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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**  Dennis O’Brien  Michael Fuller  Kyler Kovaleski  Jim Emlaw  Jonathan Gedrich  Bob Dommermuth  Gary Halagarda  Alan Kiesinger |

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**Tuesday, January 2, 2024 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHECK, presiding. The work session began at 1908HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1916HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Alan KIESINGER.

Council Members in attendance: Holly HOMSCHEK, Gary HALAGARDA, Dennis O’BRIEN, Jim EMLAW, Kyler KOVALESKI, Mike FULLER, Jonathan GEDRICH, and Alan KIESINGER. Bob DOMMERMUTH was absent.

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

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to accept the minutes from last month’s meeting. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Gary HALAGARDA to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Mike FULLER to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Alan KIESINGER 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 approve Lineco Painting Application #1 in the amount of $8,168.75 for completed work at leased parking lot. Roll Call Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Mike FULLER to promote Michael VOLCH to interim Street Department Supervisor. With a .50 cent pay increase per hour. Roll Call Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion not needed toset date for meeting with Avoca Hose Company members. Jonathan GEDRICH from Fire Committee to work with Hose Company members for a date. The meeting date was set for January 4, 2024 at Borough Building.

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to amend the budget to account for personnel changes, and to direct the solicitor to make proper publication. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Alan KIESINGER to approve membership fee of $2500.00 for 2024 as a member of the Greater Pittston Compost Facility. President HOMSCHEK questioned if the facility is utilized enough by the Borough to pay the $2500.00 fee and she was advised that it was. The facility is used year-round, it is convenient and other places would charge higher fees.

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Dennis OBRIEN to recess the meeting at 1930HRS for the swearing in ceremony.

The meeting was called back to order and there was a motion by Mike FULLER, second by Dennis O’BRIEN at adjourn at 1950HRS.

**Audience:**

Resident Michael LAMPMAN advised that he had a few questions:

* Had there been any revisions to the 2024 Proposed Budget for the Insurance and Police line items? President HOMSCHEK advised that it was being addressed with action item #6 on the agenda.
* Was there a new committee list available, and if so, could he be provided with a copy or did he need a Right to Know request? President HOMSCHEK advised that the new list was available, and it could be given out or posted.
* Asked if it could become standard practice that Committee’s provide reports at Council Meetings, if committee meetings were held and had information to report? President HOMSCHEK advised that it could be looked into.
* Asked what topics discussed in tonight’s Executive Session Meeting? President HOMSCHEK advised that personnel and legal matters were discussed.

**Council Members:**

Dennis O’BRIEN – commented about the creek area behind the former Acme Building on McAlpine Street. The catch basin in the creek needs to be cleaned out of debris build up. He was concerned about weather issues and potential flooding.

Holly HOMSCHEK – asked about the pipes in the creek past the York Ave bridge. She was advised that the pipes had been removed. Holly also advised the audience that the Street Department had their new truck in service. She welcomed new members to council and Officer DELANEY to the Borough.

Alan KIESINGER – welcomed Kyler KOVALESKI to the Avoca Borough Council. He also thanked the Hose Company members, Police and Avoca Community Committee for escorting Santa through town.

**Engineer:**

Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated January 2, 2024) 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 Officers, Jonathan ALAIMO and Joseph DELANEY were also present at the meeting.

Officer Joseph DELANEY was sworn in as a full-time Avoca Police Officer during the swearing in ceremony.