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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, November 14, 2024 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHECK, presiding. The work session began at 1845HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1855HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Gary HALGARDA.

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

Also in attendance: Mayor Robert MULLEN, Attorney Jordan DEMPSEY, Borough Engineer, Paul PASONICK, Police Chief Dave HOMSCHEK, Police Sergeant James HALFORD, Police Officer Jonathan ALAIMO, Street Department. Michael VOLCH and Secretary, Sandra VAN LUVENDER.

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Mike FULLER to accept the minutes from last month’s meeting. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

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

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

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to accept police report prepared by Chief HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor Robert MULLEN. Voice Vote: (7) Sevent Yes

Motion by Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to continue membership in PA Association of Boroughs – annual fee $378.00. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to continue membership in PA Association of Mayors – annual fee $60.00. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to donate to PA Baseball Booster Club – have donated $100 in past. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Jonathan GEDRICH: Due to Avoca Ambulance Association’s decision to cease emergency medical services operations and merger with Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance, accept Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance as the Borough’s emergency medical services provider. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Mike FULLER to renew membership with Pittston Chamber of Commerce Dues $250.00, $100.00 to scholarship fund – total renewal $350.00. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to continue membership in the Greater Pittston Compost Commission. Annual fee $2500.00. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Jonanthan GEDRICH to hire Joshua Seguine as a part-time police officer, pending a background check and meeting the state certification requirements. Voice Vote: (6) Six Yes, Holly HOMSCHEK abstain

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to accept the First Reading of the 2025 Proposed Budget. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Jim EMLAW to adopt Resolution 8 of 2024application for Luzerne County LSA Grant program to DCED:

- Police Body Worn Camera System and In-Car Camera System with warranties, and subscriptions $105,822.90 – to assist Borough Police Department with investigations and gathering evidence.

- Utility Terrain Vehicle - $33,395.50 – to assist Borough emergency service agencies with search and rescue, and Borough Road Department with conducting general maintenance.

Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion byKyler KOVALESKI, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH totrade in old shotguns and purchase (4) four new shotguns for the Police from Rescue Fund. (4) shotguns and ammunition $ 1,446.70. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six Yes, Holly HOMSCHEK abstain

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to update Police Report Software (includes 3 years of support) $14,911.97. Money to come from Rescue Fund. The original cost share was estimated at $80,000 per department. Pittston City assisted with obtaining a grant to reduce cost share. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six Yes, Holly HOMSCHEK abstain

Motion by Bob DOMMERMUTH, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to affirm all personnel matters taken by the Borough since the last Borough Council Meeting. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Jim EMLAW to shop for Utility Vehicle that can be used by Emergency Services and Street Department in the Borough – cost to be at or below $14,176.00 from Rescue Fund. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes

**Audience:**

**Fire Chief Tom MATTHEWS:** asked for an update on Code Enforcement. President HOMSCHEK advised that BHW started to work on things, but not where we want to be with them.

**Janice and Bill DOWDELL 606 Grove Street Avoca:** Janice and Bill wanted to pass on their thanks and appreciation for all the Borough did to obtain the grant for the Bennett Street Wall Project. Paul PASONICK advised that the project would start in late spring/early summer 2025.

**Kevin O’BRIEN 1002 William Street Avoca**: requested a copy of the proposed 2025 Budget. He was provided with a copy. Kevin also asked about the grant projects listed on the agenda. President HOMSCHEK explained that the ones listed are for in-car and body cameras for the Police and a larger UTV to be used by all emergency services. The previous camera grant was for license plate readers to be placed on Main Street.

**Council:**

**Kyler KOVALESKI –** Thank you to the Fire Department for sponsoring the Hoagie Sale. Thank you to the Avoca Ambulance for all their years of service.

**Street Department**: Michael VOLCH present. Nothing to report.

**Engineer:** Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated November 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).

Motion by Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Mike FULLER to adjourn the meeting at 1925HRS.