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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, May 9, 2024 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, May 9, 2024, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHECK, presiding. The work session began at 1846HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1854HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Jonathan GEDRICH.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion by Bob DOMMERMUTH to table remaining or withdrawing from Northeast Pa Land Bank Authority, pending further review and information. Roll Call Vote (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Dennis O’BREIN, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to authorize PennEastern Engineers, LLC to provide professional services for the 2024 EDCDI Grant – Gedding Street Sewer and Road Project.  Services include providing the required surveying and engineering services for preparing contract documents, construction plans and Penn DOT Highway Occupancy Permit application.  Services also include inspection, construction management and assisting with the grant administration. Roll Call Vote (8) Eight Yes

Motionby Dennis O’BRIEN, second by Jim Emlaw to approve/adopt the Garbage and Refuse Collection Ordinance # 5 of 2024. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Dennis O’BRIEN toapprove/adopt the Rental Property Inspection and Occupancy Ordinance #6 of 2024. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Bob DOMERMUTH to approve/adopt the Failure to Receive Real Estate Tax Notice Ordinance # 7 of 2024. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

Motion by Dennis O’BRIEN, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to hire Part-Time Police Officer, Eric DANAHER pending MPOETC Certification and Background Investigation. Voice Vote: (8) Eight Yes

**Audience:**

Jules ZUCHERWIA was again in the audience to question Crisis Intervention Training for the Avoca Police. Sergeant HALFORD took time after the meeting to explain the training received and the procedures followed.

**Street Department**:

Michael VOLCH and Stan SPAGNUOLO were present at the meeting**.** SPAGNUOLO advised that he did attend the Compost Meeting on May 2, 2024. The Compost site will remain open and operating. They did discuss a pay increase for workers and new employee, Jody MITCHELL will be assisting.

**Council Members:**

Council member, Gary HALAGARDA wanted to remind all about the Touch-a-Truck Event sponsored by the Avoca Hose Company on May 11, 2024, at MACKAREY Building on McAlpine Street.

Council Member, Mike FULLER spoke about coordinating the Farmer’s Market again this year. The plan was to start on Wednesday, July 10, 2024.

Council Vice President, Dennis O’BRIEN mentioned getting pricing for HazMat suits for flooding situations in the Borough. Rescue Funding could be used to purchase the suits. Fire Chief MATTHEWS to get pricing.

**Engineer:**

Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated May 9, 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).

Motion by Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to adjourn the meeting at 1914HRS.