

**Avondale Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2026**

Call to Order: President Paul Morgan called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Attendance: Council members Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts and Lucas Ortiz. Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Treasurer Joan McVaugh and Secretary Sharon Norris. Council Vice President Stephanie Reichert was absent.

Public Comment

Pastor Sondra Norton discussed holding a community day on September 12, 2026, and invited the Borough to participate. Council discussed participation with religious organizations and whether religious materials could be displayed or distributed. Council agreed that community events should remain open and welcoming to everyone without proselytizing.

Treasurer's Report

Council discussed using funds from the Liquid Fuels account to meet the match requirement for a recent grant award for road repair. The Treasurer will meet with the PennDOT auditor on July 22.

Mr. Ortiz made a motion to approve the April 2026 Treasurer's Report, including the below listed disbursements and transfers. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

General Fund:	\$ 256,760.49
Sewer Service	\$ 57,175.29
Water Service	\$ 61,893.10
Street Lighting	\$ 250.41
Liquid Fuel	\$ 238.00
Escrow Funds	<u>\$ 15,912.00</u>

Leaving a balance in all funds of \$ 363,321.91

Ms. McVaugh requested clarification on issuing the budgeted payment amounts to the Avondale Fire and EMS Company and Medic 94. Council discussed the difference between the amounts requested and the amounts the Borough can afford based on its assessed value and available tax revenue. Council agreed that a letter should accompany the payments explaining the Borough's financial position and clarifying that the payment amounts apply to the current year and do not establish future funding levels.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Watts made a motion to approve the June 16, 2026, Borough Council meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. The motion carried, 4-0.

Disposition of Records

Mr. Essmaker made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-20, the disposition of records authorizing the erasure of the June 16 meeting tape. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Business:

Fire Marshall Update – Mr. Hall was not in attendance, but Council discussed and approved reimbursement for uniform clothing.

Upcoming Meetings:

Chester County Planning Commission/West Chester University Planning Studio Partnership

Mayor Rzucidlo discussed a possible partnership with university students to study affordable housing and other Borough planning desires and needs. Council expressed interest in this partnership, and the following representatives will attend the upcoming meeting: Mayor Susan, Ms. Watts and Mr. Ortiz will attend if his schedule allows.

Baltimore Pike Sidepath Study

Mayor Rzucidlo provided an overview of the Baltimore Pike Sidepath Study and invited Council members to attend the upcoming final presentation for this phase of that project. Council discussed property ownership and the Borough's authority regarding improvements on privately owned land. No one from Council can attend and Ms. Norris will contact Cassidy Boulan to request a summary of the study.

Special Signage

Council discussed a request for "Deaf Child at Play" or similar signage near Garner Drive. Before ordering, Solicitor Venzie will review the applicable requirements.

"No Trucks" sign on Third Street at Church. This sign has been hit numerous times and replaced each time in the last six months, and the Public Works Director has indicated his opinion is to not put it back up. There are no other locations to post the sign except for where it currently has been placed. Council agreed to not continue to put the sign back up.

Updated Employee Handbook – the current handbook hasn't been updated since 2016 and needs to be updated. Ms. Norris presented the first draft. Solicitor Venzie will review. Once the solicitor's comments are received, an updated version will be presented to council.

Water System – Council reviewed the recent water-pipe repairs and requested a meeting with the contractor to discuss the various issues.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rzucidlo provided the following updates:

- The Mayor plans to apply to the Multimodal Transportation Fund for sidewalks along Pennsylvania Avenue and Chatham Street, including street trees and a pedestrian connection from Indian Run Road to State Street. The grant requires no local match. She has requested Engineer Wilkes to provide cost estimates by July 13, and she will obtain letters of support before the July 31 submission deadline. A Resolution supporting this application will be on the next agenda.
- The Borough continues to seek water-system grants. A recently identified program required a 50% local match and was not considered financially feasible.
- Bubble Palooza was canceled because of weather and will not be rescheduled this year.
- Mt. Tabor Church discussed partnering with the Borough on a future Bubble Palooza event. Council supported keeping the event free and open to everyone but discussed food vendors, fundraising, and religious promotion.
- Approximately \$1,545 budgeted for Bubble Palooza remains unused. Council discussed applying those funds toward basketball-court maintenance, including repainting lines, removing grass, filling cracks, and crack sealing. The estimated cost is \$2,495. The proposal will be placed on the next agenda.
- A policy governing Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award projects is being prepared for presentation at the next meeting. The Mayor discussed concerns about a recently completed project.
- Ms. Reichert will meet with representatives from the Coalition for Bigger Trucks and has invited them to attend a future meeting. Council members interested in participating should contact her.

ATV and Four-Wheeler Concerns

Council discussed continuing complaints about ATVs and four-wheelers operating throughout the Borough, including passing and cutting off vehicles. Southern Chester County Regional Police and Pennsylvania State Police have contacted the parents involved, but the activity has continued. Some of the riders may be entering the Borough from London Grove Township.

Quarry Development

Ms. Venzie provided an update regarding the quarry development and the reservation of utility capacity. Council discussed the status of the project; It was noted that any request for preliminary plan approval must be supported by a complete and accurate plan.

Announcements – the next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tues. July 21, 2026, at 7 pm.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.