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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, JUNE 9TH, 2022 – COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES**

 The regular monthly meeting of Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, June 9th, 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 6:55p.m. and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Stan Waleski.

 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, Engineer Paul Pasonick and Secretary Kelly O’Brien. Chief Dave Homschek was absent.

 Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Mike Fuller to accept the May 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Gary Halagarda to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Dennis O’Brien to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

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

 Motion by Alan Kiesinger, second by Gary Halagarda to abandon the vegetated swale project (MS4 Pollutant Reduction Plan) due to not being able to secure an easement agreement between the property owner and Avoca Borough and to return the full partial payment of $72,800.00 that was advanced to Avoca Borough back to the Commonwealth of PA. Roll Call Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES, One ( 1 ) NO – O’Brien

MOTION CARRIED

 Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Dennis O’Brien to authorize Atty. Boyd to advertise the draft ordinance regarding forming a Civil Service Commission. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

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**MEETING MINUTES – PAGE 2**

 Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Dennis O’Brien to accept Lineco Painting’s bid proposal of $8,168.75 regarding the 630 Main Street parking lot improvements project. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES, One ( 1 ) NO – Homschek

Please note, Mrs. Homschek did not feel she had enough information regarding what the property owner’s intentions were regarding the parking lot after the lease expires.

 Motion by Mike Fuller, second by Alan Kiesinger to invite a representative from Astound to present to Council their cable franchise proposal at a future Council meeting, preferable July or August. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Gary Halagarda, second by Joe Satkowski to re-hire the following part time police officers for the 3rd quarter of 2022: Mario Scotti, Sheri Salvo, Charles Yarick, Angel Brazdzionis, Kevin Santos, Fabrizio Bivona, Robert Marmo, Kenneth Salvo, Ryan Kachinsky and Jeremy J. Jones. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

 Motion by Stan Waleski, second by Mike Fuller to approve the renewal of the Geisinger Health Plan / Medical Insurance at an annual premium of $103,038.72 (expiring $98,601.36) and term will run 8/1/22 to 7/31/23. Voice Vote: Eight ( 8 ) YES, One ( 1 ) ABSTAIN – Homschek

MOTION CARRIED

 Motion by Jim Emlaw, second by Joe Satkowski to let local GPA and Township Teener’s baseball teams use the flats field as needed for home games. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES

Engineer’s 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:

Resident Mike Lampman asked Council if there was an Ordinance requiring house addresses to be property displayed on the home to which Council answered to the best of their knowledge, no. Mr. Lampman also asked if there was any recent talk about development or interest in the old Kerr McGee property. Holly Homschek told Mr. Lampman that she had been in contact with a representative of the GreenField Trust, who manages the property, about a possible donation of land agreement pending all environmental clearances. Mr. Waleski added some background information to the conversation and suggested if anyone where to purchase or somehow otherwise acquire the land, the north end would have to be thoroughly dug & cleaned up and also include a possible stipulation of infrastructure agreement so that land does not just sit idle. After a bit of discussion, it was agreed that if that land can somehow be turned into something positive, it would be a good thing for our town.

Stan Waleski gave Council an update of the latest LandBank activity, stating that the properties on Plane Street and Third Street should be settled soon. There are plans to demo the property on LeHigh Street and possibly the Plane Street property before it is officially under new ownership. The next judicial sale is scheduled for August 12th and Mr. Waleski asked Mrs. O’Brien to notify him and the LandBank Authority should we get any paperwork about the sale. Mr. Waleski also stated that the recent ceremony held at the Community Center in honor of Anthony “Cooper” Blaskiewicz was a success and well attended. He thanked Council members Holly Homschek, Dennis O’Brien and Alan Kiesinger for attending and also gave a big thank you to Micky Volch & Stan Spagnuolo for helping get the gym ready.

There was a bit of discussion on the parking lot the Borough is currently leasing at 630 Main Street. Stan Waleski gave some background, saying when PNC Bank left, the bank was asked if they would consider donating the parking lot to the Borough however, they declined and stated they wanted to keep all 3 parcels (building and both parking lots) as a whole to sell.

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**MEETING MINUTES – PAGE 3**

Gary Halagarda made Council aware that after a long wait, the AED machines for the Borough building and the borough garage were received and installed. The street department will follow up on the upkeep of the machines, testing the batteries every 6 months as required. Mr. Waleski stated that the Jolly Boys are still going to purchase an AED machine separately for the community center, as they are looking into different pricing.

Dennis O’Brien expressed his opinion, stating that the Borough needs a street commissioner as he feels someone needs to be in charge. Mr. Dommermuth stated that both full time borough workers are working fine together and there isn’t an immediate need for a commissioner in his opinion, but suggested a roads committee meeting to further discuss.

Holly Homschek said she had several complaints from residents in the area of Skytop Drive, stating there are swarms of bees disturbing the peace so much that residents can not enjoy being outside. It is suspected the bees are coming from a property that is harvesting honey. Atty. Boyd advised the Borough does not currently have any authority or ordinance to address the bees but suggested the residents file a complaint with the Luzerne County zoning if it is suspected that the homeowner is running a honey business out of their home. Holly also stated that she has had complaints about people parking on the sidewalks, mainly on McAlpine Street and Main Street where pedestrians can not safely get by on the sidewalks, kids riding their bikes and/or people with baby strollers would have to go out into the road. After some discussion, Patrolman Alaimo stated that the parking is a concerning safety issue however, if signage is not installed a ticket can not be given. Atty. Boyd will also follow up on the current parking ordinance to see if it needs to include updated language.

Before the official vote on abandoning the vegetated swale project, Mike Fuller asked if there was any other possible way or alternative to move forward with this project/grant. Most of Council voiced their displeasure with not being able to proceed as anticipated however, they understand that there are circumstances beyond their control. Eminent domain was briefly mentioned however, Atty. Boyd advised that would likely be a very lengthy situation and could possibly end up costing the Borough more money than what was originally anticipated.

 Motion by Joe Satkowski, second by Holly Homschek to adjourn meeting at 7:35p.m. Voice Vote: Nine ( 9 ) YES