

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026

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.

BOROUGH OFFICIALS PRESENT

Council President Paul Morgan, Vice President Stephanie Reichert, Lucas Ortiz, and Janet Watts. Mike Essmaker was absent.

Also present were Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Solicitor Kim Venzie, Borough Engineer Tom Wilkes, Treasurer Joan McVaugh,

BUSINESS

Wilkinson Quarry Development Presentation

At the request of Council, representatives of the Wilkinson Quarry development team presented an overview of the proposed stormwater management plan for the project. Justin Brewer, project engineer, reviewed existing site conditions, drainage patterns, proposed stormwater best management practices (BMPs), detention and infiltration facilities, and anticipated reductions in post-development stormwater runoff.

Mr. Brewer explained that the proposed stormwater system is designed to meet and exceed state and local stormwater management requirements by reducing post-development runoff rates below existing conditions. Multiple above-ground and underground stormwater facilities are proposed throughout the site to manage peak flow rates and runoff volume.

Council members, Borough Engineer Tom Wilkes, and members of the development team discussed stormwater calculations, basin design, maintenance requirements, floodplain considerations, infiltration systems, and discharge points. Questions were raised regarding long-term maintenance responsibilities, basin performance, potential impacts to nearby streams, and drainage conditions in surrounding neighborhoods.

Solicitor Kim Venzie explained that, as part of the development approval process, recorded operation and maintenance agreements would require the future property owner or homeowners' association to maintain all stormwater facilities in accordance with state and local regulations.

Mr. Wilkes reviewed the remaining land development review process and advised Council that the applicant intends to submit revised plans for further review.

No action was taken.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Lucas Ortiz made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with expenditures and transfers as follows. Ms. Stephanie Reichert seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Fund	Balance
General Fund	\$169,281.72
Street Lighting Fund	\$9.52
Sewer Service Fund	\$41,537.01
Emergency Services Fund	\$36.30
Water Service Fund	\$55,178.68
Sewer & Water	\$10,336.71
Total Funds Balance: \$144,968.44	

DISCUSSION

Road Program Discussion

Mayor Susan Rzucidlo led a discussion regarding the Borough's proposed 2026 road paving program. The Mayor expressed concern that the Morris Avenue area has been overlooked in recent years and suggested replacing Pomeroy Avenue with Morris Avenue in the proposed paving schedule.

Council discussed road conditions, traffic volumes, future water infrastructure projects, bridge concerns, and available funding sources, including Liquid Fuels funds. Borough Engineer Tom Wilkes noted that the current paving plan remains a draft concept and will continue to be reviewed by the Road Committee.

No action was taken.

Regional Fire and EMS Funding Discussion

Council reviewed information received from recent regional fire and EMS funding discussions involving neighboring municipalities.

Extensive discussion centered on the proposed use of a municipal authority versus a commission structure to provide long-term funding for fire and EMS services. Solicitor Venzie outlined concerns regarding the legal authority for creating a fire authority under the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Act and discussed differences between authority and commission models.

Topics discussed included:

- Potential assessment methodologies;
- Treatment of residential, commercial, and tax-exempt properties;
- Financial obligations of participating municipalities;
- Governance and oversight structures;
- Legal authority for implementing fees;
- Preliminary budget projections;
- Potential impacts on businesses and property owners.

Solicitor Venzie advised that additional legal review is necessary and stated she would contact the solicitors representing neighboring municipalities for clarification regarding the proposed authority structure.

After the next fire/ems meeting, Paul, Stephanie and Kim will provide a summary of the outcome of that meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Rzucidlo reported on the following items:

Grant Opportunities

The Mayor shared information regarding various grant opportunities available through state programs none of which pertained to projects the Borough had identified as being priorities

Bike Station - Council discussed the possibility of pursuing funding for bicycle-related amenities, including an air pump and repair station.

Borough Beautification Efforts

The Mayor reported that numerous plant donations had been received and installed throughout the Borough, including along Pomeroy Avenue, near the Veterans Memorial,

and in other public spaces. Additional plantings are planned with support from the West Grove Garden Club.

Traffic Safety

The Mayor reported that residents had requested electronic speed display signs on Church Street. The Police Department indicated that no portable units are currently available for loan. The Mayor will investigate pricing and grant opportunities for permanent speed display devices.

Girl Scout Gold Award Project

The Mayor informed Council that a local Girl Scout is pursuing a Gold Award project involving the creation of a pollinator garden. Council discussed the possibility of providing financial support toward the project.

Veterans Memorial Dedication

The Mayor reported that the recent Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony was highly successful and thanked all organizations, volunteers, and elected officials who participated. Discussion followed regarding future procedures for adding names to the memorial and correcting any potential errors.

Borough Hall Public Art Project

The Mayor announced that students from The Garage Community & Youth Center will design and install a mosaic mushroom sculpture on Borough property.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tuesday, May 19, 2026 is Primary Election Day. Avondale Borough residents will vote at Borough Hall. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - The Borough Office will be closed on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 due to the Primary Election.
 - The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
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ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:07 p.m.