

**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2025**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice President Mike Essmaker (via phone), Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts, and Lucas Ortiz (via phone).

ABSENT: President Paul Morgan.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Township Engineer Tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, and Administrator Sharon Norris.

PUBLIC: 1 member at the start of the meeting; 2 additional members joined later (approximately 7:30 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.).

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Reichert called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Reichert announced that Council would hold an Executive Session after the meeting to discuss legal matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Marisa Paolicelli, 410 Pennsylvania Avenue** – Asked about progress in arranging a meeting with PennDOT and elected officials. She expressed frustration with the lack of action and asked how Council and the Mayor would respond if they were in her position. Discussion followed on strategies to get PennDOT to address resident concerns.
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BUSINESS

Public Hearing – Ordinance 2025-285 (Stop Signs at E. Second Street & Chatham Street)

Solicitor Venzie opened the hearing and explained the proposed ordinance, which adds two new stop signs on Second Street at its intersection with Chatham Street. Two exhibits were presented:

- B1: Proof of publication in the *Daily Local News*
- B2: Notice to the *Daily Local News* and Chester County Law Library for public inspection

After discussion, Ms. Watts moved to enact Ordinance 2025-285; Mr. Ortiz seconded. Motion carried **3-1**, with Mr. Essmaker voting no.

Reservoir Cover Project – Final Closeout

Ms. Watts moved to approve Final Payment No. 6 to Eastern Environmental in the amount of \$1,700.62, per the Borough Engineer's recommendation (letter dated July 24, 2025). Ms. Reichert seconded. Motion carried **4-0**.

Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS)

This item was tabled.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Received a PennDOT report (attached to minutes). Council and the Mayor discussed PennDOT's unwillingness to make improvements and the anticipated traffic impacts from developments in London Grove, New Garden, and Avondale's quarry project.
 - Discussed the **TASA (Transportation Alternatives Set Aside) grant**, a DVRPC funding opportunity. Potential projects include paved paths on Indian Run Road and a nature trail through the preserved Webb property.
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ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Wilkes reviewed his report and answered questions:

- Status of permitting for the new wells (proposal expected next week)
 - Permit application for disinfection conversion at the sewer plant
 - Submission of a new multimodal grant
- Discussion followed on pursuing additional grants.
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Reichert moved to approve the August 4, 2025 minutes as presented. Mr. Ortiz seconded. Motion carried **4-0**.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Fire Hydrant (3rd & Pennsylvania Ave.)** – Claim submitted to GEICO, under review.
- **Vision 2030 – Resident Priorities Survey** – Mr. Ortiz to finalize proofreading of the Spanish translation before posting.
- **Security Camera Update** – No update.

- **Streambank Restoration** – Ms. Norris contacted Shane Morgan (White Clay Wild & Scenic Watershed) and will seek National Park Service involvement.
 - **Borough Truck / Runaway Trailer Accident** – Quotes submitted to Allstate; claim under review.
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OTHER BUSINESS

Stormwater – 235 W. State Road

Ms. Norris reported the stormwater outfall was exposed and required jetting to restore flow. The outfall is within an electrified, privately owned fenced area. The property owner declined to alter the fence for easier Borough access. Quotes are being obtained to temporarily remove and replace the existing fence or replace a portion of it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Vince Paolicelli, 410 Pennsylvania Avenue** – Asked again about arranging a PennDOT meeting and ongoing water issues. He expressed frustration. The Mayor explained PennDOT investigated but found no water leak. She emphasized that responsibility lies with PennDOT, not the Borough. The Mayor encouraged continued resident advocacy and persistence in contacting PennDOT or the Governor's office. Mr. Paolicelli also asked about the Top 5 Resident Priority Survey.
 - **Pastor Norton** – Asked about traffic pattern changes at the Avon Wheels community. Council suggested contacting the property manager and London Grove Township.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Borough Council meeting will be held **Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Norris
Secretary

From: Shives, Desiree
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 2:25 PM
To: Avondale Mayor <mayorsusan@avondaleboro.net>
Cc: Sappey, Christina D. <csappey@pahouse.net>; kane@pasenate.com
Subject: PennDOT's Meeting with the Borough: Follow-Up Items and Information

Dear Mayor Susan:

The information below is provided by PennDOT's Traffic Safety Section and the PA 41 and State Street Project Team and refers to items raised during the April 15, 2025, meeting between PennDOT and the Borough.

- The PennDOT District 6, Safety Section installed pedestrian and advance pedestrian signage, as well as gore markings in the shoulder at the intersections of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Streets with Gap Newport Pike (PA 41). Crosswalks at the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Street intersections were also restriped. This work was completed in 2015.
- **PA 41 and State Street intersection** – PennDOT should be able to incorporate into the District 6-0 Systemwide Pedestrian Countdown Signal project (ECMS: 119301) an upgrade to 8" signal heads to pedestrian countdown timers.
- The Department is applying for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding to implement safety enhancements along Gap Newport Pike (SR 0041) in Avondale Borough. Potential improvements may include traffic calming measures, upgraded pedestrian crossings, and the installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) at key locations. The District should be notified if funding is approved during the first quarter of 2026. However, if HSIP funding is not approved, alternative funding sources for installing RRFBs include ARLE funding, which requires no local match. ARLE, however, is highly competitive due to the 0% match requirement.
- In the interim, the Borough may consider enhancing pedestrian safety by restriping the crosswalks or upgrading to continental crosswalks. Based on a virtual field view, many crosswalks across Gap Newport Pike appear to be faded.
- ~~ADA ramps along PA 41 in Avondale are on the Department's transition list but are not currently included in an active project.~~
- The ADA ramps along PA 41 in Avondale are included in the upcoming Chester and Delaware Counties ADA Ramps Project (ECMS: 120938), which is currently anticipated to let in January 2026.
- **PA 41 at State Street left-turn phasing** - None of the three approaches warrants consideration of a protected left turn phase based on volumes, sight distance, or accident history. Future volumes from the 2022 traffic analysis report were used to give the greatest chance to warrant based on volumes, but none met consideration. Sight distance is adequate for the posted speed limit for all left turn movements. The accident history does not meet the typical thresholds necessary for the installation of a protected left movement based on accident history. There has been a maximum of 3 angle crashes within a year period (from Jan to Jan) which typically would not warrant a protected turn phase on its own.

The Department hopes this information is helpful. Please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,
Desiree Shives