

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH, 20201**

**COUNCIL MEETING – MEETING MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, February 11th, 2021 with Council President, John D. Boone, presiding. The work session began at 6:30p.m. The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:55p.m. and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Frank Marriggi.

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

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

Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Frank Marriggi to accept the minutes of the January 2021 Council meeting as presented: Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Sam Diaz to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Joe Satkowski to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Sam Diaz to accept the January 2021 police report prepared by Chief Homschek and read aloud by Mayor Mullen. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Frank Marriggi – Resolution 5 of 2021, approving the 2021 Luzerne County Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Bob Dommermuth to approve the 2021 Greater Pittston Regional Compost Facility start up cost of $2500.00. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Bob Dommermuth, second by Sam Diaz to approve the actions of the Selection Committee in regard to the Main St. & McAlpine Street Intersection Project. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Sam Diaz, second by Joe Satkowski to authorize Atty. Boyd to draft an Ordinance for the purpose of restricting parking in the 900 Block of Grove Street. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Joe Satkowski to re-hire the following part time police officers for the first quarter of 2021: Mario Scotti, Louis Taroli, Sheri Salvo, William Dubiak, Angel Brazdzionis, Nicholas Lugin, Justin Tokar, Fabrizio Bivona, Robert Marmo, Nathan Ensley, Kenneth Salvo, Ryan Kachinsky, Mario D’Ambrosio, Ed Weidow, Jacob Palonis, Stefanie Aversa, Jeremy Jones, Randy Schlatter and Justin Luciano. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by John Vols, second by Mike Fuller to purchase a Grass Cutting 54’ bagging system Z-Turn mower at a cost of $7345.00. Roll Call Vote: Four ( 4 ) YES – Fuller, Satkowski, Dommermuth, Vols

Five ( 5 ) NO – Waleski, Halagarda, Marriggi, Diaz, Boone

MOTION DENIED

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Sam Diaz to purchase a Grass Cutting 54’ bagging system Z-Turn mower when funds are available, with proper pricing, if we can find the same system from a different vendor at a lower cost. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Joe Satkowski to apply for a Luzerne County Act 13 grant for the purpose of refinishing the Community Center basketball court floor. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Joe Satkowski to dedicate & name the Community Center Basketball Court the “Anthony “Cooper” Blaskiewicz Basketball Court” in honor of Mr. Blaskiewicz who dedicated many years of service to the Community Center basketball programs & the youth of Avoca. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) 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:

Stan Waleski spoke about applying for the Luzerne County Act 13 grant, as it is open now until April 2021. The project he suggested was refinishing the Community Center basketball court floor. Mr. Waleski also suggested that the Court be dedicated & named the “Anthony “Cooper” Blaskiewicz Basketball Court” in light of Mr. Blaskiewicz’s recent passing. Mr. Blaskiewicz gave many, many years of service to the youth of Avoca & the Community Center basketball leagues and was a true role model for thousands of children that he coached. Mr. Waleski also suggested that a formal ceremony with the family be arranged once the Community Center reopens.

John Boone acknowledged the exceptional work by the street department and the police department in light of recent winter weather. Many hours of plowing snow and getting roads passable have been put in and they are doing a great job at keeping the residents of Avoca safe.

John Vols discussed purchasing a new bagging system for the street department so they can cut grass more efficiently come grass cutting season. Stan Spagnuolo of the street department provided quotes of different mowers he and Michael Volch thought would be best.

Mike Fuller expressed his gratitude on behalf of the L.L.V.S.A. for Avoca Council letting them use the building and Council room for their board meetings.

Gary Halagarda stated that one snow plow ended up out of service during one of the recent snow storms. TMD Motors was able to repair the plow quickly and he thanked them for their work. Both Gary & Bob Dommermuth volunteered to assist the street department with the snow plowing, and overall did not receive many complaints given the high snow amount totals.

Mr. Halagarda also advised Council that Avoca Borough Fire Department did not get approved for the 2020 LSA Grant that was submitted, as it was understood that the meeting was adjourned abruptly before Avoca’s vote came up. Gary expressed his disappointment and said that the fire department is hopeful that their 2021 LSA grant application will be considered and approved.

Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Joe Satkowski to adjourn meeting at 7:25p.m. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES