AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 3, 2026 – 7 PM

Council President Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: VP Stephanie Reichert, Members Mike Essmaker and Janet Watts. Lucas Ortiz arrived at 7:20 p.m. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BUSINESS

Avon Grove Library

Executive Director David Payne presented the library's midyear statistics and program updates.

- Unusually cold winter weather affected circulation compared with recent years.
- Nearly 500 participants registered for the summer reading program.
- The early literacy program encourages children to read 1,000 books.
- Bilingual story time is offered four days per week.
- Master Gardeners are available on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to noon to answer gardening questions.
- The library invested in a Charlie Cart, a mobile kitchen used to teach culinary skills and related educational concepts.

Additional information is available at avongrovelibrary.org.

Sidepath Study Recommendations

Council reviewed current Sidepath Study recommendations addressing pedestrian connections along Baltimore Pike between Kennett Square and Avondale.

Mayor Rzucidlo recommended that Borough Solicitor Venzie provide the study information to the Wilkinson team because the recommendations may affect the Quarry project property. Council agreed to make this request.

Appointment of Deputy Fire Marshal

Mike Essmaker made a motion to Appoint David Arroyo to the volunteer position of Deputy Fire Marshal, effective immediately. Ms. Janet Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Coalition Against Big Trucks — Letter of Support

Council reviewed information regarding proposed federal legislation that would increase allowable truck sizes and weights on highways, bridges and local roads and discussed the potential safety, traffic and road degradation impacts on the Borough. Mr. Essmaker made a motion that Council send a letter of support of the CABT to our Federal elected officials: Senator McCormick, Senator Fetterman and US Representative Chrisy Houlahan. Morion carried 4-0.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Rzucidlo reported that she submitted a Multimodal Transportation Fund grant application on July 29 for the following projects:

- Chatham Street: Replace sidewalks from First Street to Fourth Street and plant street trees to create a safer, more welcoming streetscape.
- Indian Run Road: Construct a sidewalk from West State Street to Miller Street, including pedestrian crossings and ADA-compliant connections at State Street and Indian Run Road.
- Pennsylvania Avenue: Replace sidewalks from First Street to Sixth Street and add street trees to enhance the downtown corridor, encourage walkability, and support local businesses.

Mayor Rzucidlo also reported that information she received indicated that funding for the 2027 Local Share Account grant program may be reduced by approximately two-thirds. She expressed hope that additional grant opportunities would become available in the future.

Mayor Rzucidlo announced that she would not attend the next Council meeting.

HOLIDAY LIGHT CONTEST

Vice President Reichert will again coordinate the Borough's Holiday Light Contest.

- Advertising will begin December 1 and will be included in the utility invoice and on Facebook and the website.
- Judging will take place December 21.
- Winning properties will be identified with yard signs on December 22.
- Winners may collect their prizes at the Borough office.

WATER AND SEWER CONTRACT

Mrs. Norris informed Council that the Borough's contract with Wind River expires at the end of 2026. Council and staff discussed the next steps.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Borough Council meeting will be held Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.