

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2025

7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL-Present:

Mayor Susan Rzucidlo

Paul Morgan

Mike Essmaker

Stephanie Reichert

Janet Watts

Lucas Ortiz

Solicitor Venzie

Treasurer Joan McVaugh

Administrator Sharon Norris

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An **Executive Session** will be held following the meeting to discuss **legal matters**.

SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT

Lieutenant **Joseph Versagli** provided a summary of police activity within the Borough for the previous two weeks. Highlights included:

- Ongoing traffic enforcement
- Promotion of **Nicole Ford** to Detective
- Hiring of **Officer Kevin Finn**
- An additional officer scheduled to begin employment shortly

BUSINESS

Annual Holiday Lights Contest

Councilmember **Stephanie Reichert** announced the winners of the Annual Holiday Lights Contest and congratulated residents for their participation:

- **1st Place:** 602 Poplar Street
- **2nd Place:** 401 Pennsylvania Avenue
- **3rd Place:** 235 State Street

PUBLIC HEARING

APPROVED

Ordinance 2025-285 – Water and Trash Rate Increase

Solicitor Venzie opened the public hearing and entered into the record:

- Proof of publication from the *Daily Local News*
- Confirmation of filing with the Law Library

There was **no public comment**.

Motion: Mr. Essmaker moved to enact **Ordinance 2025-285**, increasing the water rate effective **January 1, 2025**, and the trash rate for the next two years effective **April 1, 2026**.

Second: Mr. Ortiz

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

ADOPTION OF 2026 FINAL BUDGET

Motion: Mr. Ortiz moved to adopt the **2026 Final Budget** with total combined expenditures of **\$2,617,521.98**, with **no change to the millage rate**.

Second: Mr. Essmaker

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Acceptance of Resignation

Motion: Ms. Reichert moved to accept the resignation of **Ulises Aguilera** as Emergency Management Coordinator.

Second: Mr. Ortiz

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

Council and Mayor expressed appreciation for Mr. Aguilera’s volunteer service.

Appointment of New Emergency Management Coordinator

Motion: Mr. Essmaker moved to appoint **John Watts** as Emergency Management Coordinator.

Second: Mr. Ortiz

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

Mayor and Council thanked all emergency service providers and **Guy Swift** for his service as Fire Marshal.

Year-End Emergency Management Report

Mr. Watts presented a summary of emergency management activities, training, concerns, and goals for 2026.

CONSIDERATION OF 93 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

Council discussed the applicant's request regarding the high tapping fees required under Borough ordinance for a laundromat connection to the water system. Discussion included input from the Engineer, Solicitor, applicant, and staff.

Council agreed to:

- Research how other municipalities calculate tapping fees
- Obtain a quote from **Technivate** to tap into the 12-inch water line on First Street

The matter will be considered at a future meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2025-18 – Chester County Tax Collection

Motion: Mr. Essmaker moved to adopt **Resolution 2025-18**, reappointing the Chester County Treasurer to collect Borough real estate taxes.

Second: Mr. Morgan

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

Resolution 2025-19 – 2026 Tax Levy

Motion: Ms. Reichert moved to adopt **Resolution 2025-19**, setting the Borough tax rate for 2026 with **no increase in total millage**.

Second: Ms. Watts

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

Resolution 2025-20 – 2026 Holiday Schedule

Motion: Mr. Essmaker moved to adopt **Resolution 2025-20**, establishing the 2026 holiday schedule.

Second: Mr. Ortiz

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE REORGANIZATION MEETING

Motion: Ms. Watts moved to authorize staff to advertise the **January 5, 2026 Reorganization Meeting**, beginning at **6:00 PM** at Borough Hall.

Second: Ms. Reichert

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- **Pomeroy Park:** Increased use as an informal dog park. Mayor requested signage indicating **service animals only**.
 - **Webb Preserve:** Reports of ATV activity. Mayor requested **No Motorized Vehicle** signage.
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ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer **Wilkes** presented his monthly report.

APPROVED

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Motion: Ms. Reichert moved to approve the **October 2025 Treasurer's Report** as presented.

Second: Mr. Essmaker

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Ms. Watts moved to approve the **November 18, 2025** and **December 2, 2025** meeting minutes.

Second: Mr. Ortiz

Vote: 5–0, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mapping Our Vision for Tomorrow – Council identified the following priorities:

- Road program
 - Grants
 - Parking
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Borough Reorganization Meeting** will be held on **Monday, January 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM**.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at **8:15 PM**.