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Police Department: 570-457-4011

Street Department: 570-451-0625

## AVOCA BOROUGH

### Thursday November 9, 2023 – Council Meeting

#### Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday November 9, 2023, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHEK, presiding. The work session began at 1837HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1845HRS, 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 and Alan KIESINGER. Stanley WALESKI submitted a letter of resignation.

Also in attendance: Mayor Robert MULLEN, Attorney Matthew BOYD, Police Chief Dave HOMSCHEK, Borough Engineer, Paul PASONICK and 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 Dennis O'BRIEN, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Dennis O'BRIEN, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

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

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Dennis O'BRIEN to donate \$100.00 to the Pa Baseball Booster Club. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to re-join Pa State Association of Boroughs \$378.00 for 2024 year. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to re-join Pa State Association of Mayors of Boroughs of Pa \$60.00 for 2024 year. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by James EMLAW, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to renew – State Worker's Comp Policy for First Responders – estimated cost \$12,248 for 2024 year – 2023 cost \$11,899. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Table discussion for new cameras to replace existing ones at Borough Garage.

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Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI, second by Dennis O'BRIEN to install handicap parking sign by 919 Grove Street at request of Stanley BARCOSKI. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Dennis O'BRIEN to approve Driveway Permit – Shatrowskas 1394 Plane Street Avoca. Borough Engineer, Paul Pasonick approved. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Alan KIESINGER to accept first reading of 2024 Proposed Budget. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Mike Fuller to re-join Pittston Chamber of Commerce for 2024 (dental and vision benefits can be discontinued through Chamber Choice if not a member). Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Bob DOMMERMUTH, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI to accept the recommendation of the Avoca Civil Service Commission and extend a conditional offer of full-time employment to Joseph Delaney. The offer is contingent upon completion of medical and psychological testing. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes – Holly HOMSCHEK abstain.

Motion by James EMLAW, second by Dennis O'BRIEN to accept nominations to fill 2<sup>nd</sup> ward council seat.

Nomination by James EMLAW: Jonathon GEDRICH. Roll Call Vote (6) six Yes Holly HOMSCHEK, Gary HALAGARDA, Joseph SATKOWSKI, James EMLAW, Dennis O'BRIEN, Bob DOMMERMUTH – (2) Two No Mike FULLER and Alan KIESINGER

Nomination by Mike FULLER: Kenneth COLES. Roll Call Vote: (2) Two Yes Mike FULLER and Alan KIESINGER - (6) six NO Holly HOMSCHEK, Gary HALAGARDA, Joseph SATKOWSKI, James EMLAW, Dennis O'BRIEN, Bob DOMMERMUTH

Jonathon GEDRICH to fill 2nd ward council seat.

Audience member, Michael LAMPMAN commented that good government would have been to advertise the open seat.

Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI, second by Dennis O'BRIEN to make repairs to Dodge Dump Truck. BAC Bill to evaluate repair issue w/fuel pump. The vehicle was repaired for a cost of \$498.00. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Dennis O'BRIEN, second by James EMLAW to adopt Resolution 14-2023 regarding Statewide LSA Grant Bennett Street. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Dennis O'BRIEN, second by Alan KIESINGER to adopt Resolution 15-2023 regarding Statewide LSA Grant Street Improvements. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Dennis O'BRIEN, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to adopt Resolution 16-2023 regarding Statewide LSA Grant Police Speed Enforcement Equipment. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Dennis O'BRIEN, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI at accept resignation letter from Council Member, Stanely Waleski. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Bob DOMMERMUTH, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI to adjourn the meeting at 1911HRS.

**Street Department:** Michael VOLCH and Stan SPAGNUOLO were present, nothing to report.

**Audience:** Avoca Fire Chief, Thomas MATTHEWS asked if there was anything new regarding funding for a part-time fireman. President, Holly HOMSCHEK advised that it was under review.

Kevin O'BRIEN Sr. and Michael LAMPMAN asked if they could have a copy of the Proposed 2024 Budget. Attorney BOYD approved and a copy was provided to each.

**Engineer:** Avoca Borough Engineer's Report (dated November 9, 2023) prepared 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.