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| **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, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2022 – COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, February 10th, 2022 with Council President, Bob Dommermuth, presiding. The work session began at 6:40p.m. The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:50p.m. and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Holly Homschek.

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, Atty. Matthew Boyd, Chief David Homschek, Engineer Paul Pasonick and Secretary Kelly O’Brien.

Please note, there was an executive session held prior to the work session from 6:30p.m. until 6:40p.m. for the purpose of discussing legal matters.

Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Joe Satkowski to accept the minutes of the January 3rd, 2022 Reorganization meeting as presented. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Alan Kiesinger to accept the minutes of the January 2022 regular Council meeting as presented. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Dennis O’Brien to pay all bills presented with funds available. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Mike Fuller to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: Nine

( 9 ) YES

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Jim Emlaw to accept the January 2022 police report prepared by Chief Homschek and read aloud by Mayor Mullen. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**THURS. FEB. 10TH, 2022 – COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES – PAGE 2**

Motion by Holly Homschek, second by Gary Halagarda to table agenda item – adopting ordinance 5 of 2022, vacating a portion of Hawthorne Street connecting to the Kiesinger property, contingent upon further review by the Borough Solicitor. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Dennis O’Brien, second by Joe Satkowski to direct Solicitor Boyd to review civil service commission requirements and impact of same for future consideration. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Stan Waleski to enter into a mutual aid agreement between Avoca Borough Police Dept and Hughestown Borough Police Dept contingent upon Solicitor’s approval of agreement terms. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Jim Emlaw, second by Mike Fuller to approve the renewal quote from Joyce Insurance in the amount of $690.00 for the Hartford Steam Boiler (Community Center) with an expiring premium of $679.00. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Motion by Jim Emlaw, second by Joe Satkowski – Resolution 3 of 2022, applying for a state wide LSA grant in the amount of $50,532.00 for a 2022 police interceptor vehicle. 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 stated that a dedication ceremony is being planned for May 29th, 2022 in honor of the Blaskiewicz family & having the basketball court named the Anothony “Cooper” Blaskiewicz Basketball Court, at the community center. Stan asked Paul Pasonick if the floor should be done by then to which Paul replied he will ask, as Council still needs to approve the final decal proof.

Mike Fuller stated that there is a new program available to all L.L.V.S.A. residents that may experience difficulty paying their water and/or sewer bills. Anyone who may need assistance can find more information by contacting the PA Department of Human Services or by visiting DHS.pa.gov.

There was a brief conversation about the recent weather that posed a flooding threat in the area of York Ave. Dennis O’Brien mentioned that he and his brother cleared drains in the Mill Creek area of McAlpine Street to help the water flow again. Gary Halagarda asked if the pipes thought to be adding to the ice jam problem are still in the Creek. Bob Dommermuth advised yes, the pipes are still there but are expected to be removed by May or June of this year.

Dennis O’Brien stated that Mr. Bob Bejeski would be interested in being the new sewer inspector due to Jack Sabitis’s resignation.

Holly Homschek asked about a tentative timeline for establishing a proposed civil service commission, as she has concerns that the police department is experiencing ongoing staffing issues & in order to maintain 24/7 coverage, a plan of action needs to be priority. Bob Dommermuth advised it would most likely take a couple of months to organize and follow through on, pending legalities, formation, applications, etc. but assured her it is a priority.

Residents Theresa & Kevin Whitman asked if more information could be provided on an agenda item that is proposing a revision of the current pave cut ordinance, as they had an issue in the past with a neighbor’s cuts and water impacting their property. President Dommermuth advised the change would be to allow the Borough’s street department workers to inspect road restoration instead of having PennEastern Engineers as pave cut inspectors in an effort to reorganize borough finances.

Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Jim Emlaw to adjourn meeting at 7:10p.m. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES