|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 13, 2025 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, March 13, 2025, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHECK, presiding. The work session began at 1845HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1851HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Allen KIESINGER.

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

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

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to accept the minutes from last month’s meeting. Voice Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Bob DOMMERMUTH, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to accept police report prepared by Chief HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor Robert MULLEN. Voice Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to renew service with Biros Utilities for portable toilet at Flatts from mid-March through mid-November – price to remain at $95 per month. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to approve Panzitta Construction Payment Application #2 in the amount of $20,250.00 and Payment Application #3 (Final) in the amount of $8,810.00 for work at the Avoca Community Center. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Jonathan GEDRICHto adopt/amend an Ordinance regarding **Quality of Life for Residents** in the Avoca Borough. This Ordinance amends the existing Quality of Life Ordinance to provide the Avoca Borough with the authority to abate unsafe structures within the Avoca Borough. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six YES

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Alan KIESINGER to adopt/amend an Ordinance regarding **Sewer Connection and Use** in the Avoca Borough. This Ordinance amends the existing Sewer Connection and Use Ordinance by raising the permit fee for plumbing work from $50.00 to $100.00. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six YES

Motion byKyler KOVALESKI, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to adopt/amend an Ordinance regarding **Avoca Hose Co. No. 1 to Remit Invoices for Services Rendered** in the Avoca Borough. This Ordinance authorizes the Avoca Hose Co. No. 1 to recover reasonable costs expended for the emergency services they provide. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six YES

Motion by Bob DOMMERMUTH, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to table Astound Internet proposal for internet/phone services at Borough Building, Garage and Little League. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six YES

Motion by Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Kyler KOVALESKI tosign new contract with BHW Construction Services, Inc. to provide permitting, plan review, and inspection and Building Code enforcement services for the Avoca Borough. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six YES

**Audience:**

**Fire Chief Tom MATTHEWS** again asked for an update of the part time fireman position. President, Holly HOMSCHEK related that she spoke with Duryea officials, and they are still working on rules and mapping out how it will work, as far as staffing and rotating.

Chief MATTHEWS advised that he spoke with the Fire Chief in Duryea, and he knew nothing about Duryea working with Avoca. The Duryea Chief reported that they (2) two guys on the Duryea shifts. Chief MATTHEWS explained that (17) seventeen municipalities in Luzerne County have raised taxes in order to support Fire Department Programs. As leaders in our community, he wanted council to be aware that there may come a time when the fire department can’t get out for calls or continue to operate because of manpower and funding issues. He doesn’t want to see the fire department fold like the Avoca Ambulance did.

Chief MATTHEWS also asked if the Fire Department could be part of the future budget talks as Duryea has the fire department as part of their budget committee.

President HOMSCHEK related that she was told the Duryea Departments were not ready to go with paid personnel, but she would reach out again.

**Jason GIOMBONI from EXP Realty 639 Main Street Avoca –** Jason asked if there was any new information on the parking lot once leased by the Borough in the 600 block of Main Street. Jason explained when he purchased his business, he was told that the Borough owned the lot. President HOMSCHEK advised that the Borough tried to purchase the lot years ago and the owner refused to sell. The Borough then entered a lease with the owner, and it was no longer feasible. Jason asked if the Borough would be willing to assist again with a lease. President HOMSCHEK advised that she heard that the owner was under contract with someone to sell the lot.

Cody MEREDICK from Mammoth Recycling attended the meeting to inform the council of an Electronics Recycling Program that his company offers to the Borough. He explained that the Borough can pay a flat fee and limit the program to Avoca residents only or the Borough could host the event and have the residents pay to recycle their own items (some are free of charge). The council advised that they were willing to host the event, but the cost would have to be paid by the recycler.

**Street Department**: Michael VOLCH was present. Reported that they will get working on potholes once plant opens.

**Engineer:** Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated March 13, 2025) prepared by Paul PASONICK. (See attached)

**Police:** The Police Report was prepared by Chief David HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor Robert MULLEN. (See attached).

Council member Kyler KOVALESKI commented about all of the police activity on Main Street with the Plate and Speed readers installed. He also mentioned how nice the recent Police shirt order was.

**Compost**: Bob DOMMERMUTH attended the meeting on March 6, 2025. Nothing to report.

**Discussion**:

Tyler BRYK 1000 Rear Vine Street – stairs and parking – no suggestions offered.

Motion by Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Alan KIESINGER to adjourn the meeting at 1913HRS.