

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 2026 – 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Paul Morgan, Stephanie Reichert, Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts, Lucas Ortiz

Also Present: Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, Administrator Sharon Norris

Public: One member of the public in attendance

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Michael Essmaker made a motion to approve the February 17, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Lucas Ortiz. Motion carried 5-0.
 - Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the March 17, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Ortiz. Motion carried 5-0.
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5. DISPOSITION OF RECORDS - Resolution 2026-15

Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-15, authorizing the erasure of the February 17 and March 17 meeting recordings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ortiz. Motion carried 5-0.

6. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer McVaugh reported that the \$400,000 reimbursement loan has been received. A significant property tax payment was also received. Aqua is current with all payments.

7. FIRE/EMS COMPANIES MERGER DISCUSSION

Mr. Morgan and Ms. Reichert presented the email they received from the Merger Committee for Council discussion. They reviewed the options presented to the committee and unanimously expressed support for “Option B,” as presented by Donna Dea of Franklin Township. The second choice would be the Commission Model as outlined in the same correspondence. This option will be brought to the next merger meeting on April 14th. Additional discussion included:

- Resource demands from the Bowling Green facility and consideration of a usage-based model similar to municipal metrics (runs, residents, assessed value).
- Concerns regarding the high cost of professional staffing.

- Questions regarding governance, including budget authority, oversight committee composition, and voting structure.
- Consideration of implementing service fees for entities that disproportionately utilize services.

Council emphasized the importance of a collaborative budgeting process, careful oversight to prevent unnecessary expenditures and accountability.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Community Yard Sale Request

Council reviewed a resident's request to organize a community-wide yard sale. While supportive, Council agreed the Borough will not lead the effort but may provide assistance of some kind.

Southern Chester County Regional Police Officer Accident

Council discussed providing a monetary gift to support an injured officer and his family following a recent accident.

Zoning Hearing Board Vacancy

Council discussed an existing vacancy and lack of responsiveness from a current member. Council Members were asked to try and find potential candidates to fill the vacancy.

Vacant Properties – New Street

Council discussed shutting off water service to two vacant properties. The owner is not expected to return for approximately two years. Pastor Norton offered to assist in locating family members.

Natural Lands Trust Grant Application

Natural Lands Trust is applying for a grant to acquire a portion of the Webb property adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant that they've named Avondale Lenape Village. The village site acreage is being donated by the Webb family. A portion of the land will be donated to the Lenape Tribe via a conservation easement, and the entire parcel will be preserved.

Mr. Essmaker made a motion to provide a letter of support for the grant application to the DCNR and the Chester County PPP Program. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Motion carried 5-0.

Eagle Scout Community Garden Project

Ms. Reichert reported that the Eagle Scout has completed construction of the garden boxes and they are well built and look great.

Resident Property Concern – Indian Run Road

Treasurer McVaugh reported a resident concern regarding structural damage to her home on Indian Run Road.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Borough Council meeting will be held on April 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM.
 - The Veterans Memorial Park dedication is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 10:00 AM.
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10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pastor Norton confirmed that she will lead the prayer at the Veterans Memorial Park dedication and offered the use of her podium for the event.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Norris

Borough Administrator