

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Council Members Present: President Paul Morgan, Vice President, Mike Essmaker, Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts and Lucas Ortiz

Officials Present: Solicitor Kim Venzie, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, Administrator Sharon Norris

Guests: Marissa Paolicelli, Vince Paolicelli, Lieutenant Joseph Versagli from the SCCRPD

1. Call to Order

President Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Announcements

There will be an Executive Session after tonight's meeting to discuss legal issues.

The Borough Hall is a collection point for Toys for Tots. Please consider donating an unwrapped gift to Toys for Tots and make the holiday season brighter for kids in our community.

2. Public Safety Report – State Police Lieutenant

The Lieutenant reported the following activity for the period:

- 18 citations and 33 warnings issued
- 38 calls for service
- No Part I crimes
- A vehicle stop near the bridge resulted in an arrest for possession; the individual was transported to Chester County Prison
- Seven commercial vehicles were inspected with a focus on weight and equipment violations, resulting in multiple citations
- Traffic issues continue at Third and Church Streets

Speed Enforcement Discussion:

Ms. Reichert asked about the feasibility of speed cameras on State Road. The Lieutenant explained they can deploy a speed timing clock, which is radar-based and easier to install. It requires pavement markings at 0.2-mile intervals and relies on the Borough road crew to complete the line painting.

3. Public Comment – Marissa Paolicelli, 410 Pennsylvania Avenue

Ms. Paolicelli reiterated concerns previously raised regarding the roadway deterioration and communications with PennDOT. She referenced:

- A letter dated **September 3, 2025**, and past discussions with the Mayor involving the Mayor.
- Frustration surrounding inconsistencies between Borough information and PennDOT statements.
- Concern that waiting 10–12 months for reconstruction may lead to worsening roadway conditions.

Council discussion followed:

- PennDOT providing misinformation;

- The Borough requires the multimodal grant to complete the full reconstruction of that area and that higher-level PennDOT clarification is necessary.
- The Solicitor indicated that written documentation from PennDOT is needed to resolve the contradictory statements.
- The condition of the road, the need for documentation, and the status of upcoming grant opportunities.
- The Borough's position remains that the water line is not the cause of the roadway failure.
- Ms. Paolicelli raised additional concerns regarding social media.

Council members agreed that moving forward, Council must be centrally involved in discussions with PennDOT.

4. Action Item – Consideration of Changing Sixth Street to Two-Way Traffic

Mr. Morgan moved to convert Sixth Street from one-way to two-way.

Ms. Watts seconded. Discussion included the source of the request (a resident on Sixth Street) concerns about incremental changes to the Ordinance rather than a comprehensive update biannually and future traffic implications.

Motion **failed 1–4** with Members Essmaker, Watts, Reichert and Lucas voting nay. Consensus: add this issue to the Borough's long-term ordinance review list.

5. Executive Session

Council entered Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Council returned to public session at 8:14 p.m.

6. Preliminary 2026 Budget

Council discussed the Preliminary 2026 budget including tax projections, potential grants, match requirements, and anticipated infrastructure expenses.

Key points:

- The Borough has already expended approximately **\$100,000**, in sewer expenses which is expected to be reimbursed.
- Additional engineering proposals are required for grant applications
- Emergency needs (e.g., water line breaks) may require internal borrowing from the sewer fund.
- Budget reflects necessary capital improvements, including new office chairs.

Mr. Essmaker moved to approve the Preliminary 2026 budget. Mr. Ortiz seconded. Motion **approved 5–0**.

7. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Reichert motioned seconded by Mr. Essmaker to approve the September 2025 Treasurer's report with disbursements and transfers as follows:

General Fund	\$68,129.26
Sewer Service	\$39,451.69
Water Service	\$11,047.06
Parks & Rec	\$ 1,400.00
Sewer & Water Payments	<u>\$30,358.62</u>
Leaving a balance in all funds of:	<u>\$270,784.57</u>

Motion carried 5-0.

8. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Ortiz moved to approve the November 3, 2025 minutes as presented.

Mr. Essmaker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Announcements

- The next Borough Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 7 pm.
- The Borough is partnering with Toys for Tots this holiday season. Please consider dropping off an unwrapped gift at Borough Hall between now and noon on November 29th. The Marine Corp. will be picking up the collection box on Saturday, November 29th when the Santa Train comes through town.
- The Santa Train is coming to Avondale on Saturday, November 29th at 12:45 pm.
- The office is open a half day on November 24 and then closed the rest of Thanksgiving week.

10. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Sharon Norris, Secretary