

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2026
6 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice President Stephanie Reichert; Council Members Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts, and Lucas Ortiz.

Also Present: Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, and Administrator Sharon Norris. Solicitor Kim Venzie arrived at approximately 6:10 p.m.
Engineer Tom Wilkes arrived at approximately 6:25 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A brief Executive Session was held prior to the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the April 7, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Watts made a motion to approve the December 2025 Treasurer’s Report, including disbursements and transfers as follows. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| • General Fund: | \$392,198.90 |
| • Sewer Service: | \$ 56,606.88 |
| • Water Service: | \$ 46,101.38 |
| • Parks & Recreation: | \$ 600.00 |
| • Street Lighting: | \$ 7,681.09 |
| • Emergency Services: | \$ 44,371.00 |
| • Liquid Fuels: | \$157,000.00 |
| • Escrow Funds: | \$ 10,000.00 |
| • Sewer & Water: | <u>\$ 90,386.48</u> |
| Remaining balance across all funds: | \$ 78,623.67 |

BUSINESS

Quarry Project Extension

Mr. Ortiz made a motion to approve an extension for the Carillon Quarry Project through July 31, 2026. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Motion carried 5–0.

Resolution 2026-16 – Disposition of Records

Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the disposition of the April 7, 2026 Borough Council meeting recording. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried 5–0.

DISCUSSION

Fire Company and EMS Merger

Council members Morgan and Reichert summarized a recent regional meeting regarding the proposed Fire and EMS organizational structure. They expressed concern that several larger municipalities appeared to favor the Municipal Authority Model, which would establish a separate legal entity funded through service fees rather than taxes.

Council reiterated its prior preference for the “status quo” model with a joint oversight board, as well as consideration of a Commission or District model. Concerns were raised regarding long-term financial impacts, governance structure, and the anticipated transition from volunteer to paid personnel within the next decade.

Solicitor Venzie advised Council on legal considerations, noted concerns regarding asset ownership and indicated she would attend the next regional meeting with Mr. Morgan.

Additional discussion included funding formulas based on assessed value, population, and service calls, as well as ongoing staffing challenges and retention issues.

Quarry Project – Engineer’s Review Letter

Council continued its review of the Quarry Project engineer correspondence, with detailed discussion on stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, NPDES permitting, and regulatory oversight by the Chester County Conservation District.

Key points included:

- Clarification of DEP and Conservation District roles in permitting and enforcement
- Borough stormwater ordinance standards and comparison to model ordinances
- Design elements including sediment basins, infiltration systems, and storm event calculations
- Concerns regarding basin placement, floodplain proximity, and long-term maintenance
- Importance of proper construction and inspection to prevent system failure
- Financial security measures, including escrow and maintenance bonding

Discussion also included waiver requests, ordinance interpretation, and coordination between the developer's engineer and Borough engineer. Revised plans are anticipated.

Water system design, pressure concerns, and infrastructure layout were also discussed. Additional documentation is required for review.

ROAD PROGRAM

Mr. Wilkes presented a draft paving map identifying roads associated with various funding sources. The map will continue to be refined.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Grant Update

Mayor Rzucidlo reported that no new grants have been submitted. The PennDOT grant application has advanced to a second submission phase, with the stipulation that the Borough will not incur costs associated with the project.

Skill Games / Gambling Devices

The Mayor discussed ongoing legal uncertainty surrounding skill games in Pennsylvania. Unauthorized machines have been identified in area gas stations. Enforcement options and coordination with state police were discussed. Taxation is pending further guidance from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Mayor Rzucidlo provided updates on potential grant funding, including LSA and H2O programs, and coordination with state and federal representatives.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Wilkes presented his monthly report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Veterans Memorial Dedication will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at Avondale Veterans Memorial Park.
- The May 19, 2026 Council meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, May 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. due to the Primary Election.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made and carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.