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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**Jonathan Gedrich Michael FullerKyler Kovaleski Jim Emlaw Gary Halagarda Bob Dommermuth Alan Kiesinger William Satkowski  |

 **AVOCA BOROUGH**

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

 **Meeting Minutes**

 The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, July 10, 2025, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHECK, presiding. The work session began at 1848HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1858HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Alan KIESINGER.

Council Members in attendance: Holly HOMSCHEK, Gary HALAGARDA, Kyler KOVALESKI, Bob DOMERMUTH, Alan KIESINGER, Jonathan GEDRICH and William SATKOWSKI. Jim EMLAW and Mike FULLER were absent.

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

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to accept the minutes from last month’s meeting. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, 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 Gary HALAGARDA, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to accept police report prepared by Chief HOMSCHEK and read by Councilman Bob DOMMERMUTH. Voice Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA**,** second by Jonathan GEDRICH **to** continue with Geisinger Health Plan – renew August 1, 2026 **–** annual premium increase $18,314.00. Roll Call Vote: (6) six Yes, Holly HOMSCHEK abstain

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Jonathan GEDRICH toreplace lighting on poles in parking lot **–** Fixture Quote from Cooper Electric $916.37,plus need someone to install with bucket truck. Roll Call Vote: (7) Seven Yes

Motion by Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to adopt Resolution 6 of 2025 appointing William SATKOWSKI to the vacant, First Ward Council Seat. Roll Call Vote: (6) six Yes, William SATKOWSKI abstain

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA second by Kyler KOVALESKI to adopt Resolution 7 of 2025 appointing Council Member, Jonathan GEDRICH to Council Vice President. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six Yes, Jonathan GEDRICH abstain

Motion by William SATKOWSKI, second by Jonanthan GEDRICH to rehire part time Police Officers for second half of 2025: Mario SCOTTI, Sheri SALVO, Charles YARICK, Joshua SEGUINE, Robert MARMO, Kenneth SALVO, Ryan KACHINSKY, Jeremy J. JONES, Eric DANAHER, Edward SULIMA and Christopher FARGIONE. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six Yes, Holly HOMSCHECK abstain

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Alan KIESINGER to work with the Landbank to acquire properties on York Avenue. Roll Call Vote (7) Seven Yes

**Audience**:

Fire Chief, Tom MATTHEWS mentioned that Fire House did provide expenses as requested by the Borough. He asked if the Fire House representatives could meet with the Borough representatives to discuss expenses before 2026 Budget talks begin, possibly meet in September.

Chief MATTHEWS also advised that the 10 or 11 new junior members have joined the fire house, and the issue now was getting gear for all of them. The fire house has been swapping equipment with neighboring departments to try and help keep costs down. The fire house has in for new gear through an AFG grant but now that federal funding has been suspended, it was not likely that we would get it. The fire house does put in for every grant we could. President HOMSCHEK added that the Borough’s grant writer could also assist if needed.

Chief MATTHEWS also mentioned that he could check with EMA to see if there was any funding available for the siren. EMA representative, Kevin O’BRIEN, reported that he did not believe there was any funding available.

Mark MULLEN also asked if there was any new information on the water gear that was discussed a while back. There was no new information to report.

**Council:**

President, Holly HOMSCHEK mentioned about bringing the alert siren back in town. The old siren still sits at Borough Garage. There was some discussion about where to place the siren. Chief MATTHEWS advised that it does need (3) three phase power and Mark MULLEN added that there is some weight to it. Joey JONES advised that Dupont has an old WWII siren mounted on a pole near their Borough Building. Neighboring Borough, Duryea used LSA grant funding to get their siren back in operation. President HOMSCHEK reported that she heard the church bells at Queen of the Apostles were going to start ringing again every hour.

President HOMSCHEK mentioned some ideas for LSA grant funding: siren, fencing. She asked if anyone had any ideas.

**Street Department**: Michael VOLCH was present. Skid Steer and backhoe will be coming shortly.

**Engineer:** Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated July 10, 2025) prepared by Paul PASONICK. (See attached)

**Code Enforcement:** Joey Jones was present**.**  (29) notices given for the month – residents actively cleaning up.

**Police:** The Police Report was prepared by Chief David HOMSCHEK and read by Councilman Bob DOMMERMUTH. (See attached).

Motion by Jonathan GEDRICH, second by Alan KIESINGER to adjourn the meeting at 1929HRS.