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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, March 14, 2024 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHECK, presiding. The work session began at 1851HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1904HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Alan KIESINGER.

Council Members in attendance: Holly HOMSCHEK, Gary HALAGARDA, Dennis O’BRIEN, Jim EMLAW, Jonathan GEDRICH, Alan KIESINGER and Kyler KOVALESKI. Bob DOMMERMUTH and Michael FULLER were 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 Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to accept the minutes from last month’s meeting. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Alan Kiesinger, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Alan KIESINGER to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to accept police report prepared by Chief HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor MULLEN. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Dennis O’BRIEN toaccept Charles DUDDEK application for part-time Street Department assistance, when needed. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes (2) Two Absent

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to sign proposal with Kuharchik for traffic signal – Response Maintenance. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Dennis O’Brien to decline proposal with Kuharchik for traffic signal – Preventative Maintenance. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes (2) Two Absent

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to donate to Duryea Wild Cats Varity Bingo Fundraiser Amount $100.00.  Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Dennis O’Brien, second by Alan KIESINGER to approve request for a time extension for the

preliminary design for the Multimodal Main and McAlpine Intersection project. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Alan KIESINGER tocontinue Paper Shred Event – county paying 50%,

3-hour event would cost $1500.00 with Paper Eaters – Borough cost $750 - doesn’t have to be on a weekend. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes (2) Two Absent

Motion by Dennis O’BRIEN, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to make 3rd and final payment of $100.00 to Sustainable Fund Campaign of the Pittston Memorial Library. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to approve Therese and Sandy to work with Fidelity Bank to set up credit card payments for Refuse Fee. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Dennis O’Brien to renew Quickbooks – price $649.00. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to donate $200.00 to Greater Pittston Friendly sons of St. Patrick scholarship fund (2022 and 2023 gave $200.00). Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Alan KIESINGER to donate $100.00 to GPA Little League. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Dennis O’BREIN, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to accept updated camera system proposal for Borough Building (CVI quote $9,177.00). Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Dennis O’BRIEN, second by Alan KIESINGER to renew Mecadon Oil Co. – oil burner service contract - price $199.95. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to purchase York Rake for use at Little League from Tru Value Tunkhannock (cost $800). Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

**Audience:**

Resident, Connie PARADIS- lives in the residence next to Borough Building lot. PARADIS family is asking permission to install a handicap lift along the wall in the lot. The Borough is concerned about liability risks associated with lift. Borough asked family to provide specs for the lift and the solicitor will investigate the matter on the Borough end.

Fire Chief, Tom MATTHEWS asked about the former Laura Fashions Building on Main Street and where things stand with it, after it was condemned. The council instructed the secretary to contact BHW for an up-date. The secretary did contact BHW, and they will have someone follow up with it.

Chief MATTHEWS also advised that the former Henny MEADE building next to 737 Main is also up for sale now.

Chief MATTHEWS questioned where things were at with the Borough requiring property managers for the buildings owned by out-of-area landlords. The council had discussed the matter previously, but nothing was put into action. The secretary was instructed to forward a copy of the Dupont ordinance regarding property managers to the solicitor. The Dupont ordinance was forwarded on 03/15/2024, along with a copy of the Moosic ordinance regarding property registrations.

Chief MATTHEWS again questioned if the rental inspections had been discussed or looked into any further. Copies of other Borough ordinances had previously been forwarded to the solicitor.

Resident, Jules ZUCHERWIA asked if there were any Police Officers in the Borough that were trained in crisis intervention. And if not, why? He related that there are too many officers who take the badge too seriously and override their power. He related that he had an incident with an officer and that officer needs to learn how to talk with people instead of screaming. Chief HOMSCHEK advised that there is a task force that is trained in crisis intervention, and Officer ALAIMO added that they do receive yearly training. President HOMSCHEK reported that there were also crisis lines available by calling 211 and Councilman HALAGARA added that number 988 could also be contacted.

**Street Department**: Michael VOLCH and Stan SPAGNUOLO were present at the meeting**.**

**Council Members:** Jim EMLAW inquired about the garbage cans around town. He was advised that (2) two had been set out – (1) one by Main Pool and the other at the BAC lot at corner of Vine and Main Streets. Those cans, as well as others around town, are emptied weekly by the Street Department.

**Engineer:** Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated March 14, 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.

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to adjourn the meeting at 1934HRS.