

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2025
7:00 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Paul Morgan, Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts, and Lucas Ortiz. Vice President Mike Essmaker was absent. Also in attendance were Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, and Administrator Sharon Norris. There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Morgan announced an Executive Session following the meeting to discuss legal matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Dave Besselman, 3 Miller Drive, reported significant streambank erosion along Indian Run Road, beginning where the previous stream restoration ended. He provided pictures. Mr. Besselman urged Council to work with London Grove Township to pursue another streambank restoration grant to extend the project into London Grove Township where the erosion continues. Council directed Ms. Norris to begin exploring options. Marissa Paolicelli, 410 Pennsylvania Avenue, asked about scheduling another meeting with PennDOT. She noted that Mr. Rogal from PennDOT has refused her invitation to return to the Borough despite her and her neighbors' ongoing issues with strong vibrations and structural damage to their homes. Ms. Paolicelli continues to contact Senator Kane and Rep. Sappey for assistance. Council discussed PennDOT's response and potential next steps. The Mayor will continue to try to set up another meeting.

BUSINESS.

Avon Grove Library Presentation – David Payne, Avon Grove Library Director, presented usage statistics for the first half of 2025. Attendance is increasing, the programs are varied and well attended and everyone agreed that the Avon Grove Library is a valuable resource for our communities.

Reservoir Cover Project Closeout – Approval of Application for Payment No. 6 – Mark Yoder, from Carroll Engineering, recommended approval of this final payment of \$1,700.62. Council will vote on this at the next meeting.

Fire Hydrant at Third Street and Pennsylvania Avenue – During the recent hydrant flushing, it was discovered that this fire hydrant was inoperable due to stone and gravel inside. The hydrant was struck by a truck in September 2024 and, while not appearing to be damaged at that time, it was hit by a truck in September 2024 and at the time, it did not look damaged. However, it was. KBX provided an estimate for replacement. PennDOT has denied permission to install a protective barrier despite repeated damage from northbound trucks turning right onto Third Street. Relocating the hydrant is not feasible. Ms. Janet Watts advised Ms. Norris to contact the Southern Chester County Police Department to get a copy of the police report and contact the driver's insurance company for restitution.

Letter of Support for Native Milkweed Plants - Mayor Rzucidlo requested Council's support for a program that provides free native milkweed plugs to aid monarch butterflies. Council agreed to sign the letter of support.

New Grant Opportunities – Discussion was tabled to a future meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- The Santa Train is scheduled to arrive on November 29, 2025, traveling from Oxford to Kennett Square with a stop in Avondale around noon. Toys for Tots will participate.
- Pollinator Initiative – the honeybee count remains low, but the Mayor's pollinator garden continues to grow. She has received approximately \$800 worth of donated native plants, including contributions from Josey's Native Plants in Kennett Square. She was hoping for a volunteer to develop a dedicated website for the Borough's pollinator gardens.
- Grants -The Borough's \$2.6 million Multi Modal grant has been submitted.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Treasurer McVaugh provide an update on QuickBooks. Cindy Paloni has inputted the missing data and now Ms. McVaugh will reconcile the bank statements. This process is a safeguard to ensure accuracy.

OTHER – At Mr. Morgan's request, Mariana an intern from Representative Sappey's office who was in the audience, summarized her duties at the Representative's office, and answered questions from Borough Council about her interests and her career path. They wished Mariana continued success in her endeavors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Ms. Stephanie Reichert made a motion to approve the July 15, 2025, minutes as presented. Mr. Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Vision 2030: Mapping Our Vision for Tomorrow:

- **Community Survey** - Ms. Watts provided Council with a copy of the survey and editing access. Council and the Mayor discussed how to clarify which projects are current and which are planned. The survey will be available in English and Spanish on Facebook, the Borough website and via QR code. Mr. Ortiz will proofread the Spanish translation for accuracy.
- **Intersection of 41 and State St.** – Ms. Reichert referenced the SCCRPD's recent speed and traffic volume study for Pennsylvania Avenue and requested increased police presence and the use of a speed camera on State Road. She was at the intersection of State and Indian Run and witnessed first-hand the high speed at which traffic was traveling. She is concerned about safety especially since school will be back in session soon. There are 4 bus stops between Indian Run and First Street. Hopefully, the police presence will slow things down.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 7 PM.
- National Night Out is Tuesday, August 5 from 6-8 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary