

AVONDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

September 16, 2025 – 7:00 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Paul Morgan, Vice President Mike Essmaker, Stephanie Reichert, Janet Watts, and Lucas Ortiz.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Susan Rzucidlo, Treasurer Joan McVaugh, and Administrator Sharon Norris. Lieutenant Joseph Versagli of the Southern Chester County Regional Police Department (SCCRPD) and two members of the public.

CALL TO ORDER

President Morgan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Lou Kaplan, 362 Chatham Street, West Grove:** Commented on the April 15th PennDOT public meeting regarding Route 41 and also on the SAVE Organization. He announced SAVE will host a program entitled “*Community-Centered Corridor Planning for Route 41*” at the Stroud Water Research Center on October 21, 2025. Doors open at 5:30 PM, with the program beginning at 6:00 PM.
 - **Marisa Paolicelli, 410 Pennsylvania Avenue:** Noted that PennDOT confirmed earlier water discovery was not related to the Borough’s water system. She requested official letters from both PennDOT and the Borough confirming this determination.
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SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY REGIONAL POLICE REPORT

Lt. Versagli presented the SCCRPD report for the past two weeks. The Department is fully staffed and recently welcomed Officer Kevin Finn, previously of the Delaware County Park Police.

The Lieutenant noted a reduction in heavy truck traffic as enforcement continues. Councilmember Reichert requested they move the speed sign to State Road at Indian Run Road to combat speeders. Ms. Paolicelli inquired about recent police activity on Third Street.

BUSINESS

1. **1 Miller Drive Sewage Grinder Pump**

Mr. Steve Cummings, 1 Miller Drive, requested financial assistance for repairs to a grinder pump previously installed by the Borough to manage storm-related overflows in his home. Records confirm that the Borough funded the installation with an agreement that future maintenance would be the homeowner’s responsibility. While expressing sympathy, Council declined to provide financial assistance.

2. **Resolution 2025-14 – Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) Plan Administrator**

On a motion by Ms. Reichert, seconded by Ms. Watts, Council adopted Resolution 2025-14 designating the Borough Administrator as the PMRS Plan Administrator. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

3. **Extension of Trash and Recycling Contract**

The Borough’s current trash contract expires at the end of the first quarter of 2026, with provisions for up to a two-year extension. Council discussed extending the contract to secure favorable pricing and align the contract term with the calendar year. Ms. Norris will contact AJ Blosenski for negotiations; the matter will be revisited at the next meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

a. **PennDOT Update** – Mayor Rzcudlo reported on a September 3rd meeting with Representative Sappey, Steve Warhola from Senator Kane's office, Din Abazi the PennDOT District 6 Executive, additional PennDOT officials, and Transportation Secretary Mike Carroll. PennDOT confirmed the water encountered during the pothole repair was not from the Borough's water system. The District 6 Executive encouraged the Borough to apply for a PennDOT Multimodal Grant for Pennsylvania Avenue improvements. Applications open in October, with awards expected in spring 2026; paving could begin by summer 2026. PennDOT offered support in preparing the grant application.

Ms. Paolicelli remarked on her long-term efforts to get the potholes repaired properly (since February 4th) and found this update promising though not guaranteed.

b. **TASA Grant** – The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) contacted the Mayor regarding a grant opportunity which included DVRPC providing the engineering. She proposed two projects: Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalks and a new paved path along Indian Run Road. DVRPC recently provided concept designs, and the Mayor only had several days to prepare the grant application. Both projects were also submitted under the Multimodal Grant application.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. Budget Discussion

i. Treasurer McVaugh reviewed Solicitor Esbenshade's memorandum regarding potential borrowing to leverage grant opportunities and meet match requirements. Council directed the Treasurer and Administrator to initiate the RFP process and contact area financial institutions for rates.

ii. **Requests for Funding** – Ms. McVaugh reviewed the Avondale Fire Company and EMS Division's 2026 funding request. Council requested additional information from the organization and directed Ms. Norris to follow up prior to the next meeting.

iii. **June Treasurer's Report** – On a motion by Ms. Reichert, seconded by Mr. Essmaker, Council approved the June Treasurer's Report by a 5-0 vote with Disbursements and Transfers as follows:

- General Fund – \$144,629.74
- Sewer Service – \$44,963.23
- Water Service – \$7,249.20
- Street Lighting – \$183.24
- Emergency Services – \$46,990.50
- Sewer & Water Payments – \$54,764.68

Balance in all funds: \$238,932.81

Ms. McVaugh will also open an account specifically for donations toward memorial trees and benches.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Ortiz, seconded by Mr. Essmaker, Council approved the September 2, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional public comment was offered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Borough Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 7:00 PM.**
 - The **Harvest Festival** will be held on **Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**
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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Norris

Secretary