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| **Mayor**  Robert Mullen  **Solicitor**  Elliott, Greenleaf & Dean  Atty. Matthew Boyd  **Chief of Police**  David Homschek  **Secretary**  Kelly O’Brien  **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  Bob Dommermuth  Vice President  Gary Halagarda  Michael Fuller  Joe Satkowski Jr.  John D. Boone  John Vols  Frank Marriggi  Stanley J. Waleski  Sam Diaz |

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021 – COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, August 12, 2021, with Council President, Bob Dommermuth, presiding. The work session began at 6:30p.m. The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:40p.m. and Pledge of Allegiance was said by John Boone.

Please note, there was an executive session held prior to the work session, from 6:15 until 6:30p.m. for the purpose of contract negotiations.

Council members in attendance: John Boone, Sam Diaz, Mike Fuller, Gary Halagarda, Frank Marriggi, Joe Satkowski, Stanley Waleski and Bob Dommermuth. John Vols was absent.

Also in attendance: Mayor Robert Mullen, Atty. Matthew Boyd, Engineer Paul Pasonick and Secretary Kelly O’Brien. Chief Dave Homschek was absent.

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by John Boone to accept the minutes of the July 8th, 2021 Council meeting as presented. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Mike Fuller to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: Seven ( 7 ) YES, One ( 1 ) ABSTAIN – Diaz. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by John Boone, second by Stan Waleski to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by John Boone, second by Stan Waleski to accept the July 2021 police report prepared by Chief Homschek and read aloud by Mayor Mullen. John Boone asked if 417 Grove Street was included in the “Grass & Weeds” Ordinance violation line item in the Chiefs report. Officer Alaimo advised yes & also stated that a citation was filed. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by Mike Fuller, second by John Boone to ratify the approval of the workmans comp policy renewal that will run from 8/1/21 to 7/31/22 at an annual premium of $13,877 (expiring premium $15,883). Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURS. AUGUST 12, 2021 – COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES – PAGE 2**

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Mike Fuller to make a down payment of $5000 to Mr. Mike MacKarey in order to secure the easement needed on his property for the MS4 project, contingent upon further review and approval by Solicitor Boyd. Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Mike Fuller to apply for a LSA Grant on behalf of the NorthEast Land Bank Authority, as it annually rotates to each included municipality and Avoca’s turn would be next. Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

Engineers report was prepared and presented by Paul Pasonick. See attached.

Police report was prepared by Chief Homschek and read aloud by Mayor Mullen. See attached.

In other Borough matters:

On behalf of the L.L.V.S.A., Mike Fuller thanked the Borough Council for allowing L.L.V.S.A. to use their Council room for meetings but advised they will be going back to Taylor Borough for their meetings going forward.

Gary Halagarda brought to Council’s attention as issue the fire department is having in regard to a garage that is likely on the property line of the hose company’s. Gary feels the garage is in high risk of collapsing and is causing a safety issue and would like to know if anyone had any suggestions on how to rectify the issue. After a bit of discussion, it was decided that Paul Pasonick & Atty. Boyd will look at the issue and come up with a tentative plan on how to address it.

Mr. Halagarda also addressed a fire hydrant in the 700 block of Main Street that has not been properly fixed or put back into place by the water company yet. There was a fire right across the street and the hydrant was not available. Gary feels this is a public safety risk and safety hazard. Atty. Boyd will follow up with a letter to the PA American Water Company.

Several Council members addressed police issues that had happened in town a few days prior to the Council meeting. John Boone commended the officers for a professional response and good job dealing with a high speed chase. Gary Halagarda advised on that same day, there was another chase within a small time frame of the other one Mr. Boone spoke of. Gary also commended the officers on duty for a job well done. Audience member, Alan Kiesinger, stated that he was the one who called into 911 for a suspicious vehicle that ultimately lead to the chase, and stated there was an extremely fast response from the police department.

Mr. Waleski brought up several topics. He asked if pricing was obtained for the tree hanging over on Mr. Coffee’s property from another private property owner’s land. Bob Dommermuth advised “No.” and Stan Spagnuolo from the street department said he made several calls and no one got back to him with any firm pricing. Audience member, Ron Casper, voiced his opinion that the Borough should not be paying to cut trees that aren’t Borough property and that Mr. Coffee should pay for it if the tree is hanging onto his property & it is a nuisance for him.

Mr. Waleski said he received a call from business owner John Simyan of SubDivision Hoagies, asking why the signs for 15 minute parking were taken down near his business and not put back up. Gary Halagarda advised they are not going to be put back up due to the expansion of the hose company. Gary also brought up that he and other fire department members witnessed & also have on camera Mr. Simyan dumping cooking oil in the storm drain near his business. Mr. Halagarda asked if the Borough would be obligated to report this to D.E.P and after a bit more discussion, it was decided that possibly the Borough can send a letter to Mr. Simyan advising him to stop this immediately.

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURS. AUGUST 12, 2021 – COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES- PAGE 3**

Stan Waleski stated that Mr. Haddock told him he often sees people running through the red light at the intersection of Main Street & Hawthorne Street. Mr. Waleski also gave Council an update on several properties that are up for tax sale and that the Land Bank is looking at. He also mentioned that each year, municipalities that are included in the NorthEast Land Bank Authority rotate submitting a LSA grant application on behalf of the land bank and this upcoming year would be Avoca’s turn. Stan stated that most recently, the Greater Pittston Regional Compost Facility received a LSA grant to purchase new equipment.

Ron Casper questioned Sam Diaz’s abstention on the bills to be paid. Atty. Boyd advised Mr. Casper that Mr. Diaz does not have to give a formal reason for his abstention. Mr. Casper also asked if the federal audit is still in progress, pertaining to the airport conversation that took place at the July 8th,2021 Council meeting. Bob Dommermuth told Mr. Casper he was unsure of the audit status.

Sam Diaz read a prepared letter to Council, advising everyone that he would be resigning his position as a 3rd ward Council member effective 8/31/21. After much thought and reflection with his family and after speaking with his own legal counsel, Mr. Diaz feels this is the best decision for himself.

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by John Boone to adjourn meeting at 7:17p.m. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES