Avondale Borough Council Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2026
Rescheduled from July 21, 2026, due to weather
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

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

Council Members Present: Paul Morgan, Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts, and Lucas Ortiz
Absent: Mike Essmaker
Also Present: Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Treasurer Joan McVaugh

Public Comment - There was no public comment.

Announcements - Mr. Morgan announced that Council would hold an executive session following the meeting to discuss legal matters.

Finance Committee

Treasurer Joan McVaugh discussed water-meter software demonstrated by a representative from LB Water when he was here to investigate a meter issue. The software would allow the Borough to monitor meters continuously and automate portions of the billing process. Mayor Rzucidlo will look for grants to cover the cost of the software which is approximately $126,000. Council also discussed a portable device that connects individual meters to a tablet and downloads historical water-usage information. The device costs $242. Council authorized the Treasurer to purchase the device.

Council was advised that a past-due account had been paid.

Approval of Minutes - Ms. Reichert moved to approve the July 7, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Fire Marshal's Report

Fire Marshal Harvey Hall updated Council on his inspections of Borough businesses for compliance with fire-safety requirements. He had distributed an inspection checklist and reported that all inspected businesses were currently in compliance. Businesses were given approximately 30 days to correct identified deficiencies before reinspection.

Mr. Hall also reported that alarms were activated at Edlon on Saturday evening but the fire department did not have current contact information. This info has since been obtained.

Mr. Hall requested that the London Grove Fire Marshal be granted access to the Borough's emergency radio-frequency channel. Council agreed by consensus and directed the Borough Administrator to prepare and send the required authorization.

Mr. Hall requested that Dave Arroyo be appointed Deputy Fire Marshal. Council expressed support for the appointment, with formal action to be considered at the next meeting.

Council also authorized reimbursement for uniform clothing for Mr. Hall and Mr. Arroyo in an amount up to $300.

Resolution No. 2026-21 — Disposition of Records

Ms. Reichert moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-21, authorizing the erasure of the recording of the July 7, 2026, meeting. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Resolution No. 2026-22 — Chester County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Ms. Reichert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2026-22, approving Chester County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Resolution No. 2026-23 — Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application

Mr. Ortiz moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-23, authorizing an application for a $2,000,018.30 Multimodal Transportation Fund grant for the following improvements:

- Replacement of sidewalks and installation of street trees along Chatham Street from First Street to Fourth Street.
- Construction of a sidewalk along Indian Run from West State Street to Miller Street, including pedestrian crossings and ADA-compliant connections at State Street and Indian Run.
- Replacement of sidewalks and installation of street trees along Pennsylvania Avenue from First Street to Sixth Street.

The proposed improvements are intended to enhance pedestrian safety, accessibility, and walkability while supporting downtown businesses.

Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0. There is no match requirement for this grant.

Quarry Plan Review Extension

Mr. Morgan presented a request from Wilkinson to extend the review period for the Wilkinson Carillon/Quarry plan. Solicitor Venzie confirmed that the request was satisfactory.

Mr. Ortiz moved to approve an extension of the review clock for the Quarry Project through August 21, 2026. Ms. Reichert seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Council briefly discussed the Borough Engineer's review letter, the submitted plans, snow-removal considerations and the spine road. Solicitor Venzie will review the letter in detail and meet with Engineer Tom Wilkes to discuss the outstanding items. She suggested that Council members come prepared to the next meeting to discuss their questions with Mr. Wilkes.

2026 Road Program

Will Daggett of Carroll Engineering presented the proposed 2026 Road Program. Council discussed the potential use of Liquid Fuels funds, subject to PennDOT approval, and the need to coordinate paving with planned water-main replacements.

Roads under consideration included Chatham Street, Morris Alley, Fifth Street, Fourth Street, New Street, Maple Street, Minor Street, and Sixth Street. Roads requiring water-main work may be deferred until 2027 to allow the utility work to be completed before paving.

Mayor Rzucidlo emphasized that water infrastructure in the Church Street area—including Poplar, Maple, Henson, Thompson, Minor, and a portion of Third Street—remains a high priority.

Treasurer McVaugh summarized her meeting with the PennDOT auditor regarding repayment of the loan from the Liquid Fuels account. Council also reviewed available grant funding and discussed which road improvements could be completed without a local match.

Council agreed that the final project scope and schedule would depend on the bids received and the successful bidder's availability.

Ms. Reichert moved to approve the core 2026 Road Program, excluding the Second Street parking lot, with quantities adjusted to include necessary base repairs and Sixth Street included as an optional bid item. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

The anticipated notice-to-proceed date is September 16, 2026, with completion expected by November 16, 2026. The schedule may be affected by tree removal, shallow utility lines, and other field conditions.

Third Street Park Basketball Court

Mr. Morgan moved to approve Sealcoat LLC to sealcoat and reline the basketball court at Third Street Park at a cost of . Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 4-0. [Insert the approved contract amount, if applicable.]

Scout Service-Project Policy

Mayor Rzucidlo presented a proposed policy and procedure for Boy Scout Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award projects undertaken within the Borough. The policy is intended to provide scouts with clear project requirements and to establish a consistent review process for Council. Council approved the policy.

Coalition Against Big Trucks (CABT)

Ms. Reichert reported on her meeting with a member of the CABT. This organization was formed by the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, and concerns pending legislation allowing increased truck sizes and weights on the roads. Two of the potential negative effects this will have are increased wear on the roads and bridges and less safe driving conditions on the roads. CABT would like Council to send a letter against this legislation to the Borough's federal elected officials. Council is in support of this request and will vote on it at the next meeting.

Fire Company Merger

Mr. Morgan reported on a recent multi municipal fire company merger meeting. He expressed concern about the limited progress made despite indications that the official merger between the two fire companies will be completed in the near future.

A merger budget meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2026. Ms. Watts requested that the participants obtain information regarding workers' compensation coverage. Council also discussed formulas for determining each municipality's financial contribution.

West Chester University Planning Studio

A meeting with WCU planning studio students, their professor, Mayor Rzucidlo and Ms. Watts will take place in early September. The potential list of projects the students will work on include: reviewing the Edlon property, developing an Additional Dwelling Unit ordinance and solar-energy opportunities at the wastewater treatment plant including covered parking.

DVRPC Sidepath Meeting

Mayor Rzucidlo requested that a summary of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Sidepath meeting be provided to Wilkinson because the proposed sidepath could affect its development project. A written summary is expected and will be forwarded to the Solicitor for review and subsequent distribution to Wilkinson.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rzucidlo reported the following:

- The Santa Train is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2026, traveling from Oxford to the Creamery in Kennett Square with stops in between. Arrival time in Avondale TBD.
- Avondale's Fall Free Family Fun Day will be held October 10, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Council discussed the dates for the Holiday Light Decorating Contest. Details will be set at the August 3 meeting.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Announcements - The next Borough Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.