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| **Mayor**Robert Mullen**Solicitor**Atty. Matthew G. BoydUfberg & Associates**Chief of Police**David Homschek**Secretary**Kelly O’Brien**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**Bob Dommermuth **Vice President**Gary Halagarda Michael FullerJoe Satkowski Jr.Jim Emlaw Stanley Waleski Holly Homschek Dennis O’BrienAlan Kiesinger  |

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

 The regular monthly meeting of Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, December 9th, 2021 with Council President, Bob Dommermuth, presiding. The work session began at 6:30p.m. The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:55p.m. and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Frank Marriggi.

 Council members in attendance: John D. Boone, Jim Emlaw, 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, Chief Dave Homschek, Engineer Paul Pasonick and Secretary Kelly O’Brien.

 Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Stan Waleski to accept the minutes of the November 2021 regular meeting as presented: Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

 Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Jim Emlaw to pay all bills present with funds available. Voice Vote: Eight

( 8 ) YES

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

 Motion by John Boone, second by Joe Satkowski to accept the November 2021 police report prepared by Chief Homschek and read aloud by Mayor Mullen. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

 Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Joe Satkowski to set the regular monthly Council meeting dates for the 2022 calendar year – regular meetings will be every 2nd Thursday of the month with the work session beginning at 6:30p.m. with the exception of the January 2022 meeting that will be held on Monday, January 3rd, 2022 in coordination with the bi-annual reorganization meeting. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURS. DEC. 9TH, 2021**

**MEETING MINUTES – PAGE 2**

 Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Mike Fuller to set the 2022 refuse see schedule as follows:

Jan 21- Feb 20th (Discount Period) $165 per unit

Feb 21st – March 20th (Base Period) $170 per unit

March 21st – April 20th (Fee w. penalty) $180 per unit

April 21st – May 20th (Fee w. penalty) $190 per unit

May 21st – June 21st (Fee w. penalty) $200 per unit

Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

 Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Jim Emlaw – Ordinance 1 of 2022, fixing the tax rate at 3.1 mills for the 2022 calendar year. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

 Motion by Jim Emlaw, second by Frank Marriggi – Ordinance 2 of 2022, re-enacting the wage tax ordinance without substantial change from the original wage tax ordinance enacted June 29th, 1962 (1%). Voice Vote: Eight

( 8 ) YES

 Motion by Jim Emlaw, second by Mike Fuller – Ordinance 3 of 2022, re-enacting the Local Service Tax (LST Tax) for 2022. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

 Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Frank Marriggi – Ordinance 4 of 2022, fixing the tax rate of 1% for the transfer or title of real estate for the 2022 calendar year. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

 Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Mike Fuller – Resolution 1 of 2022, imposing an annual tax in the amount of $75.00 on each amusement device located within the Borough of Avoca. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

 Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by Joe Satkowski – Resolution 2 of 2022, eliminating the member/employee contribution to the police pension fund for the 2022 calendar year. Mr. Boone questioned if this elimination was for all employees or just the police. Mr. Dommermuth advised it was just for the police. Mr. Boone then suggested that it should be for all employees if possible. Mr. Dommermuth said that he would look into his suggestion. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

 Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Frank Marrigg to approve insurance renewal quotes provided by Joyce Insurance (Carrier-HARIE) for general liability, auto, property, inland marine and cyber insurance policies. Total cost of renewals is $32,635 (expiring $32,583). Please note, due to extreme market increases, this total includes a $250,000 limit on the cyber policy versus a $1,000,000 limit that was in our expiring policy. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

 Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Stan Waleski to approve an annual membership fee of $2500.00 for 2022 as a member of the Greater Pittston Regional Compost Facility. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES

 Motion by John Boone, second by Mike Fuller authorizing Atty. Boyd to draft and publish an Ordinance to vacate the relevant portion of Hawthorne Street and accept/approve the Kiesinger easement. Voice 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.

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURS. DEC. 9TH, 2021**

**MEETING MINUTES – PAGE 3**

In other Borough matters:

Resident Ron Casper thanked Mr. Dommermuth for having the street department tend to the curb issue near his property and fixing the water run off issue he was experiencing.

Borough worker Stan Spagnuolo showed Council pictures of a blocked drain on York Ave. Rossi Rooter cleaned the drain and agreed that the problem was likely caused by some type of cooking grease. After a bit of discussion, Atty. Boyd advised he will send letters to the restaurants around that area reminding them it is not legal to dump anything in storm drains.

Mr. Boone acknowledged he was not at the November council meeting, but upon review he wanted to question why a payment was made in the amount of $1835.00 to the Wilkes Barre Scranton International Airport on 10/7/21. Mr. Dommermuth and Atty. Boyd advised this was the amount owed to the airport after the $10,000 advance was made to Avoca Borough in March 2015 for payroll purposes.

Stan Waleski provided a brief update on several LandBank properties.

Mr. Dommermuth closed the meeting by thanking John Boone, Frank Marriggi and John Vols for their dedication and years serving the Borough and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

 Motion by Frank Marriggi, second by John Boone to adjourn meeting at 7:10p.m. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES