|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Mayor**  Robert Mullen  **Solicitor**  Atty. Matthew G. Boyd  Ufberg & Associates  **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.  Jim Emlaw  Stanley Waleski  Holly Homschek  Dennis O’Brien  Alan Kiesinger |

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2022 – COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, April 14th, 2022 with Council President, Bob Dommermuth, presiding. The work session was called to order at 6:30p.m. The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:45p.m. and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Mike Fuller.

Council members in attendance: Jim Emlaw, Mike Fuller, Gary Halagarda, Holly Homschek, Alan Kiesinger, Dennis O’Brien, Joe Satkowski, Stanley Waleski and Bob Dommermuth.

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

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Dennis O’Brien to accept the minutes of the March 2022 Council meeting as presented. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

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

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

Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Alan Kiesinger to accept the March 2022 police report prepared by Chief Homschek and read aloud by Mayor Mullen. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Holly Homschek, second by Jim Emlaw to approve a request from the Wyoming Valley Adult Baseball League to use the flats field for recreational baseball games as needed. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Dennis O’Brien, second by Joe Satkowski – Ordinance 8 of 2020, adopting the amended and restated Borough of Avoca Police Employee Pension Plan, for the purpose of officially adopting the amended plan in compliance with Act 600. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURS. APRIL 14, 2022**

**MEETING MINUTES – PAGE 2**

Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Dennis O’Brien to table a decision to award or reject a bid proposal from Lineco Painting in the amount of $8,168.75 regarding the 630 Main Street Parking Lot Improvements Project. Roll Call Vote: Nine ( 9 )

Motion by Alan Kiesinger, second by Mike Fuller – Ordinance 7 of 2022, adopting a mutual aid agreement between Avoca Borough and Hughestown Borough Police Departments. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Jim Emlaw to approve a donation request in the amount of $100.00 from the Pittston Area Wrestling Booster Club.

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

Police Report was prepared by Chief Homschek and real aloud by Mayor Mullen. See attached.

In other Borough matters:

There was some discussion about a fence being needed at the Plane Street Park after Jim Emlaw brought up that he sees kids walking on the wall which is very high off the ground and is a serious safety issue, fearing someone will get seriously injured. Paul Pasonick will look at the concerns and advise on any suggestions.

Stan Waleski updated Council on the latest compost facility and Land Bank information. The compost center is up and running, the new loader is operational and there are millings and materials available to the Borough if needed. Regarding the Land Bank, Stan advised the deed for the property on Lehigh Street was acquired and will be demolished, the properties on Plane Street and Third Street are ready to sell and the Land Bank received $500,000.00 from COVID grant money for various projects. He also said this year will be Avoca’s turn to apply for an LSA Grant on behalf of the Land Bank & it is an exciting time.

Mike Fuller reminded everyone there is financial assistance available to anyone struggling to pay their water bills and prevent shut off’s, similar to the LIHEAP program.

Holly Homschek asked why the quote from Lineco Painting was so high. After some discussion among Council, Paul explained the scope of work and will provide everyone with an itemized breakdown of the proposal.

Jim Emlaw asked Mike Fuller if there will be a farmers market this year. Mr. Fuller responded saying he is pretty sure there will be one, he has to talk to a few people first.

Tom Matthews and Mike Lampman were in the audience on behalf of the Avoca Hose Company and they brought up a few items. Mr. Matthews began by thanking Council for their help in purchasing the new portable radios for the fire company. He also stated that the hose company would donate the old radios to the Borough, as they can be a good communication tool among workers. Mr. Lampman brought up apartments and rental units in town, asking if the apartments are being inspected and asked if the hose company can be of any help. There was a bit of discussion regarding the matter and various properties in the borough. Stan Waleski suggested Council should look at and review our Ordinances to see if they need to be updated. Mike Fuller suggested an annual inspection of apartments and rental units versus having one done every time one tenant moves out and another moves in. Mr. Matthews and Mr. Lampman closed by respectfully asking Council to consider any money that is not earmarked from the American Rescue Plan be donated to the hose company, as they are looking to replace parts & equipment on their fire truck which will cost in the area of $35,000 to $40,000. Stan Waleski advised that Luzerne County is

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURS. APRIL 14TH, 2022- COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES – PAGE 3**

also accepting applications for money they received from the American Rescue Act and suggested the hose company may want to look into that option as well.

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Mike Fuller to adjourn meeting at 7:15p.m. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES