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Robert Mullen

Solicitor
Atty. Matthew G. Boyd
Ufberg & Associates

Chief of Police
David Homschek

Secretary
Sandra Van Luvender

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President
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Dennis O'Brien

Michael Fuller

Kyler Kovaleski

Jim Emlaw

Jonathan Gedrich

Bob Dommermuth

Gary Halagarda

Alan Kiesinger

AVOCA BOROUGH

Thursday, April 11, 2024 – Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, April 11, 2024, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHEK, presiding. The work session began at 1848HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1852HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Gary HALAGARDA.

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

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

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Alan KIESINGER to accept the minutes from last month's meeting. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Mike FULLER to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Dennis O'BRIEN to accept police report prepared by Chief HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor MULLEN. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Mike FULLER to decline Textmygov proposal (\$3600.00 per year – 3-year commitment). Roll Call: (8) Eight Yes – Bob DOMMERMUTH abstain.

Motion by Bob DOMMERMUTH, second by Mike FULLER to appoint Alan KIESINGER as the Landbank representative. Roll Call: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to donate \$100.00 to Meals on Wheels. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Jim EMLAW to approve handicap parking space at 921 South Street, Avoca. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Dennis O'BRIEN, second by Jim EMLAW to approve Amazon Business Prime Membership – save on shipping costs – cost \$179.00. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to donate \$100.00 to Pittston Area Golf Team- Golf Tournament 07/15/2024. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to purchase (4) four new tasers for Police Department – quote from Axon Enterprises \$20,189.60 from the Rescue Fund. Roll Call Vote: (8) Eight Yes – Holly HOMSCHEK abstain.

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to purchase utility trailer for Street Department to replace current one for hauling equipment – cost not to exceed \$4000.00 – to be paid from Rescue Fund. Roll Call Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Audience:

Alan GORDAN wanted to voice his concerns about happenings at 1006 Clark Street (Carl ROSA property). GORDAN wanted to report that ROSA is storing a large quantity of paint in his garage and there is 250-gallon propane tank just outside of the garage. GORDAN asked if ROSA had any permits for running a business from his garage and were the conditions safe.

GORDAN also questioned the number of dogs at the ROSA house and if he was running a breeding business from the house. Secretary VAN LUVENDER did make calls to Zoning and EMA about the issues at this property.

Connie PARADIS was looking for an update on chair lift at neighboring property. Attorney DEMPSEY advised that he did receive the specs, but there was still a question on the property lines and if zoning would allow crossing of the lines. PARADIS believed that they owned the wall, but it appeared they did not, and property line ran close to their house. President HOMSCHEK commented about the liability issue still being the main factor. PARADIS reported that they would be willing to sign a waiver.

Fire Chief, Tom MATTHEWS asked about the status of the former Laura Fashions Building – 737 Main Street. He was advised that calls had been placed to BHW regarding the building, but no new information to report.

Chief MATTHEWS also asked about the ordinance for rentals inspections. He was advised that the ordinance was in the draft stage and would most likely be on next month's agenda.

Council Members:

Council member, Kyler KOVALESKI noted that he appreciated the work done by all on the sign at the creek on McAlpine Street. President HOMSCHEK supervised students from Pittston Area who assisted in cleaning up the area and Mayor Mullen repainted the sign.

Street Department: Stan SPAGNUOLO was present at the meeting.

Engineer: Avoca Borough Engineer's Report (dated April 11, 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 Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Dennis O'BRIEN to adjourn the meeting at 1926HRS.