

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2026
7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Stephanie Reichert called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts, and Lucas Ortiz. President Paul Morgan was absent. Also in attendance: Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie and Engineer Tom Wilkes.

Staff Present: Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Administrator Sharon Norris

Public Present: Pastor Arlene Norton, Grace and Mercy Ministries

3. POLICE REPORT

Lieutenant Joseph Versagli provided an update to Council and highlights are below:

- A new police officer will begin employment on February 23, 2026. The officer brings two years of experience from Chester and is expected to be a strong addition to the department.
- A criminal justice intern will complete approximately 270 internship hours with the department.
- Officer Luke Piskun remains in field training, which has been extended. He is awaiting issuance of a MOPAC number.

Concerns about speeding on State Street were raised.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pastor Norton reported meeting with two individuals interested in partnering with local homeschool families to provide educational support services. They are currently seeking space within the Borough to operate the program. Councilmember Janet Watts offered suggestions regarding possible locations.

5. BUSINESS

- **Resolution 2026-12 – Phorid Fly** - Council member Mike Essmaker made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-12, recognizing the negative public health impacts of the phorid fly on the Borough and the southern Chester County region. Vice President Stephanie Reichert seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
- **Resolution 2026-13** – Disposition of Records for the February 3, 2026 meeting recording. Mr. Essmaker made the motion to approve the resolution; seconded by Ms. Watts. Motion carried 4-0.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Susan summarized a recent regional Mayor's meeting she attended at the Chester County Government Services building. Discussion primarily focused on ICE activity in Chester County. It was noted that ICE is opening an office in Tredyffrin, and there has been discussion regarding the possibility of

an office opening in this area. The Mayor presented a proposed statement of community support for Council’s consideration. Council members present responded favorably to support the statement.

7. ENGINEER REPORT

a. GRANT UPDATE/ROAD PROGRAM

Mr. Wilkes will review the executed grant contracts once received and before moving forward with a final proposal on the road program.

- **2024 LSA (Local Share Account) Grant:** Amount awarded: \$150,000 for road paving and ADA ramp installation on Chatham; Amount requested: \$250,000. Ramps proposed at two intersections.
- **PA Small Water Grant:** Amount Awarded: \$415,252; Amount requested: \$450,000. This grant requires a 15% match of \$62,288. Adjustments to this award are necessary to account for the match requirement.
- **Multimodal Grant:** Amount Awarded: \$700,000. Amount Requested: \$2,589,818.
- **Liquid Fuels Funds:** Proposed: paving of Second Street.

Mr. Wilkes stated that, if awarded, these projects would address approximately 80% of Borough streets.

The Borough’s highest priority remains obtaining permits for the wells. Mr. Wilkes indicated his intent to meet with grant administrators to discuss potentially modifying the scope of the PA Small Water Grant application to better address this priority.

8. WATER & SEWER UPDATE

The ongoing work at First Street was discussed.

Solicitor Venzie reported receipt of a sewer capacity request related to the Quarry Development. The request will be forwarded to the Borough Engineer for review and to establish an appropriate tapping fee. Sixty percent (60%) of the tapping fee will be designated as a reservation fee.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Council acknowledged receipt of the Quarry Development Extension Letter and voted to accept the request to extend the period of time to April 21, 2026 with a motion by Ms. Watts and a second by Council member Lucas Ortiz.

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Treasurer’s Report – Ms. Reichert made a motion to approve the November 2025 Treasurer’s report with disbursements and transfers as follows:

General Fund:	\$112,627.28
Sewer Service	\$ 24,248.90
Water Service	\$ 8,705.63
Street Lighting	\$ 54.93

Sewer & Water Payments \$ 33,813.57

Leaving a balance in all accounts of \$456,650.05.

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the February 3, 2026 minutes was made by Mr. Ortiz and seconded by Mr. Essmaker. The motion carried 4-0.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, at 7 pm.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT – there was no public comment.

14. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.