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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**

**Thursday, February 8, 2024 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHECK, presiding. The work session began at 1841HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1845HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Jonathan GEDRICH.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Mike FULLER to renew Equipment Breakdown Policy (Hartford - Boiler and Machinery) – expires 03/31/2024 – expire Premium $728, renewal Premium $769. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to enroll in Co-Stars program for August 2024 – July 2025 Season – due March 15, 2024. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Dennis O’BRIEN, second by Alan KIESINGER to appoint new representative to Greater Pittston

Compost – next meeting March 7, 2024. O’BREIN nominated Alan KIESINGER as representative, Alan declined. Holly

HOMSCHEK nominated Jonathan GEDRICH, Jonathan declined. Holly then nominated Dennis O’BRIEN and he did accept

the nomination. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Dennis O’BRIEN, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to approve portable toilet at Flats fields beginning mid- March 2024 through mid- November 2024. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Jonathan GEDRICH for the Borough to give Avoca Hose Company a one-time $5000.00 donation toward Fund Raising Event. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes – Gary HALAGARDA abstain.

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Dennis O’BRIEN for theBorough to give Avoca Ambulance Association a one-time $5000.00 donation toward Fund Raising Event. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes – Gary HALAGARDA abstain.

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to read and accept amendments to 2024 Avoca Borough Budget**.** Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Bob DOMMERMUTH, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to select the Professional Services of Penn Eastern Engineering for the Cavalari Street Drainage and Roadway Improvement Project based on scoring results and direct solicitor to prepare/review related contract. Roll Call Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Dennis OBRIEN to adjourn the meeting at 1900HRS.

**Audience:** No comments from the audience.

**Street Department**: Michael VOLCH was present at the meeting**.** Nothing to report.

**Council Members:**

Holly HOMSCHEK – neighbors in the area Walnut Street are reporting issues with the sewer at 836 Walnut Street. Residents are dumping water in the clean out in the yard. Sewerage in yard and neighboring yard. Holly requested that BHW be contacted to check into the matter. BHW was advised of issue on 02/09/2024.

**Engineer:**

Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated February 8, 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 Officer, Jonathan ALAIMO was also present at the meeting.