

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
July 15, 2025
7:00 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Paul Morgan, Vice President Mike Essmaker, Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts, and Lucas Ortiz. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo was absent. Also in attendance were Solicitor Kim Venzie, Township Engineer, Tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, and Administrator Sharon Norris. There were 10 members of the public in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Morgan recognized two young men who cleaned up excessive stone and dirt that washed onto the Third Street Park basketball court after a recent storm and thanked them for their volunteer service. He also announced an Executive Session after tonight's meeting to discuss legal issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Marissa Paolicelli, 410 Pennsylvania Avenue, inquired about the accident that took place outside of her house earlier that morning. She asked about reducing the speed limit to 30 mph on Pennsylvania Avenue. The Council instructed Mr. DiFillippo to replace the current signs with the new 30 mph speed limit signs as soon as possible. Ms. Paolicelli continues to contact Senator Kane and Rep. Sappey to set up another meeting with PennDOT as the shaking, vibrations and damage to her home and others are continuing to get worse.

SCCRPD Report – Lieutenant Joseph Versagli presented the 2nd quarter report. He reviewed the results of the speed sign study. March 7 through July 11 418,959 vehicles traveled southbound on 41. Of these 400,000+ cars, 99% were under 40 mph. Under 1% of the speeders were unenforceable. 14 vehicles were going over 70 mph. The Lieutenant will provide copies of the report for Council.

GUY SWIFT – AVONDALE FIRE AND EMS COMPANIES UPDATE – Mr. Swift reported positively on the budget, the merger between West Grove and Avondale Fire companies and hiring new staff. He also reported that the tanker truck which is their largest truck drove through Carillon and was able to get through the development. He plans to have Ladder Truck 22 to drive through. Council member Stephanie Reichert requested that the truck drive down Chatham when in the area.

BUSINESS.

White Clay Point Presentation – Chris Hime, New Garden Township Manager and the Stonewall Management Team, owners of the White Clay Point property, came in to give a general overview of their project and discuss their potential sewage needs. Mr. Hime noted that on Monday, July 21, an overview of the project would be introduced at their BOS meeting.

West Grove and Avondale Fire Companies Merger – the merger talks are moving forward, and the subcommittees have completed their reviews. It is time for the participating municipalities to join in the talks. The Council appointed Council member Janet Watts to be the Borough representative to the merger task force and President Paul Morgan will be the backup.

Resolution 2025-13 – Multi Modal Grant Application – Vice President, Mike Essmaker made a motion that Council adopt Resolution 2025-13, authorizing application to DCED for a multi modal grant for streets, sidewalks, and parks. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Intersection of Chatham and Second Street – Ms. Watts made a motion to authorize the addition of two stop signs at this intersection to make it a 3-way stop. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1 with Mr. Essmaker voting nay.

Policy and Fee for Use of Borough Hall – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to adopt Policy 0001-25 Use of Borough Hall which allows nonprofit organizations to use the Building at no charge and all other use is prohibited. This policy will go into effect on September 15, 2025. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Tree Work at Sewer Plant – Mr. Essmaker made a motion authorizing Tom Books to remove the 4 dead trees at the sewer plant at a cost not to exceed \$4,500. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve the July 1, 2025, minutes as presented. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

ENGINEER REPORT – The Council and Mr. Wilkes commented on the White Clay Point discussion and the multi modal grant.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – the Council and Solicitor Venzie commented on the White Clay Point discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Watts updated the Council on the survey she is creating and asked for committee ideas. The survey will be presented in English and Spanish and will be accessible on Facebook and the website and with a QR Code.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

QuickBooks Update – during an update to Windows 11 on Treasurer McVaugh’s computer, the QuickBooks information for certain funds from January to May 2025, was unintentionally deleted by the IT provider. Ms. McVaugh requested that she be permitted to hire someone to come in and re-input that lost information. She anticipated it would take about a week. The Council agreed to that.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – Ms. McVaugh informed the Borough Council that there are outstanding receivables due amounting to over \$300,000 which is concerning. Some of these outstanding receivables come from waiting for the grant awards for the Webb parcel, and the owner of the apartments not paying his water bill for over a year, as well as others who have outstanding utility bills. She would like Council to consider getting a loan to assist the Borough until these overdue payments are received. The Council discussed the process for getting Mr. Walkup to pay his outstanding bill which amounts to approx. \$200,000. Mr. Vince Paolicelli, 410 Pennsylvania Avenue commented on the finances and scheduling another meeting with PennDOT. The Solicitor said the topic of turning off the water to the Avondale Apartments should be added to the next agenda. Ms. McVaugh discussed raising the millage for the Emergency Services tax which covers only half of what the Borough pays for Fire, EMS and Medic 94. She also noted that there will be a cut to Medicare payments which may require providers to seek even more assistance from municipalities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Borough Council meeting is Monday, August 4, 2025, at 7 PM.
- National Night Out is Tuesday, August 5 from 6-8 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary