**AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL**
**Meeting Minutes**
**June 16, 2026**

The Avondale Borough Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at the Borough Hall.

**Call to Order**

Council Vice President Stephanie called the meeting to order at **7:00 p.m.**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Council members Mike Essmaker, Janet Watts and Lucas Ortiz, Jr., Council President Paul Morgan was absent. Also present were Engineer tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, and Administrator Sharon Norris. Lt. Joe Versagli of the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department was in attendance.

**Announcements** - There will be an executive session after tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**Southern Chester County Regional Police Report**

Lt. Joe Versagli presented the May 2026 Police Report.

Highlights included: traffic citations; written warnings; motor vehicle crashes; calls for service; drug arrests and DUI arrests.

Lt. Versagli reported an increase in DUI activity, likely related to seasonal weather and increased travel. Traffic enforcement continued along Route 41, with emphasis on commercial vehicle enforcement. Officer Dave Madonna continues to recover well and has resumed truck enforcement training. Lt. Versagli also reported completion of the FBI Executive Leadership program and provided an update on the Department's accreditation process, noting that the recent on-site inspection was successful.

Council discussed ongoing ATV complaints. Lt. Versagli advised that operators must comply with all applicable registration and operating requirements and stated that the Department will continue enforcement efforts. He will also contact East Penn Railroad regarding reported ATV activity along the railroad tracks.

Council discussed graffiti on community garden signs and requested continued monitoring. Lt. Versagli also agreed to provide Borough staff with information regarding Pennsylvania laws governing e-bikes and other micromobility devices.

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**Drought Conditions -** EMC John Watts reported on drought conditions and made recommendations to Council on getting the word out to residents reminding them about drought awareness, water conservation, and open burning regulations. Although no county

Red Flag Warning has been issued, conditions remain dry and residents are encouraged to use caution. Engineer Wilkes volunteered to provide information his office had available on drought warnings which if posted, will satisfy certain MS4 requirements.

**Fireworks**

Council discussed Pennsylvania's current fireworks laws and noted that Avondale Borough does not currently prohibit consumer aerial fireworks by ordinance. The Borough will continue sharing fireworks safety information provided by the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department through its communication channels and Borough officials strongly suggest that no fireworks be set off in the Borough.

**Finance Committee**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Motion:** Council member Janet Watts moved to approve the March 2026 Treasurer's Report as follows. Council member Lucas Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried **4-0.**

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|---|---|
| General Fund: | $238,670.75 |
| Sewer Service | $ 46,332.66 |
| Water Service | $ 32,586.64 |
| Street Lighting | $ 1,153.24 |
| Emergency Svcs. | $ 145.28 |
| Liquid Fuel | $ 2,290.00 |
| ARPA Fund | $ 75.54 |
| Sewer & Water | $ 80,255.59 |
| Leaving a Balance in all Funds of | $369,657.56 |

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** Mr. Ortiz moved to approve the May 5th and May 18 minutes as presented. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried **4-0.**

**Disposition of Records**

**Motion:** Council member Mike Essmaker moved to approve Resolution 2026-19, the Records Disposition as presented. Ms. Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried **4-0.**

**2026 Road Program**

Mr. Wilkes presented the proposal for the 2026 Road Program and reviewed the anticipated bidding schedule, PennBid process, and gave an overview of what his proposal includes such as project specifications, contract requirements, engineering services, and grant funding.

Council discussed the proposed paving schedule, including:

- Morris Avenue
- 4th Street
- 5th Street
- Minor Street
- East Third Street
- Chatham Avenue
- Henson Street
- Thompson Street
- Poplar Street
- Watson parking lot

Pomeroy Avenue was removed from the current paving schedule pending future water infrastructure improvements. Council also discussed the possibility of adding a portion of Second Street, paving Keating Alley or smoothing out various rough portions of roads should project funding allow.

Mr. Wilkes explained the bid process, project scheduling, maintenance bond requirements, and the use of contingency items for potential add-on work.

**Motion:** Ms. Watts made a motion that Council approve the proposal for engineering services from Carroll Engineering for the 2026 road program in the amount of $53,700 as presented. Mr. Essmaker seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0**.**

Council also discussed grant reimbursement procedures. Mr. Wilkes will coordinate a meeting with the grant administrators to review payment timing and reimbursement procedures.

**Quarry Development**

Engineer Wilkes provided an update on the proposed Quarry development water system. He reported that revised information indicates the project proposes a booster station rather than an elevated water storage tank. Additional engineering details remain under review, and discussions with the developer regarding the proposed water infrastructure will continue.

**Multimodal Transportation Grant**

Mayor Susan provided an update on the upcoming Multimodal Transportation Grant application due July 21.

The proposed application includes:

- Sidewalk improvements along Pennsylvania Avenue

- Sidewalk improvements along Chatham Avenue
- A pedestrian connection between Miller Street and State Road
- Improvements connecting to Indian Run to enhance pedestrian safety

Council discussed right-of-way requirements, property owner permissions where applicable, and eligible project costs.

**Emergency Services Funding**

Council discussed the timing of the Borough's annual emergency services payment and reviewed the statutory restrictions governing the use of fire and ambulance tax revenues. No formal action was taken.

**Mayor's Report**

The Mayor continued to review the multi modal grant application with Council.

**Bubble Palooza** will be held on **June 27, 2026**, at James Watson Park (2nd Street). The event runs from 10 am – 1 pm.

The Mayor read a prepared statement and discussed her ongoing responsibilities, including grant writing, coordination with the police department, community events, legislative liaison work, and participation on Borough committees. Council expressed appreciation for the Mayor's continued service and discussed opportunities for Council members to become more involved in Borough projects and initiatives moving forward. The prepared statement will be attached to the approved minutes.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Executive Session**

**Motion:** Mike moved to enter Executive Session. Janet seconded the motion. Motion carried **4-0.**

Council entered Executive Session at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at **8:47 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon Norris*

Borough Secretary