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| **Mayor**Robert Mullen**Solicitor**Atty. Matthew G. BoydUfberg & Associates**Chief of Police**David Homschek **Secretary**Sandra Van Luvender **Treasurer**Jennifer Davitt**Engineer** PennEastern Engineers, LLCPaul Pasonick | Borough of Avoca950 Main St.Avoca, Pa 18641Secretary@AvocaBorough.comTelephonesSecretary: 570-457-4947 Fax: 570-451-1750Police Department: 570-457-4011 Street Department: 570-451-0625 | **Council** **President**Holly Homschek **Vice President**Dennis O’Brien  Michael FullerKyler Kovaleski Jim Emlaw Jonathan Gedrich Bob DommermuthGary HalagardaAlan Kiesinger  |

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**Thursday, April 10, 2025 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHECK, presiding. The work session began at 1842HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1854HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Allen KIESINGER.

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

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

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

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

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to TABLE Astound Internet proposal for internet/phone services at Borough Building, Garage and Little League. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to accept renewal for Office QuickBooks – previous price $649, current renewal $999. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Mike FULLER to donate $100 to the Pittston Area Golf Team Tournament July 14, 2025. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Jim EMLAW, to donate $100 to Pittston Area Football Booster Club. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to pass Resolution 4 of 2025 to appoint Secretary Sandra VAN LUVENDER as the point of contact with Berkheimer Tax Innovations. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Jim EMLAW, to accept proposal from Summit Fire & Security to perform annual testing and maintenance on alarm system at Borough Building. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Kyler KOVALESKI toapprove Credit Card payment for repair of Community Center Scoreboard – total $285.00, includes return shipping. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Alan KIESINGER to request a 2-year time extension for the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six Yes, Jonathan GEDRICH abstained

**Audience:**

**Kevin PARKER for Astound** introduced himself to the council and explained the internet /phone services Astound was offering to the Borough. He took questions from the council and Police Chief David HOMSCHEK asked about the switchover being compatible with our current computer and cameras systems. PARKER advised that the Borough would use their current equipment, and the modems would be changed out. The new service would match that of the current Comcast one with faster speeds. Council requested that Computer Visionaries be contacted regarding the change to make sure that it could be done. Secretary VAN LUVENDER did provide PARKER with Computer Visionaries information and PARKER did make contact with Rob from Computer Visionaries regarding the switchover. Rob advised they just need the IP addresses that Astound would assign and Rob makes the changes in the existing systems/equipment which will cover the Internet and cameras.

**Joseph DEANGELO** 255 Lampman Street Avoca **–** Mr. DEANGELO relate that for two and a half years he has been told that Lampman Street is being paved. There is a large pothole in front of his driveway, and it keeps opening no matter how many times it is filled. He asked if there was anything that could be done. He asked if there was any way to put millings in front of his house.

**Jill TIGUE** 286 Gedding Street Avoca – Mrs. TIGUE also asked if there was anything that could be done on Gedding Street. She was aware that it would be paved in the future, but now there are several large potholes, and she blew a tire in one of them. She reported that there is no way to avoid them when cars are coming up and down.

President HOMSCHEK advised that the holes could be filled temporarily, and it would be addressed Friday, April 11,2025. In the meantime, she would continue to work with Paul PASONICK, the Borough Engineer, to move things along on Gedding Street and see if there was anything that could be done on Lampman Street.

 **Fire Chief Tom MATTHEWS** – Chief MATTHEWS asked if there was anything on funding for a paid driver. He advised that Duryea approved their (2) paid guys. Chief MATTEWS related that the question is if only 40% of the people from town donate yet everyone gets fire protection – if only 40% of the people from town paid for garbage collection the Borough won’t make it. He explained that a Fire Tax might not be a perfect solution, but it certainly would help keep the fire department going.

Chief MATTHEWS advised that the fire department members were currently taking ambulance training because they are assisting with more and more EMS calls. Greater Pittston seems to be working out but response times are longer. He related that the entire EMS system is shot and needs help. The State knows there is an issue, but nothing is happening. President HOMSCHEK advised that the State Representatives need to help.

Chief MATTHEWS reported that the large house fire on Main Street would have been a much different story if it had occurred on a week day during the day. There wasn’t a manpower issue because it happened on an early Sunday morning.

**Street Department**: Michael VOLCH was present. Nothing to report. VOLCH advised that they would try to address the larger potholes on Gedding and Lampman Streets with cold patch on Friday, April 11, 2025.

**Engineer:** Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated April 10, 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 Mike FULLER asked if the Borough would be supportive of the annual Farmer’s Market, if it was approved by the Queen of the Apostles Church. The council advised that they would be. Mike to check with the church, more details to follow.

Council member Alan KIESINGER wanted to thank the members of the Avoca Hose Company and neighboring departments for all of their hard work at the recent house fire on Main Street.

Motion by Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Mike FULLER to adjourn the meeting at 1928HRS.