

# Avondale Borough Council Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2026

6:00 PM

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## Call to Order

Susan Rzucidlo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were: Paul Morgan, Stephanie Reichert, Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts, Lucas Ortiz, Joan McVaugh and Sharon Noris. There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

## Oath of Office

Judge Matthew Seavey was present and administered the Oath of Office individually to the Mayor and following council members:

- Susan Rzucidlo
  - Michael Essmaker
  - Janet Watts
  - Stephanie Reichert
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## Election of Officers

### President:

Michael Essmaker nominated Paul Morgan for President. Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Passed unanimously, 5–0.

### Vice President:

Michael Essmaker nominated Stephanie Reichert for Vice President. The motion was seconded by Lucas Ortiz.

**Vote:** Passed unanimously, 5–0.

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## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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## Appointments

Janet Watts made a motion to approve the following appointments:

- **Treasurer:** Joan McVaugh
- **Secretary / Right-to-Know Officer:** Sharon Norris
- **Vacancy Board Chair:** Kirk Reichert

- **Emergency Management Coordinator:** John Watts
- **Fire Marshal:** Harvey Hall
- **PSAB/PSATS Voting Delegate:** Any Borough Council member

The motion was seconded by Paul Morgan.

**Vote:** Passed unanimously, 5–0.

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## **Business**

### **Eagle Scout Food Cupboard Project**

Susan Rzucidlo reported that Philabundance no longer permits use of the free pantry. She identified an Eagle Scout willing to construct a new food cupboard at the Mt. Tabor Church. After discussion, Janet Watts made a motion to approve the project and contribute \$250.

**Vote:** Passed unanimously, 5–0.

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## **Resolutions**

**Resolution 2026-01:** Authorizing the Council President to execute documents for a Tax Anticipation Loan line of credit of \$125,000 through M&T Bank.

Motion: Stephanie Reichert / Second: Janet Watts

**Vote:** 5–0.

**Resolution 2026-02:** Setting the Treasurer’s Bond in the amount of \$1,000,000.

Motion: Michael Essmaker / Second: Janet Watts

**Vote:** 5–0.

**Resolution 2026-03:** Designating emergency services providers:

- Avondale Fire & EMS – Fire protection, ambulance, and rescue services
- Southern Chester County Medic 94 – Advanced Life Support
- Southern Chester County Regional Police – Full-time police protection

Motion: Lucas Ortiz / Second: Stephanie Reichert

**Vote:** 5–0.

**Resolution 2026-04:** Authorizing the Treasurer and any two Borough Council members as authorized signers on Borough checks.

Motion: Lucas Ortiz / Second: Janet Watts

**Vote:** 5–0.

**Resolution 2026-05:** Designating M&T Bank and the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) as Borough depositories.

Motion: Michael Essmaker / Second: Lucas Ortiz

**Vote:** 5–0.

**Resolution 2026-06:** Appointing Kimberly Venzie as Solicitor, Tom Wilkes and Carroll Engineering as Borough Engineer, and LTL Consultants as Zoning, Building, and Code Officials.

Motion: Janet Watts / Second: Lucas Ortiz

**Vote:** 5–0.

**Resolution 2026-07:** Designating the *Daily Local News* as the official newspaper for required Borough public notices.

Motion: Michael Essmaker / Second: Lucas Ortiz

**Vote:** 5–0.

### **Meeting Schedule Advertisement**

Motion to advertise the 2026 Borough Council meeting schedule.

Motion: Stephanie Reichert / Second: Janet Watts

**Vote:** 5–0.

**Resolution 2026-08:** Authorizing application to the PECO Green Region Grant to fund trail improvements at Webb Preserve.

Motion: Lucas Ortiz / Second: Michael Essmaker

**Vote:** 5–0.

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### **Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported:

- The grant application has opened for the work on Pennsylvania Avenue.
- The Mayor is pursuing additional water-related grants.
- She is awaiting information from Solicitor Kim Venzie regarding park boundaries at Third Street Park.

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### **Council Discussion**

- The Council discussed low water pressure at 26 Gap Newport Pike, affected properties, and proposed actions. Pressure discrepancies between Penn Brew Station and nearby hydrants were noted, along with broken valves. Council directed KBX to begin exploratory digging.
- Council discussed concerns raised by Craig Lutz regarding PFOS/PFAS and the need for emergency backup water supply if wells are shut down.
- January 22 Elected Officials Fire Company merger meeting: Paul Morgan and Stephanie Reichert will attend; Janet Watts will serve as backup.

### **Finance Committee:**

APPROVED

Treasurer Joan McVaugh provided an update on the Tax Anticipation Loan and sewer grant loan. Michael Essmaker inquired about the use of Liquid Fuels funds for road grant awards.

- Council discussed 93 Pennsylvania Avenue and reached consensus to charge the property owner for the cost of work plus the tapping fee.

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### **Announcements**

- The next Borough Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:00 PM.**
- An Executive Session will be held following the meeting to discuss legal matters.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** Meeting Adjourned at 7:09 pm