

**AVONDALE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
June 17, 2008**

**Members Present:** Fred Bryan, Glenn Allen, Bob Cleveland, Pat Longen, Steve Frye, Patrick Harrison  
Sali Cosford Parker

**Guests Present:** Glenn Diehl, Jamie MacCombie, Dave Friedman, Michelle Steele, Pete Lau,  
Tom Lowry, Nick Fabricatore, Rachael Pilgrin – Avon Grove Sun

After the Pledge of Allegiance, President Bryan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**EEMA REPORT**

Bill Reilly gave the following report:

**OPERATIONS REPORT FOR MAY**

Wastewater Treatment Plant Flows:

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Total Monthly Flow | 7,323,000 gallons |
| Daily Flows Min.   | 170,000 gallons   |
| Daily Flows Max.   | 372,000 gallons   |
| Daily Flows Avg.   | 236,000 gallons   |

**NEW GARDEN WEEKLY FLOWS (gpd)**

| <b>WEEK</b>      | <b>4/30 – 5/7</b> | <b>5/7 – 5/14</b> | <b>5/14 – 5/21</b> | <b>5/21 – 5/28</b> | <b>5/28 – 6/4</b> |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ROUTE 41</b>  | 41,480            | 42,116            | 42,284             | 39,669             | 44,051            |
| <b>RAIL ROAD</b> | 54,170            | 57,877            | 68,134             | 60,124             | 55,755            |
| <b>Total</b>     | 96,650            | 99,993            | 110,418            | 99,793             | 99,806            |

**Total New Garden Average Flow for the Month: 101,132 gallons per day**

- Removed 24,000 gallons of sludge from Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- May 3, 2008 influent was black for 6 to 8 hours. (Investigation showed coming from manhole on Pennsylvania Avenue and Ellicott Avenue.

**MAINTENANCE REPORT**

- There was (3) three PA One Calls.
  - 242 Church Street
  - One we called in for Dry Cleaner's.
  - 15 Miller Drive
  
- There were (6) six Water Action Request forms.
  - 510 Chatham Street
  - Dry Cleaner
  - 403 Church Street
  - 513 Pennsylvania Avenue
  - 215 Chatham Street

WATER QUALITY REPORT:

| <b>Water System</b>  |           | <b>Well #1</b> | <b>Gallons/Day</b> | <b>Well #2</b> | <b>Gallons/Day</b> |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Well #1</b> | 2,778,600 | Minimum        | 51,500             | Minimum        | 10,900             |
| <b>Total Well #2</b> | 674,800   | Maximum        | 174,800            | Maximum        | 47,800             |
| <b>Total:</b>        | 3,453,400 | Average        | 95,814             | Average        | 23,269             |
| <b>Avg. gpd</b>      | 119,083   |                |                    |                |                    |

OPERATIONS REPORT:

- After repairing water leaks at the dry cleaners and under the bridge at the start of May, the water distribution seems to be back to normal which is between 100,000 and 120,000 gallons per day.

PERMIT VIOLATIONS:

No permit violations for the month.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Jamie MacCombie gave the following report:

INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO)

Received the information for the fire company from Russ Kilmer and wrote a draft letter to the ISO for Council's review.

I & I STUDY

The Study is continuing and the sewer project is moving forward. We are in the process of gathering information for adding a commonator to prevent the influent pumps from clogging. We are still in the process of getting a permit from DEP to cross the stream.

FLOOD PLAIN ORDINANCE UPDATE

Information was given to Mr. Diehl and he is in the process of updating the ordinance.

FLASHING LIGHTS – FIRE COMPANY

The Plan will be delivered to PennDOT and then the Borough will receive the permit. The cost to do the project is \$21,500.00. This issue has been discussed with Wilkinson.

DCED GRANT – WATERLINE REPLACEMENT ON STATE STREET

90% of the surveying is done and the plans have started to be drawn. The County requires the plans by September and after they approve we will then be ready to go out to bid.

CDBG GRANT APPLICATION

The application was submitted to the County. This project is a continuation of the DCED Grant which includes replacing existing water mains in State Street from the railroad to Pennsylvania Avenue, and under the State Street Bridge, and replace or repair storm drainage facilities and repair or replace failed sanitary sewer within sections of the Street to be reconstructed.

BOROUGH BUILDING REPLACEMENT

We looked at two options: The replacement of the building and the rehabilitation of the existing building. Spoke to a couple of architects and the rehabilitation of the existing building would cost around \$300.00 a square foot which comes out to \$672,000.00. The replacement with a modular is estimated at \$531,375.00.

**STORMWATER STUDY**

The study is approximately 70% done.

**SERV-PRO – PAVING PROJECT**

Herb MacCombie met with the contractor prior to the paving and he explained to the contractor what needed to be done and to notify him when they plan to start the project. The contractor notified Herb MacCombie, but the contractor was not on site. The contractor came back several days later and never notified Herb MacCombie and did the paving. Herb MacCombie inspected the project after finding out the project was done and found that they didn't do what they were supposed to do. A swale was supposed to be put in and apparently it wasn't. Herb MacCombie will follow up with this matter.

Bob Cleveland said he doesn't understand why they paved in Morris Alley. Patrick Harrison asked if the contractor had permission to pave out onto the Street. Jamie MacCombie said the whole story is that the application was submitted to his office and his office rejected the application. Tom Lowry issued the permit. Herb MacCombie spoke to the contractor as to what needed to be done; however, nothing was put in writing. Mr. Lowry said he issued the permit with conditions and they were not met.

Mr. Lowry said Herb MacCombie is waiting for a heavy rain to test to see if there is a swale in the paving that will direct the water runoff to the inlet and then he will be able to determine what corrections need to be done. (Council had concerns regarding the possibility of the property flooding across Morris Street where the paving took place) Sali Cosford Parker said if it is potentially going to cause a problem for somebody else that is all a more reason to test it before a big rainstorm. Glenn Allen said his concern with testing it and you find out there is a problem, the owner can come back and say that the test is not representative of a real rain storm and they will contest it and we will have to wait for a real rainstorm anyway. Council approved Herb MacCombie to follow up on this matter as soon as possible. Patrick Harrison asked Jamie MacCombie to contact Bob Cleveland with the findings.

**ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT**

Tom Lowry gave the following report:

**ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE**

Would like to schedule a meeting with the Planning Committee to discuss the zoning ordinance update. Sali Cosford Parker asked if a member of the Historical Commission can sit on the committee because there are issues from an historical perspective that we might want addressed in terms of the ordinance at least for recommendation and information purposes. Council agreed. Jamie MacCombie said if you update your zoning ordinance you are now required by law to update your comprehensive plan.

**EAST PENN RAILROAD**

Met with the railroad and they were given until June 23<sup>rd</sup> to produce documentation that the railroad does not have to comply with the clean streams law and with PennDOT for a road opening permit.

**AVONDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Issued a temporary certificate of occupancy and released the permits for the renovations to the existing church.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Glenn Allen gave the following report:

**APPROVE THE BILLS TO BE PAID**

The committee reviewed the bills to be paid and recommend Council's approval. Glenn Allen made a motion to approve the bills to be paid, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sali Cosford Parker, motion carried.

**APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The committee reviewed the financial statements and recommend Council's approval. Glenn Allen made a motion to approve the financial statements, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Frye, motion carried.

**2007 AUDIT**

Receive an e-mail from Vince Barbone and the stated that the audit will be completed by the end of this month.

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Sali Cosford Parker gave the following report:

The commission approved the expenditure for Bob Cleveland's book so that out of the proceeds, which are going to be earned at the book signing on July 12<sup>th</sup>, will be the property of the Historical Commission. The next meeting will be held on July 2<sup>nd</sup> instead of the July 9<sup>th</sup>. We looked at producing a quarterly newsletter and the person who is responsible for design and execution of the newsletter is Bill Parker.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Pat Longen made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2008 Council meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Allen, motion carried.

Pat Longen made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2008 Council meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sali Cosford Parker, motion carried.

Pat Longen made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2008 Special Council meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Frye, motion carried.

**STREET & STREET LIGHTS COMMITTEE**

Bob Cleveland gave the following report:

1. The Streets Committee is in the process of developing a 1, 3, and 5 year plan for repair of the streets.
2. A letter was sent to 315 New Street on May 15th – tree branches hanging over the street. The resident has not yet complied with the letter.
3. Penn Container placed a flyer on most of the borough trash receptacles on 10 Jun 2008 regarding overfilling.
4. The committee is formally requesting the sum of \$50,000, not including Liquid Fuel Funds, be provided in the 2009 borough budget for the use of streets repair. We further request that any funds not used be "carried-over" to the next fiscal year. President Bryan said this can be discussed at the budget meeting.
5. The committee has received at least four Complaint Forms, stuck in the door during off-business hours, from individuals who only mark their name as "Resident." All four of these complaints border on the absurd, are taking-up considerable time and energy to investigate, and a response to the complaint can not be given since the complainant is unknown.  
The committee is requesting Council to agree that all Complaint Forms from residents be signed so that the committee may respond to the resident after investigating the complaint. Council agreed.
6. The committee is awaiting word from either the Code Enforcement Officer, or the Borough Engineer regarding the paving of a section of Morris St. by the new owner of the former Avondale Fire Company.

**WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT**

Bob Cleveland gave the following report:

The committee is in the process of developing guidelines to follow regarding residents who request a payment plan regarding their water/sewer bills. The committee will make a recommendation to Council soon.

The committee is in the process of discussing the replacement of all the 318 water meters, both residential & commercial.

The resident at 215 Chatham St. had an outstanding water and sewer balance of \$2500. Yesterday, Jun 16th, a check was received for \$2100 of the balance. The resident requested some additional time to pay the balance of the bill. After discussion with the entire committee, it was decided to give the resident until 29 Jun 2008 to pay the balance of \$400. If the balance is not paid, the water will be disconnected on 30 Jun 2008.

As of the date of this report, the committee is still awaiting word from the borough solicitor pertaining to any action taken regarding the two illegal water/sewer usages, and any action taken regarding the past due water/sewer bill at both 90 & 91 Pennsylvania Avenue.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Glenn Allen gave the following report:

**POLICE ACTIVITIES**

The hours have been increased for the summer. They have produced enough revenues to cover half of their cost this year. Within the next couple of weeks we will be setting up a public safety meeting.

**PARKS / ENVIRONMENTAL & COMPOSTING**

Pat Longen gave the following report:

Put a new trash can at the Third Street Park and attached it to a post so it doesn't end up in the creek. The parks are in pretty good shape. Dominick turned the compost at the composting facility and he came across more snakes. Setting up a schedule so that the compost is turned every four weeks. A meeting will soon be scheduled to discuss the wood chips and the dirt piles at the Watson Park.

**OLD BUSINESS****ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE**

President Bryan said we found out from Longley Insurance that we can have two policies for accident coverage for volunteer work. This additional policy from Francis L. Dean & Associates, Inc. has disability and the policy already approved did not. Patrick Harrison made a motion to approve Francis L. Dean & Associates, Inc. accident coverage for \$200.00 per year, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Allen, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS****ZONING HEARING BOARD VACANCY**

President Bryan announced that there is a vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board due to the resignation of Sali Cosford Parker.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

Steve Frye gave the following statements:

I have been getting a lot of complaints from residents about not having much parking on Chatham Street and the number of vehicles that are parked in back of the houses, on lawns, and sidewalks. Basically, this is all over the Borough. It seems that the Borough can't solve the problem with too many people living in one house. Before I was on Council and since I have been on Council, I have been reading in the old minutes for the past four years that there was a lot of discussion about this situation and nothing seems to be getting done. There has always been a lot of talk and no action.

We have the ordinances and I have looked at quite a few of them that deal with these types of situations, but we don't seem to be enforcing them. Suggestions have been made at Council meetings and at executive sessions by our lawyer and our code officer on what we can do to handle these situations, but it seems there is no follow through on it.

Sali Cosford Parker asked Mr. Frye what specifically he wants to accomplish. Mr. Frye said houses are getting overcrowded and in some instances there are up to 12 cars parked in the yards and they are turning their yards into mud holes and the situation has gotten out of control. Ms. Parker said so we are looking for the zoning to be enforced. Steve Frye said he is looking for the ordinances to be enforced, the ordinances are there.

Steve Frye made a motion that the President of Council appoints a committee to deal with this situation. The committee will review the ordinances we have and would meet with both the Borough's lawyer and the code officer to come up with a plan which would be brought to Council for approval. The committee will report directly to Council, the committee will be called the Housing Committee and the members are Pat Longen, Steve Frye and Sali Cosford Parker., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patrick Harrison, motion carried.

Pat Longen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Frye, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Brownback  
Borough Secretary