

**AVONDALE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
September 16, 2008  
6:00 P.M.**

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

**Guests Present:** Mayor Howell, Glenn Diehl, Jamie MacCombie, Dave Friedman, Bill Reilly, Nick Fabbriatore, Tom Lowry, Lisa Angst Long, Davis Howell, Neil Land, Mike Smith, Rob Walters

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**KATHY KILMER – NOISE AT WWTP**

Kathy Kilmer said she is having a lot of noise issues from the sewer plant. The noise calmed down for a period of time and now the noise is starting up again. Sunday morning it was so loud that it sounded like metal grading on metal. Ms. Kilmer said she would like to make a recommendation that the Borough buy some kind of fast growing trees to diffuse the noise. EEMA will look into this issue.

**NEIL LAND – 301 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE**

Mr. Land said he is here to represent Lisa Angst Long who is equitable owner of 301 Pennsylvania Avenue, which is Bob Smith Contractors. We are here tonight to introduce Ms. Long and to tell you about her business in hopes that we can get Council's support for a variance she is seeking to use the entire building at 301 Pennsylvania Avenue as her business office. Ms. Long's business is an accounting firm that also provides other accessory financial services.

Tom Lowry said there was a Zoning Hearing approximately three years ago which was a reinstatement of some older variances and a clarification on a use that Bob Smith Contractors came in and applied for. The variance was granted with a condition and it was only for the use of Bob Smith Contractors business. The application from Ms. Long is basically saying they want to reopen the hearing to clarify so it can continue to be used as professional offices. Mike Smith of Bob Smith Contractors had an option to use the building as an apartment and a professional office, or just a professional office. Mr. Smith opted to use the entire building as a professional office.

Glenn Allen asked if the new use will be for one office or several offices. Mr. Land said it will be a single office, but actually two businesses. Ms. Long operates an accounting firm called L.A. Long and Associates and a business called Transition Decisions that offers financial advice to clientele. Both businesses are owned and provided by Ms. Long with the same employees.

Mr. Lowry said with a Zoning Hearing, Council has the option to remain neutral, oppose, or show support to the application. Council agreed to support the application. Mr. Lowry will relay this information to the Zoning Hearing Board.

**EEMA REPORT**

Bill Reilly gave the following report:

**OPERATIONS REPORT FOR MAY**

Wastewater Treatment Plant Flows:

Total Monthly Flow            5,620,000 gallons

Daily Flows Min.            101,000 gallons  
 Daily Flows Max.            243,000 gallons  
 Daily Flows Avg.             181,000 gallons

NEW GARDEN WEEKLY FLOWS (gpd)

WEEK	7/30 – 8/6	8/6– 8/13	8/13 – 8/20	8/20 – 8/27	8/27 – 9/3
<b>ROUTE 41</b>	*Out of Service	*Out of Service	*Out of Service	*Out of Service	
<b>RAIL ROAD</b>	8343750	838065	841480	8447573	8480016
<b>Total</b>	54,931	52,679	48,836	46,804	46,374

**\*Total New Garden Average Flow for the Month: \*Out of service for construction and flushing.**  
 The Route 41 meter was put back into service on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

- Removed 6,000 gallons of sludge from Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- August 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> exercised all water main valves.
- August 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> exercised all Borough fire hydrants.
- Completed 0 Pa One call:
- Completed 0 Water Action Forms

MONTHLY MAINTENANCE REPORT

- The #2 influent pump went out of service on 8/26/08 for a fault. La France was called in, and arrived the following day to perform service on the pump with guidance from Flygt via land line phone. La France was able to have the pump running until it failed again the following day (Thursday).
- La France also ran a temporary wire from PLC #2 to the Chlorine Analyzer. This was to give the Chlorine Analyzer a better effluent flow reading, than it was receiving.

WATER QUALITY REPORT:

Water System		Well #1	Gallons/Day	Well #2	Gallons/Day
<b>Total Well #1</b>	2,668,500	Minimum	51,600	Minimum	11,500
<b>Total Well #2</b>	660,500	Maximum	132,000	Maximum	52,500
<b>Total:</b>	3,329,000	Average	86,081	Average	21,306
<b>Avg. gpd</b>	107,387				

OPERATIONS REPORT:

- We met all water qualities with no (0) violations

PERMIT VIOLATIONS:

No permit violations for the month.

QUARRY WATER STUDY

Dave Friedman said all the results from the quarry water testing have not been finalized.

WATER METER UPGRADE

Nick Fabbriatore gave the following report:

EEMA has done 19 water meter upgrade installations. There are 12 more scheduled to be installed. During the meter installation at 602 Poplar Street, we found there are two illegal connections prior to the water meter. The connection splits off into two after the meter, one internal and one external. Mr. Fabbriatore said his recommendation is to have the homeowner hire a plumber and terminate the illegal

connection and then have it inspected by EEMA. Jerry Poe said he is the owner of the property and will have the matter resolved immediately. Mr. Poe will contact EEMA when the connection has been corrected.

### **BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Glenn Diehl gave the following report:

#### **WATER AND SEWER REGULATIONS**

Working with Jamie MacCombie's office to get this completed.

#### **CELL TOWER**

Spoke with Tom Lowry regarding the crumble zone issues and will fine tune the proposed ordinance and distribute to Council for their review. After Council approves, it will be advertised and a public hearing will be scheduled. This will be a zoning ordinance amendment so it requires a double advertisement.

### **BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Jamie MacCombie gave the following report:

#### **I & I STUDY**

This is ongoing until all the improvements are done.

#### **FLASHING LIGHTS – FIRE COMPANY**

The Borough has the permit for the flashing lights and Wilkinson made a commitment that they were going to do the installation.

#### **DCED GRANT – WATERLINE REPLACEMENT ON STATE STREET**

The draft project manual and bid package will be submitted next week to the County for their review. Copies were distributed to the Borough and EEMA.

#### **SERVPRO**

Herb MacCombie went to the site during a heavy rain storm and found that the paving job is not functioning as it was intended. The inlet that is adjacent to Servpro does take water during a small storm event. As the rain fall gets heavier, it bypasses the inlet, cuts across, and goes down the alley that is perpendicular. The water on the other side of the alley goes down the alley and fills up the inlet and pops out the pipe that is broken in the alley. Herb MacCombie met with the owner of Servpro and suggested that a portion of the alley be overlaid with a crown to prevent excess water from going down the small alley that leads to Chatham Street so the inlet will take more water. Herb MacCombie also suggested to the owner to mill a portion of the driveway to force the water to the inlet. The owner of Servpro will make the corrections.

#### **MUSHROOM EXPRESS**

The plan issues have been addressed, but they have not given a construction cost estimate so that Mr. Diehl can prepare a land development agreement.

#### **EAST PENN RAILROAD**

Received a call from Mike McAdams at DEP and he has a problem with the railroad with regard to the Emergency Management Preparedness Plan. DEP is still ascertaining whether or not East Penn needs any other approvals.

#### **WATER LINE TESTING – WILKINSON PROJECT**

Aqua Pennsylvania ran an analysis of the Borough's water line within the Borough and the water lines as currently configured will adequately provide service to the Thompson/Brown Project. If the Borough

extends the 12" water line from State Street to Thompson/Brown, fire protection can be provided for that area at 500 gallons per minute.

#### SANITARY SEWER PROJECT

Technivate submitted a bid and the price is not acceptable because it was not to specifications. The contract reads if the Borough's engineer does not like Technivate's price, the Borough has the right to go out for other bids. Mr. MacCombie did not like Technivate's bid so he received two other bids from reputable companies that were submitted as the contract specifies. The bids will not be released until Technivate submits the bids in accordance with the contract. Technivate has to be 2% higher or lower than the lowest contractor the Borough desires to use.

We were trying to get an emergency permit to cross the stream, but we got a bog turtle hit so we have to do a bog turtle study. The cost to the Borough for this study is \$1,500.00. Pat Longen made a motion to approve up to \$1,500.00 for the bog turtle study, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sali Parker, motion carried.

#### BOROUGH PROPERTY – LAND DONATED BY PYLE'S

The land donated by the Pyle's on Pomeroy Avenue is in the flood plain so the Borough can not put the dirt from Watson Park on this property.

#### ZONING HEARING BOARD APPOINTMENT – MICHAEL CLEVELAND

Sali Cosford Parker made a motion to appoint Michael Cleveland to the Zoning Hearing Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Frye, motion carried. Bob Cleveland abstained due to familial relationship and will file a written memorandum within 10 days.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Glenn Allen gave the following report:

#### APPROVE THE BILLS TO BE PAID

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

Glenn Allen made a motion to approve the financial statements, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Longen, motion carried.

#### 3% CREDIT – 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER BILLING

Glenn Allen made a motion to give a 3% refund to water and sewer customers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter billing, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sali Cosford Parke, motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pat Longen made a motion to approve the minutes from August 19, 2008 and August 26, 2008 Council meetings, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sali Cosford Parker, Patrick Harrison said in the minutes of August 26, 2008, it states that he withheld a vote without giving a reason and he would like these minutes to reflect that he was not asked to give a reason, but a reason was submitted to the Secretary on September 12<sup>th</sup>, motion carried.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Howell gave the following report:

#### BOROUGH BUSINESS SIGN GRANT STATUS - \$10,000

Compu Sign is working on the five gateway signs and should be installed by the middle of October.

#### LED LIGHTS GRANT STATUS

Pennsbury and New Garden Township are working on the bid documents.

**FALL FESTIVAL**

The Fall Festival will take place on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Committee is working hard and is moving forward as planned.

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

The tree lighting is being scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and a volunteer is needed to light the tree and put the lights on the tree. There were no volunteers.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR**

Bill Shore was absent from this meeting

**AGREM - BYLAWS**

President Bryan said Bill Shore gave Council a copy of the AGREM Bylaws at last month's meeting to review and approve. Council tabled this issue until the next meeting to have more time to review.

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Sali Cosford Parker gave the following report:

The Historical Commission met on September 3, 2008. We started to discuss the plans for the Fall Festival and the discussion will continue tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. We also talked about the historic preservation survey and the historic preservation index and it was determined that the index or as the preservation group calls it, a windshield survey, is a lot less in terms of paperwork and effort. The first thing we are going to accomplish is the index and this is a matter of providing the preservation group with a list of all the properties in the Borough, the tax identification numbers, addresses, date they were built, and an indicator of how they feel it should be listed from an historical perspective. After this is completed, the historical group will provide the Borough with a nice big map that shows all the properties colored according to historic age and designation. The Historical Commission minutes will be forwarded to Council.

**STREET & STREET LIGHTS COMMITTEE**

Bob Cleveland gave the following report:

1. There was a complaint received concerning several potholes on State Street and Dominick will be patching the holes soon.
2. Committee requested and received a proposal from Martin Paving for tar and chipping Morris Street from Sixth Street to First Street at a cost of \$12,420.00. The Finance Committee states that funds are available to do the work and the work would begin at the end of next week. Martin Paving does not want to tar and chip after September. Bob Cleveland made a motion to approve Martin Paving to do the tar and chipping on Morris Street from Sixth Street to First Street for a cost of \$12,420.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sali Cosford Parker, motion carried.

**WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE REPORT**

Bob Cleveland gave the following report:

**238 CHURCH STREET**

The Borough received a request from a resident at 238 Church Street and he wants to replace his existing septic system with a new septic system. This property is not tied into the Borough. The Water and Sewer Committee will have more information by the next Council meeting.

**WATER LEAK**

There was a water leak at Chatham Street near Third Street and it has been repaired.

**STORM DRAIN MANAGEMENT**

The Committee is working on a storm drain cleaning procedure. Mr. Cleveland asked EEMA if they could locate all the water shutoffs in the Borough and put them on a map so everybody will know where the shutoffs are. Pete Lau said they will start identifying the shut offs and get a map work in progress.

**WATER AND SEWER PAYMENT PROCEDURE**

The Committee sent an e-mail today proposing a procedure to be followed for some people who request some additional time to pay their water bill. This is an effort to prevent arbitrary decisions on Council's part, or the Water and Sewer Committee's part so that it will be the same for everyone. Bob Cleveland made a motion that the Borough adopt the "Water and Sewer Past Due Payment Information" that was sent out today to all members of Council, excluding the promissory note, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patrick Harrison, motion carried.

Following is the Water and Sewer Past Due Payment Information:

The Borough of Avondale has established the following procedures for those requesting some additional time for payment of their Water/Sewer bills:

1. The total past due amount must be paid in full prior to the Borough's issuance of the next quarterly water and sewer bill. If the bill is not paid, water service will be disconnected.
2. Penalty and Interest will accrue on the entire past due amount, and will be applied to the next quarterly water and sewer bill.
3. Only one "Payment Plan" per residence will be permitted per calendar year.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Glenn Allen gave the following report:

**POLICE ACTIVITIES**

There were 47 incidents, 28 traffic violations, and 2 parking tickets. This month the hours were cut back. Last Saturday, the police supported the planting of the wetlands on Ellicott Avenue. Parkesburg Police received a grant for a speed limit sign that tells how fast you are going. They will be sharing this sign with the Borough and will put it up temporarily on Pennsylvania Avenue.

**HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Sali Cosford Parker gave the following report:

The Housing Committee is going to meet with Glenn Diehl to go over the information he has gathered and the drafts he has put together for the Housing Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS****TRICK OR TREAT**

Pat Longen made a motion to approve October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 p.m. as Trick or Treat for Avondale, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Allen, motion carried. The Secretary will coordinate with the Fire Police.

**MAPPING SYSTEM**

Glenn Diehl said we need to get the Borough's mapping system sorted out and what he is suggesting is to work with Jamie MacCombie to come up with a plan to get electronic versions of the mapping system set up. When we find things in the field we can make electronic layers of the water, the sewer, the stormwater, where the outfalls are, and all kinds of stuff. Right now, the mapping is unreliable. It is costing the Borough more money to try and fool around with the stuff the Borough has now than to get it sorted out and do it right. Mr. Diehl said he would like to request from Council to authorize Mr. MacCombie and himself to work on this project and come back with a proposal. Sali Cosford Parker

made a motion to authorized Glenn Diehl and Jamie MacCombie to work on a proposal for a mapping system, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Longen, motion carried.

**PLANNING MODULE – NEW GARDEN TOWNSHIP**

Jamie MacCombie said that New Garden Township submitted a planning module for New Garden Medical Facility. Mr. MacCombie said he signed off on that planning module, but he has a concern that he wants EEMA to be aware of. Once NGT receives planning approval, it may need pre-treatment.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

President Bryan announced that there will be an executive session to discuss legal matters.

Patrick Harrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Allen, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Brownback  
Borough Secretary